Dr. Beshero-Bondar **Spring 2014 Englit 1572: Fantasy and Romance**  
Paper Assignment on *The Fellowship of the Ring* (due Tues. 2/11)

Choose one of the following options to draft a response to *The Fellowship of the Ring*, working with supporting passages and patterns in the text:

* **Fading:** Reflect on the significance of “fading” in this text, and the way the word is used in connection with individuals, with groups, with inscriptions or runic marks. To fade seems to mean to dissolve or disappear, but the word and Tolkien’s use of it is more complex than it might appear at first. How might the investigation of fading or faded things be associated with alternate forms of perspective? Working with Frye’s stages of the quest, how might it be connected with pathos, sparagmos, or anagnorisis? Reflect in your paper on the significance of the word and the concept in the development of Tolkien’s narrative.
* **Bordering Narratives:** Investigate how Tolkien’s narrative ranges beyond the immediate forward-moving plot of the One Ring. Reflect in your paper on the way other narratives, stories of other people and events, border on the immediate one of Frodo and his companions. Consider where these alternative narratives are positioned in the text and what they may contribute to the experience of the main characters: How do these narratives expand our understanding of Tolkien’s secondary world of Middle Earth, and how are they worked into the central plot and made relevant? To what extent to the digressions contribute to Tolkien’s ideas of Fantasy, Recovery, Escape, Consolation, or to concepts of mythic or romance narratives we’ve been reading about? Your paper should discuss in detail three significant examples of Tolkien’s narrative digressions, though it may reference more!