Questions for Professor Erussard
1. What is the specific assignment for this essay?
Examine, compare and contrast the concepts of loot or reputation and the concept of fate (either as wyrd or Divine intervention) versus free will in Beowulf and in the Song of Roland.

2. How does this assignment fit with the goals of your course?
The purpose of the course was to read, analyze and interpret, with a certain degree of confidence, texts that depict medieval male heroes and their behaviors in a number of circumstances or environments going from the battlefield to the cell, from the woods to the bedroom. This particular essay explored the images maleness deployed in two ideologically different medieval texts.

3. Why does this student’s essay stand out for you as strong writing?
Matthew Garman's essay stands out as a creative and insightful analysis of the two texts. The tone of the essay engages the reader and the use of textual evidence illustrates perfectly the argument.

Questions for Matthew Garman
1. How did you go about completing this essay? What steps did you follow?
I gained the ideas for the essay in class, as Prof. Erussard mentioned them at certain points. From there, it was basically me trying to find quotes which clearly support my ideas, which meant re-reading the materials. After that, it was deciding on how to design the framework, meaning creating the outline. After it was written, then I had someone edit the essay, and then I left it alone for overnight so that the essay was not fresh on my mind. From here, it was editing, and then handing in the essay.

2. What was the most challenging aspect of this essay assignment?
The most challenging was to actually sit down and force myself to write it. I am not a writer at heart; it takes a lot of effort on my part to actually complete the assignment.

3. How does this essay connect to your work in the course as a whole?
The concepts that were discussed show the change from one culture to the next as time went on. The beliefs change and therefore the concepts in the writing changed as well.

4. What is the most important thing you learned from doing this essay?
The most important thing that I learned was to get the assignment done. The longer you put it off, the harder it becomes, so it is much easier to complete it first, so that the rest of the time can be used for editing and also for pleasure.