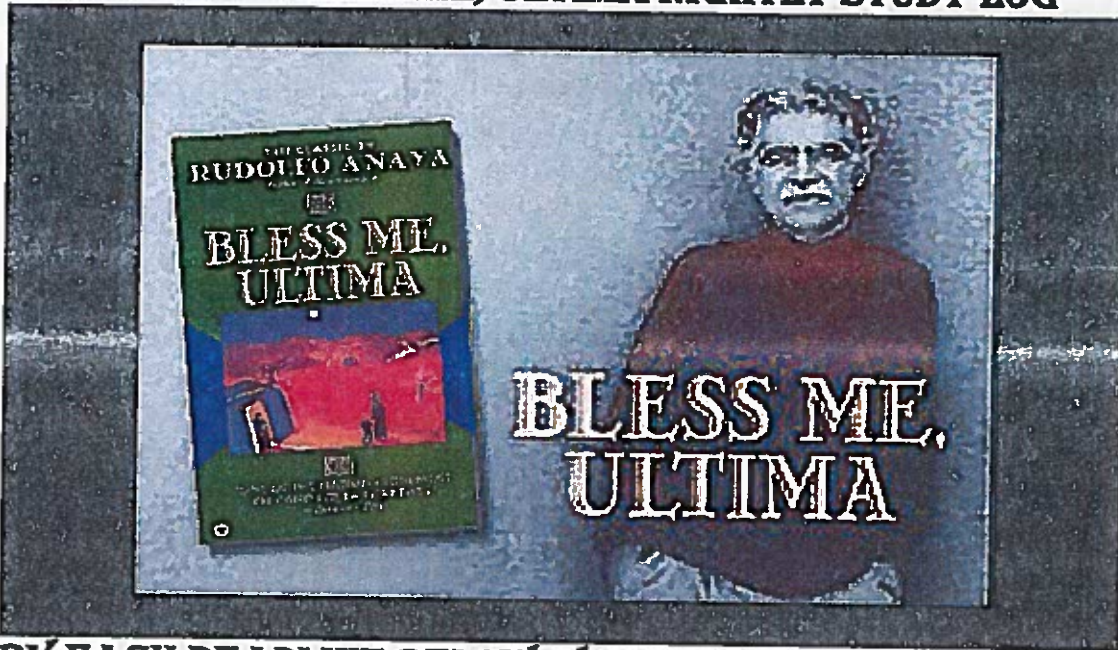


NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## BLESS ME, ULTIMA NIGHTLY STUDY LOG



### BY EACH DEADLINE BELOW, YOU MUST:

READ AND BE READY FOR THE QUIZ

ANNOTATE! 5-10 STICKY NOTES- 20 PTS.

COMPLETE STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS- 20 PTS.

COMPLETE THE PRE-READING VOCABULARY SHEETS- 20 PTS.

**60 PTS. PER WEEK POSSIBLE!!!**

### READING ASSIGNMENTS:

CH. 1-3 BY: WED. 1/18  
CH. 4-8 BY: MON. 1/23  
CH. 9-10 BY: MON. 1/30  
CH. 11-12 BY: MON. 2/6  
CH. 13-14 BY: MON. 2/13  
CH. 15-17 BY: WED. 2/22  
CH. 18-20 BY: MON. 2/27  
CH. 21-22 BY: MON. 3/6

### APPROX.

38 PGS. YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60  
30 PGS. YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60  
35 PGS. YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60  
30 PGS. YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60  
40 PGS. YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60  
28 PGS. YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60  
35 PGS. YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60  
26 PGS. **HAVE BOOK FINISHED!**  
YOUR SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/60

## New Mexican Catholicism

Throughout *Bless Me, Ultima*, Antonio, a devout Catholic boy, contemplates life as a priest. While regularly praying, he begins his formal religious training in preparation for his first Communion. The Catholic faith, with its intricate doctrine and practices, plays an integral role in Antonio's story.

One of the largest and oldest institutions in the world, the Roman Catholic Church dates to Peter the Apostle in the first century AD. According to the gospels, Jesus entrusted Peter with the “keys of the kingdom” and gave him special authority to govern the Church. At the end of the fifteenth century, Pope Alexander VI issued a series of papal bulls, or letters, concerning the conversion of the people of the Americas from their native religions to Catholicism.

In what would later become Mexico and the southwestern United States, Spanish priests of the Franciscan Order established missions in the sixteenth century to spread the teachings of the Catholic Church to the indigenous peoples. While many of the native peoples converted, they maintained some of their ancient beliefs. Native practices would come to intermingle with Catholicism.

The Church grants special authority to the pope, his bishops, and their priests, since they belong to the legacy of Jesus's apostles. Catholicism is based on the belief in the Holy Trinity: the Father (God), the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith.

Catholics believe in Seven Sacraments, viewing them as signs of grace and gifts of God. The Sacraments parallel the phases of life: birth, adolescence, marriage, and preparation for death. In Catholicism they are Baptism, Reconciliation

(Confession), Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick. A young person is initiated into the Catholic Church through Baptism, usually in infancy, which absolves one of original sin. Children at age seven or eight participate in their first Communion, where they receive the Eucharist for the first time. In the Eucharist, the body and blood of Jesus Christ are present in the forms of consecrated bread and wine, which Catholics eat and drink during Communion at Mass. In adolescence, a Catholic is “confirmed” by willfully accepting the Catholic faith and its traditions and rituals. As a young Catholic matures, it is important to demonstrate moral fortitude and commitment to Catholic ideals by doing good works. A strong faith means not only understanding the religious tenets of Catholicism but also acting to reflect those beliefs.

Antonio, as he learns more about his faith, questions what these tenets mean. He is further challenged by what appears to be supernatural—the Golden Carp, Ultima's owl, and Tenorio's daughters. Still, we see the Sacraments infused into *Bless Me, Ultima* when Antonio devotes himself to attending catechism and preparing for his first Communion.

Prior to receiving this sacrament he must take part in Reconciliation, where he confesses his sins, is absolved by the priest, and does penance. On several occasions in the novel Antonio becomes a surrogate priest, “absolving” the sins of Narciso and playing priest to the children in his class. He later participates in his first Communion, where he receives the Eucharist. Antonio's spiritual maturity is hastened both by the tragic events he witnesses and the supernatural elements to which he is exposed.



## The Spanish Language and the Magic of Words

Language plays an important role in Antonio's life. As he learns to read and write in school, he comes to believe that language has magic: "There was magic in the letters, and I had been eager to learn the secret." The magic they promise is that of wisdom and knowledge, and Antonio hopes that words will reveal to him the mysteries of the world beyond his narrow experience and help shepherd his quest for understanding.

Antonio must operate in two linguistic worlds. Spanish is the language of his home and family, as well as his early understanding of religion, nature, and identity. But when he goes to school, the teacher calls him Anthony instead of Antonio. He must learn to speak, read, and write in English. This language barrier makes him feel alienated and lonely at first, until he makes friends with the other Spanish-speaking boys. For Antonio, English represents the larger American world, full of both excitement and confusion.

The many instances of Spanish vocabulary and dialogue in the novel illustrate the blending of two languages in Antonio's life. Anaya's use of Spanish alongside English helps to define certain characters and emphasize certain ideas and expressions which defy translation. For readers who do not speak Spanish, the foreign dialogue can make reading the novel confusing or obscure, creating the same feelings of alienation that Antonio feels when he is introduced to English at school.

### A Spanish Glossary

*abuelo*: grandfather

*arroyo*: stream or brook

*Ave María Purísima*: a prayer meaning, "Hail, purest Mary"

*bruja*: witch

*chango*: common term used to describe a young boy, as in "pal" or "buddy"

*¡Chinga tu madre!*: a curse meaning, "Damn your mother!"

*curandera*: spiritual healer who uses herbs and traditional healing techniques—inherited from the Indian cultures of Mesoamerica

*el Diablo*: the Devil

*encanto*: charm, spell, or enchantment

*La Grande*: a title of respect granted to Ultima, meaning "The Great Lady"

*hechicera*: sorceress

*hijo / hijos / hijitos*: son / children / little children

*el hombre volador*: the flying man

*el llano*: the open plain, a flat land used for raising cattle and keeping horses

*la luna*: the moon

*el mar*: the sea (the name *Márez* derives from this word)

*¡Madre de Dios!*: Mother of God!

*¡Mira!*: Look!

*muerte*: death

*una mujer*: a woman

*pecado*: sin

*¿Qué pasa aquí?*: What's going on here?

*suerte*: fate, destiny, chance, fortune, or luck

*Te voy a mater*: I will see you die

*la tristesa de la vida*: the sorrow of life

*la vieja*: the old woman



## The Land of Enchantment

For centuries New Mexico, known as the Land of Enchantment, has drawn travelers and settlers from all directions. The cultures of Native Americans and Spanish Catholics who arrived in the sixteenth century often conflicted. Later, this clash of cultures was further complicated by the introduction of Anglos, who journeyed west after New Mexico became an American territory in 1850. Although these disparate peoples inevitably adopted new ways of living from each other, they also struggled, sometimes violently, to protect their freedom, language, and sovereign traditions. They often fought over land and religion. At other times, the native, Spanish, and Anglo peoples coexisted peacefully and harmoniously.

Indigenous peoples have been living in the Southwest for thousands of years. The Pueblo Indians of northern New Mexico settled in villages of small stone dwellings in what we now call the Four Corners region (where Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah converge). The people in these villages irrigated the land, tended crops, raised fowl, made pottery and woven baskets, and fashioned sophisticated tools from stone. Their lives and art were intimately connected with the seasons and resources of the land. The Navajo people traveled along trade routes, exchanging maize and cotton for bison and other materials. The Navajo believe that life itself is connected to the land, and that a balance between earth, sky, and spiritual people is the source of life. All living things share a common connection among their inner spirit, and this connection gives order to the world.

The freedom to roam the land is an aspect essential to their well-being, and an expression of their reverence for the land as a sacred being

underscores the independence of the Navajo people, who retained much of their culture after the arrival of the conquistadors. When the Spanish brought sheep and horses up from Mexico, the Navajo people quickly adopted them for their own purposes. The ranchers and nomadic tribes came to share a love and respect for horses and the open land, the *llano*. We see this balance of independence and respect for the land among the Spanish *vaqueros*, the cowboys whose legacy of tough-willed independence survives in our imaginations today.

From the native peoples the Spanish adopted the *curandera*, a spiritual healer who uses herbs and plants to cure the sick. The *curandera* preserves ancient traditions handed down from one generation to the next through personal teaching and oral tradition. The *curandera* is a kind of shaman, a person of insight and sensitivity who learns the healing arts from a master teacher, often a relative or a distinguished person of wisdom and age in the community. Rituals include steeping herbs in water to prepare special teas and mashing herbs into a compress to heal wounds. Because the Spanish adopted these healing traditions from the Native Americans, the *curandera* also represents the point of intersection where culture was exchanged and shared by people of different religions. From their indigenous ancestors, New Mexicans inherited not only a reverence for the great spirit that unites all living things on earth but also a desire to know this spirit intimately. The work of the *curandera* acknowledges the spiritual connections among plants, earth, people, and dreams, weaving a tapestry of mystery and sacred magic that remains important to New Mexicans to this day.



## **Bless Me, Ultima Main Character List**

**Antonio Márquez** - Protagonist of Bless Me, Ultima. Antonio is six and almost seven years old at the beginning of the novel. Antonio is serious, thoughtful, and prone to moral questioning, and his experiences force him to confront difficult issues that blur the lines between right and wrong. He turns to both pagan and Christian ideologies for guidance, but he doubts both traditions. With Ultima's help, Antonio makes the transition from childhood to adolescence and begins to make his own decision and to accept responsibility for their consequences.

**Gabriel and María Márquez** - Antonio's parents, whose frequently conflicting views make it difficult for Antonio to accept either of their belief systems. María, the devoutly Catholic daughter of a farmer, wants Antonio to follow her Luna family tradition by becoming a priest. Gabriel is the son of vaqueros, or cowboys, and he prefers that Antonio follow the Márquez tradition of restless wandering across the llano, or plains. Both parents love and revere Ultima.

**Ultima** - An elderly curandera, a healer endowed with the spiritual power of her ancestors. Ultima is a complex and odd character. Ultima's power is often misunderstood by the community. Many people refer to her as a bruja, or evil witch. Even Antonio is confused about the moral nature of Ultima's power – no one knows if she is truly a witch. Ultima is a firm believer in tolerance and understanding, however, and she teaches Antonio that different belief systems can offer equally valid ways of understanding the world.

**Narciso** - The town drunk. Narciso is good friends with Gabriel because they share a deep and passionate love for the llano. Narciso demonstrates a strong appreciation for the richness of the earth – his garden is a lush masterpiece full of sweet vegetables and fruits. Narciso respects and loves Ultima deeply.

**Tenorio Trementina and his three daughters** - Tenorio is a malicious saloon-keeper and barber in El Puerto. His three daughters perform a black mass and place a curse on Lucas Luna. Tenorio detests Ultima because she lifts the curse on Lucas.

**Cico** - One of Antonio's closer friends. Unlike most of Antonio's friends, he is quiet and respectful. Cico exposes Antonio to yet another belief system when he takes Antonio to see the golden carp, a deity who lives in the river and only those who have faith in it are able to see it.

**Florence** - One of Antonio's friends. Florence does not believe in God; both of Florence's parents are dead, and his sisters are prostitutes; shows Antonio that the Catholic Church is not perfect.

**Antonio's friends: Abel, Bones, Ernie, Horse, Lloyd, Red, the Vitamin Kid** - Group of boys who frequently curse and fight. Horse loves to wrestle, but everyone fears Bones more because he is reckless, even crazy.

**Lupito** - A war veteran mentally affected by the war.

**Andrew, Eugene, and León Márquez** - Antonio's brothers. For most of Antonio's childhood, his brothers are fighting in World War II. When they return home, they suffer post-traumatic stress.



## Bless Me, Ultima Glossary



- abrazo - embrace, or hug.  
acequia - an irrigation ditch.  
¡Ah la veca! - code, or slang, referring to the penis.  
Ah la verga - a reference to the penis.  
¡Andale, hombre, andale! - Come on, man, come on!  
Aquí estamos todos juntos - Here we are all together.  
atole - cornmeal.  
Ave María Purísima - exclamation referring to Blessed Virgin Mary; uttered to ward off evil spirits.  
¡Ay Dios! - Oh God!  
¡Ay que diablo! - Oh, what a devil!  
big rancheros - ranchers with large haciendas.  
bosque - a cottonwood grove; a wooded area near water.  
Buenos días le de Dios - God grant you good days; a greeting among New Mexican Chicanos.  
cabritos, cabroncitos - kids, small goats.  
cabrón - a pimp, pander, cuckold; someone who takes advantage of the weaknesses of others.  
Cabronas putas - Pimped whores.  
¡Chinga tu madre! - Screw your mother!  
chingada - the screwed one; reference to Doña Marina, Indian girl mistress to Hernán Cortes.  
crudo - hung over from drinking alcoholic beverages.  
cuentos - stories told as part of folklore.  
curandera - a folk healer.  
desgraciado - despicable.  
¡Dios mío! - My God!  
Dónde está? - Where is he?  
el policía the police.  
empanaditas - turnovers, usually of pumpkin, fruit, or meat.  
En el nombre del Padre, del Hijo, y el Espíritu Santo - In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
¡Espíritu de mi alma! - Spirit of my soul!  
Es verdad - It's true.  
farol - a lantern.  
gabacha - a white woman.  
¡Gracias a Dios que venites! - Thank God that you came!  
¡Hijo de la bruja! - Son of the witch!  
¡Hijo de tu chingada! - Son of your screwed [mother]!  
Hi-jo-lah! - code for "hijo de la chingada," or son of the screwed one; an exclamation.  
huevos - balls, as in testes.  
jodido - one who is bad off in some way.  
la Grande - the elder, used respectfully.  
la llorona - the weeping woman; a mythical character alleged to have drowned her children, and not having been allowed into heaven, she is destined to search the river for their souls.

**¡La mujer que no ha pecado es bruja, le juro a Dios!** - The woman who has not sinned is a witch, I swear to God!

**¡Las putas!** - The whores!.

**llaneros** - plainsmen; plainspeople.

**Llano Estacado** - the Staked Plains, located in eastern New Mexico and West Texas.

**llano** - plains; in this case, the Staked Plains in eastern New Mexico.

**Lo mató, lo mató** - He killed him, he killed him.

**¡Madre de Dios!** - Mother of God!; a religious exclamation.

**maldecido** - a cursed person.

**maldito** - wicked, cursed.

**¡Mira!** - Look!

**¡Mira! Qué suerte, tunas** - Look! What luck, prickly pears.

**¡Mis hijos!** - My sons!

**mitote** - gossip; also a rambunctious dance.

**molino** - a mill; in this case, a feed mill.

**muy sabrosos** - very tasty.

**No está aquí** - He's not here.

**Nuestra casa es su casa** - Our home is your home.

**Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos** - Our Father who art in heaven.

**Pase . . . pase** - Come in . . . come in.

**Perdón** - Forgive me; I'm sorry.

**¿Pero qué dices, hombre?** - What are you saying, man?

**¡Pinche!** - an expletive meaning damned, stingy, vile.

**¡Por la madre de Dios!** - For the mother of God!

**posole** - hominy soup, made with chili, pork, and spicy seasonings.

**¡Puto!** - a sodomite; also, a promiscuous man.

**¿Qué pasa aquí?** - What's going on here?

**¿Qué pasa?** - What's the matter?

**¿Quién es?** - Who is it?

**Qué lástima** - What a pity.

**ristras** - a string of something, usually of chile.

**sala** - a parlor; living room.

**sangre** - blood.

**Te doy esta bendición en el nombre del Padre, del Hijo, y el Espíritu Santo** - I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**¡Te voy a matar, cabrón!** - I'm going to kill you, you jerk!

**tejanos** - Texans.

**the campo santo** - holy burial grounds; a cemetery.

**tío** - an uncle.

**Última** - the last one, or the ultimate.

**¡Un momento!** - One moment!

**vaquero** - a cowboy.

**velorio** - a wake to honor the dead.

**Voy a tirar tripas** - I'm going to throw up.

**Ya las campanas de la iglesia están doblando** - Already the church bells are tolling.

**Ya vengo** - I'm coming.

**yerba de la vívora** - a snake, or a rattlesnake, weed.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Bless Me Ultima*: Literary Terms

Kinds of Characters:

Definition	Example
Protagonist	
----- Anti-hero	-----
Antagonist	
Foil	

**Figurative language: Imagery, Metaphor, Simile, Personification**

Definition	Example
Imagery	
Metaphor	
Simile	
Personification	

**Bless Me, Ultima**  
**Study Guide Questions**



**Chapters 1 – 3**

1. Why does Ultima live with the Márez family?
2. Describe the setting of the novel.
3. What was Ultima's occupation?
4. What was the conflict between Gabriel and María concerning Antonio's future?
5. What pet did Ultima bring with her?
6. Describe the incident with Chávez.
7. What did Ultima and the family call Antonio, and why?
8. How did Antonio become a part of the gang with Abel, Bones, and Horse?

**Chapters 4 – 8**

1. How did Ultima feel about plants, the river, and other parts of nature?
2. What did the Márez family always do after supper?
3. How did Ultima describe the Luna and Márez families?
4. Why did Antonio's family go to El Puerto?
5. How did Antonio describe the time spent in El Puerto?
6. How did Antonio feel about going to school?
7. What was Antonio's biggest obstacle in school?
8. What did Antonio discover about his cultural background on the first day of school?
9. What did Gabriel Marez want to do once his sons returned from the war?

**Chapters 9 – 10**

1. What was Antonio's dream in Chapter 9 about?
2. What was the conflict between the Márez boys and their parents?
3. In María's opinion, what was the cause of the boys' desires?
4. Antonio asked Andrew if he (Andrew) would become a farmer or a priest. What was Andrew's reply?
5. What happened to Antonio at the end of first grade?
6. Briefly retell Samuel's story, including the golden carp.
7. What was the supposed cause of Uncle Lucas's illness?
8. Who was Tenorio Trementina?
9. Briefly describe the way Ultima cured Lucas.

**Chapters 11 – 12**

1. What did Antonio discover about Narciso?
2. How did Antonio feel when he saw the golden carp?
3. How did Cico say the golden carp would punish people?
4. Antonio described his mother's definition of learning to sin. What was it?
5. What did Antonio learn from Ultima's stories?
6. Why were Tenorio and the men coming to the Márez home?
7. What did Narciso say to shame the men who came with Tenorio?

8. Of what did Tenorio accuse Ultima?
9. What happened to Tenorio?
10. What did Antonio find on the ground after the men had gone?

#### Chapters 13 – 14

1. About what was Antonio thinking as the family rode to El Puerto?
2. What happened at church when Tenorio went to have mass for the dead and a church burial for his daughter?
3. What was the effect of the priest's stand on Tenorio and the townspeople?
4. What did the Luna uncles request of Antonio's parents?
5. Why did Antonio always look back when he walked away from the house?
6. How did Antonio stop the others from teasing him about Ultima?
7. Briefly describe the Christmas play. What problems arose, and how were they dealt with?
8. Whom did Antonio see as he was walking home from school after the play, and what were they doing?
9. What was Narciso's final destination after the fight, and why?
10. Where did Narciso go on his way to his final destination? Why did he go there? What was the result?
11. What happened after Antonio reached his home?

#### Chapters 15 – 17

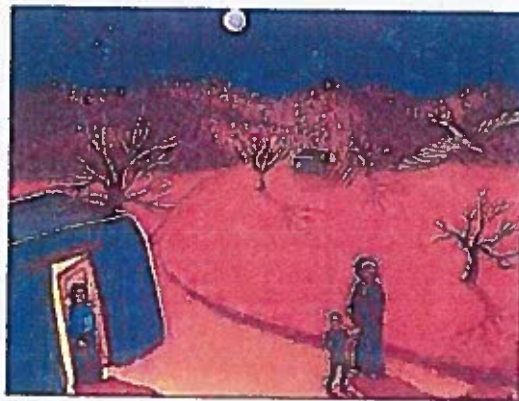
1. What illness did Antonio get after he saw the murder?
2. What did María tell Antonio would happen when he made his first holy communion?
3. What event broke the monotony of the storm?
4. What was Gabriel's response to his sons' visit, and why?
5. What did Antonio think about much of the time?
6. What did Antonio think would help him understand his dreams and questions?
7. Whom did Antonio meet on the way home from school, and what happened?
8. The people thought a special event was causing the dust storms and harsh winter. What was the event?
9. What was the topic of the discussion between Florence and Antonio in Chapter 17?

#### Chapters 18 – 20

1. Who haunted Antonio's nightmares, and why?
2. What did Samuel think would make things easier for Florence?
3. Describe the events that happened when Antonio was on his way to church for his first confession.
4. Florence said he had not sinned, but had been sinned against. Who had sinned against him, and how?
5. What did Antonio expect to happen after he made his first communion, and what really did happen?
6. What did Antonio do every weekend after Easter, and what was the result?
7. Describe the curse on the family near Agua Negra.
8. What was the cause of the curse, according to Ultima?
9. How did Ultima remove the curse?
10. What was Antonio's dream about the night they returned from Agua Negra?

## Chapters 21 – 22

1. What did Cico tell Antonio about God/gods?
2. What did Cico say Antonio's choice was?
3. What happened when the boys went to tell Florence about the golden carp?
4. What did Antonio dream about that night?
5. What did Ultima and Antonio's parents decide he should do for the summer?
6. When Antonio and his father were talking on the way to El Puerto, Gabriel made an unusual statement. What was it?
7. What did Gabriel say understanding was?
8. What trouble occurred in the town later in the summer?
9. What did the uncles plan to do?
10. What happened to Antonio on his way back to his Grandfather's house, and what was the result?
11. What did Antonio realize about Ultima's owl?
12. What happened just as Antonio reached his home?
13. What did Ultima ask Antonio to do for her?





Chapters 1-3

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. The move lowered my father in the esteem of his compadres, the other vaqueros of the llano who clung tenaciously to their way of life and freedom.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. They were an exuberant, restless people, wandering across the ocean of the plain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. During the day she would forage along the highway where the grass was thick and green, then she would return at nightfall.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Always on the move, like gypsies, always dragging their families around the country like vagabonds.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. My nostrils quivered as I felt the song of the mockingbirds and the drone of the grasshoppers mingle with the pulse of the earth.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. . . . they had more time to spend in the attic and cut out and interminable train of paper dolls which they dressed, gave names to, and, most miraculously, made talk.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. My father shook Chávez and the man's sobbing subsided.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. They stood transfixed, looking down at the mad man waving the pistol in the air.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. The cry of a tormented man had come to the peaceful green mystery of my river . . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Again the owl sang; Ultima's spirit bathed me with its strong resolution.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 1-3

11. I lay back and watched the silent beams of light radiate in the colorful dust motes I had stirred up.

---

12. Also, my mother admonished us to bow our heads when we passed in front of the house.

---

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

\_\_\_ 1. tenaciously

A. became less agitated or active

\_\_\_ 2. exuberant

B. joyous; full of high spirits

\_\_\_ 3. forage

C. rendered motionless

\_\_\_ 4. vagabonds

D. people without permanent homes

\_\_\_ 5. drone

E. firm determination

\_\_\_ 6. interminable

F. endless

\_\_\_ 7. subsided

G. holding persistently to something

\_\_\_ 8. transfixed

H. caused to undergo great pain or anguish

\_\_\_ 9. tormented

I. a continuous low dull humming sound

\_\_\_ 10. resolutions

J. to wander in search of food or provisions

\_\_\_ 11. motes

K. very small particles; specks

\_\_\_ 12. admonished

L. reproved gently but earnestly



Chapters 4-8

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Of all the plants we gathered none was endowed with so much magic as the yerba del manso.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I ran to the cactus and gathered a shovelful of the succulent, seedy pears.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. We all knew the story of how the Virgin had presented herself to the little Indian boy in Mexico and about the miracles she had wrought.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Her soul was without blemish.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. "¡Vamos! ¡Vamos!" my uncle called and we clamored aboard.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. She was soon lost in the furrow of dust the truck raised.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. I had never felt such fear before, because as the whirlwind blew its debris around be the gushing wind seemed to call my name: Antoniooooooooooooooooo . . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. I was held hypnotized by the thundering herd, then with a cry of resolution exploding from my throat I rushed into the melee.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. His forwardness and audacity often caught them off guard.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. His voiced quavered. His excitement carried to his brothers.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 4-8

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| ___ 1. endowed   | A. made a loud, sustained noise or outcry |
| ___ 2. succulent | B. put together; created                  |
| ___ 3. wrought   | C. rubble or wreckage                     |
| ___ 4. blemish   | D. trembled                               |
| ___ 5. clamored  | E. fearlessness; boldness                 |
| ___ 6. furrow    | F. a rut, groove, or narrow depression    |
| ___ 7. debris    | G. an imperfection that mars or impairs   |
| ___ 8. melee     | H. full of juice or sap; juicy.           |
| ___ 9. audacity  | I. provided with property or income       |
| ___ 10. quavered | J. a violent free-for-all                 |

Chapters 9-10

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. I opened my eyes and heard the commotion downstairs.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. They knew that it was within the power of the father to curse his sons, and ay! a curse laid on a disobedient son or daughter was irrevocable.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. "You are forsaking me," my mother cried afresh.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. "Ay, Márez men," she said stoically and turned to my father.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Even the holy priest at El Puerto had been asked to exorcise el encanto, the curse, and he had failed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The rancher swore that he had etched a cross on his bullet, and that proved that the old woman was a witch, and so he was let free.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Then they began to cook it, throwing in many other things while they danced and chanted their incantations.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. "No, I will be proud, Ultima," I said emphatically.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. The eyes were dark and narrow. An evil glint emanated from them.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Instead of sleep I slipped into a deep stupor.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 9-10

11. I suffered the spasms of pain my uncle suffered, and these alternated with feelings of elation and power.
- 
12. The acid smell of the dark yellow pee blended into the fragrance of the cereal.
- 

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. commotion    | A. cut into the surface of                         |
| ___ 2. irrevocable  | B. giving up something formerly held dear          |
| ___ 3. forsaking    | C. mental numbness from shock; a daze              |
| ___ 4. stoically    | D. positively; definitely                          |
| ___ 5. exorcise     | E. impossible to retract or withdraw               |
| ___ 6. etched       | F. unpleasantly sharp, pungent, or bitter to smell |
| ___ 7. incantation  | G. came or sent forth, as from a source            |
| ___ 8. emphatically | H. pride; joy                                      |
| ___ 9. emanated     | I. recitation of spells to produce a magic effect  |
| ___ 10. stupor      | J. an agitated disturbance                         |
| ___ 11. elation     | K. to free from evil spirits or malign influences  |
| ___ 12. acid        | L. unaffected by pleasure or pain; impassive       |

Chapters 11-12

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. The huge tail swished and contemptuously flipped it aside.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I felt weak and powerless in the knowledge of the impending doom.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. It is the sweet water of the moon, my mother crooned softly, it is the water the Church chose to make holy and place in its font.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. There were many things in Ultima's room that I instinctively knew I should not touch, but I could not understand why she was so blunt about the dolls.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. "Why are farmers out playing vigilantes when they should be home, sitting before a warm fire, playing cards, counting the rich harvest, eh?"  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 11-12

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- |                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. contemptuously | A. those who enforce laws themselves |
| ___ 2. impending      | B. disdainfully; scornfully          |
| ___ 3. crooned        | C. done by innate aptitude           |
| ___ 4. instinctively  | D. to be about to take place         |
| ___ 5. vigilantes     | E. sung softly or in a humming way   |

Chapters 13-14

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. He would have to bury his daughter in unholy ground, and without the saving grace of the mass her soul was doomed to perdition.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. "There is if you're a Catholic!" Lloyd countered.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. "I'll give you an A," Miss Violet said in exasperation.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. "How nasty," Lloyd scoffed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The door opened and a crack of light illuminated Narcisco's face.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. But how could he stop the intrusion?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The townspeople had killed Lupito at the bridge and desecrated the river.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. A warm, pulsating stream of blood wet his jacket and the snow.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. And the Trementina sisters led the caravan over the path and onto our hill.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 13-14

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| ___ 1. perdition    | A. expanding and contracting rhythmically     |
| ___ 2. countered    | B. loss of the soul; eternal damnation        |
| ___ 3. exasperation | C. rude or inappropriate entrance             |
| ___ 4. scoffed      | D. anger or impatience                        |
| ___ 5. illuminated  | E. a company of travelers journeying together |
| ___ 6. intrusion    | F. lit up                                     |
| ___ 7. desecrated   | G. offered in response                        |
| ___ 8. pulsating    | H. violated the sacredness of; profaned       |
| ___ 9. caravan      | I. mocked or treated with derision            |

Prereading Vocabulary Worksheets *Bless Me, Ultima*

Chapters 15-17

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. "Just this side of Antón Chico," León said unperturbed, "we hit a slick spot, solid ice, and we went down the ditch--"  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. On the morning my father's disquietude was proven.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. My mother cried when she kissed her sons good-bye, but she was resigned.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. I wondered if I would ever really know my brothers, or would they remain but phantoms of my dreams.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. "You are a murderer!" I shouted with defiance.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. I had listened to Florence's heresy, but the God of the church had not hurled his thunder at me.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 15-17

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. unperturbed | A. ghosts or an apparitions             |
| _____ 2. disquietude | B. bold resistance                      |
| _____ 3. phantoms    | C. worried unease; anxiety              |
| _____ 4. resigned    | D. dissension from dogma by a believer  |
| _____ 5. defiance    | E. not disturbed or confused            |
| _____ 6. heresy      | F. acquiescent; unresistingly accepting |



Chapters 18-20

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. It is the soul that must be saved, because the soul endures.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The proud and the meek, the arrogant and the humble are all made equal on Ash Wednesday.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. All of the saints' statues in the church were covered with purple sheaths.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Then abruptly my thoughts were scattered.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. "Aye, Gabriel Márez," the gray, emaciated face smiled weakly, "it does my heart good to see an old compadre, an old vaquero--"  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. "The imagination!" Téllez laughed sardonically.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. "The three tortured spirits are not to blame, they are manipulated by brujas--"  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 18-20

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. endures      | A. suddenly                                    |
| ___ 2. arrogant     | B. made extremely thin                         |
| ___ 3. sheaths      | C. influenced shrewdly or deviously            |
| ___ 4. abruptly     | D. continues in existence; lasts               |
| ___ 5. emaciated    | E. tubular coverings, as used for knife blades |
| ___ 6. sardonically | F. scornfully or cynically mocking             |
| ___ 7. manipulated  | G. making claims to unwarranted importance     |

Chapters 21-22

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Seeing him made questions and worries evaporate, and I remained transfixed, caught and caressed by the essential elements of sky and earth and water.  

---
2. "A religion different from the religion of the Lunas," I was again talking to myself, intrigued by the easy flow of thoughts and the openness with which I divulged them to my father.  

---
3. "I came from a people who held the wind as brother, because he is free, and the horse as companion, because he is the living, fleeting wind . . . ."  

---
4. When I heard that the hair on my back bristled.  

---
5. "We indebted ourselves to her when she saved our brother, a debt I will gladly pay."  

---
6. The sharp, reverberating hoof beats that moments ago had mixed into the surging sound of the river were now a crescendo upon me.  

---
7. That sympathy for people my father said she possessed had overcome all obstacles.  

---
8. I was about to shout and answer that I was here and well when I saw the lurking shadow under the juniper tree.  

---

Chapters 21-22

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| ___ 1. transfixed    | A. made known (something private or secret)           |
| ___ 2. divulged      | B. caused to stand erect; stiffened                   |
| ___ 3. fleeting      | C. resounding in a succession of echoes               |
| ___ 4. bristled      | D. things that oppose, or stand in the way of         |
| ___ 5. indebted      | E. lying in wait, as in ambush                        |
| ___ 6. reverberating | F. rendered motionless with terror or amazement       |
| ___ 7. obstacles     | G. morally, socially, or legally obligated to another |
| ___ 8. lurking       | H. moving swiftly; rapid or nimble                    |

Vocabulary Worksheet 2 *Bless Me, Ultima*

Directions: Place the letter of the matching definition on the blank line.

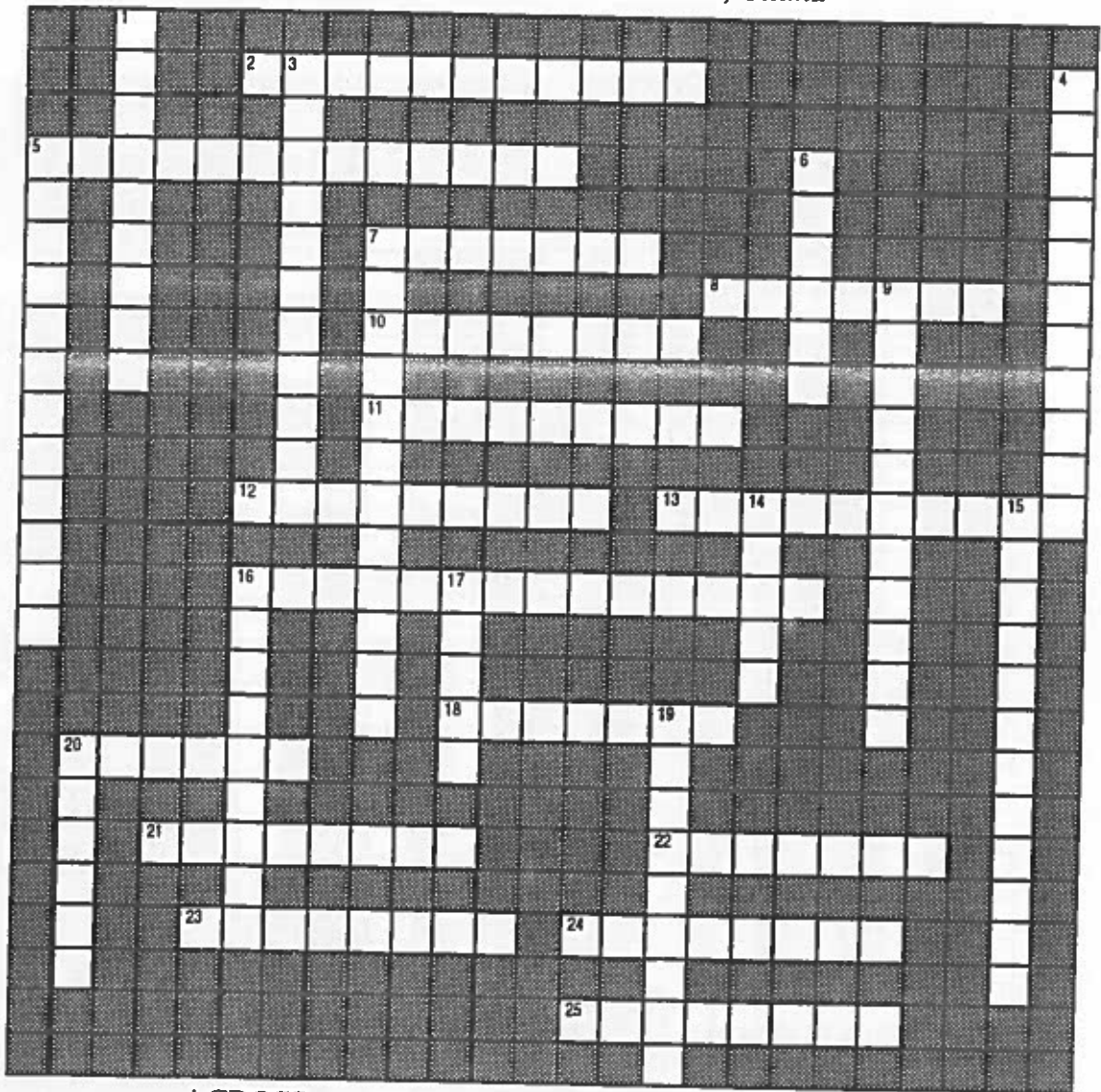
- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. audacity       | A. dissension from dogma by a professed believer |
| _____ 2. bristled       | B. disdainfully; scornfully                      |
| _____ 3. commotion      | C. resounding in a succession of echoes          |
| _____ 4. contemptuously | D. caused to stand erect; stiffened              |
| _____ 5. debris         | E. put together, created                         |
| _____ 6. emaciated      | F. acquiescent; unresistingly accepting          |
| _____ 7. endowed        | G. done by innate aptitude                       |
| _____ 8. exasperation   | H. rubble or wreckage                            |
| _____ 9. forsaking      | I. an agitated disturbance                       |
| _____ 10. heresy        | J. fearlessness, boldness                        |
| _____ 11. instinctively | K. giving up something formerly held dear        |
| _____ 12. intrusion     | L. loss of the soul; eternal damnation           |
| _____ 13. melee         | M. not disturbed or confused                     |
| _____ 14. obstacles     | N. made extremely thin                           |
| _____ 15. perdition     | O. holding persistently to something             |
| _____ 16. resigned      | P. anger or impatience                           |
| _____ 17. reverberating | Q. things that oppose, or stand in the way of    |
| _____ 18. tenaciously   | R. rude or inappropriate entrance                |
| _____ 19. unperturbed   | S. provided with property or income              |
| _____ 20. wrought       | T. a violent free-for-all                        |

Vocabulary Worksheet 1 *Bless Me, Ultima*

Directions: Place the letter of the matching word from the second row on the blank line in front of the definition in the first row.

- |       |     |  |                 |                   |                   |                  |
|-------|-----|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| _____ | 1.  | <b><u>unpleasantly sharp, pungent, or bitter to smell</u></b>    | A. emaciated    | B. acrid          | C. exuberant      | D. impending     |
| _____ | 2.  | <b><u>making claims to unwarranted importance</u></b>            | A. succulent    | B. forsaking      | C. arrogant       | D. indebted      |
| _____ | 3.  | <b><u>an imperfection that mars or impairs</u></b>               | A. blemish      | B. melee          | C. stupor         | D. debris        |
| _____ | 4.  | <b><u>a company of travelers journeying together</u></b>         | A. commotion    | B. caravan        | C. furrow         | D. motes         |
| _____ | 5.  | <b><u>offered in response</u></b>                                | A. pulsating    | B. subsided       | C. impending      | D. countered     |
| _____ | 6.  | <b><u>bold resistance</u></b>                                    | A. defiance     | B. forsaking      | C. manipulated    | D. desecrated    |
| _____ | 7.  | <b><u>made known (something private or secret)</u></b>           | A. admonished   | B. emaciated      | C. divulged       | D. etched        |
| _____ | 8.  | <b><u>came forth, as from a source</u></b>                       | A. bristled     | B. crooned        | C. endowed        | D. emanated      |
| _____ | 9.  | <b><u>continues in existence; lasts</u></b>                      | A. interminable | B. endures        | C. pulsating      | D. stupor        |
| _____ | 10. | <b><u>cut into the surface of</u></b>                            | A. etched       | B. furrow         | C. reverberating  | D. scoffed       |
| _____ | 11. | <b><u>to free from evil spirits</u></b>                          | A. heresy       | B. tormented      | C. exorcise       | D. wrought       |
| _____ | 12. | <b><u>to be about to take place</u></b>                          | A. abruptly     | B. impending      | C. contemptuously | D. forsaking     |
| _____ | 13. | <b><u>things that oppose, or stand in the way of</u></b>         | A. heresy       | B. incantation    | C. sheaths        | D. obstacles     |
| _____ | 14. | <b><u>trembled</u></b>   | A. quavered     | B. subsided       | C. illuminated    | D. admonished    |
| _____ | 15. | <b><u>scornfully or cynically mocking</u></b>                    | A. emphatically | B. contemptuously | C. sardonically   | D. instinctively |
| _____ | 16. | <b><u>mocked or treated with derision</u></b>                    | A. dysentery    | B. forage         | C. scoffed        | D. indebted      |
| _____ | 17. | <b><u>unaffected by pleasure or pain</u></b>                     | A. resigned     | B. stoically      | C. tenaciously    | D. tormented     |
| _____ | 18. | <b><u>became less agitated or active</u></b>                     | A. unperturbed  | B. resolution     | C. resigned       | D. subsided      |
| _____ | 19. | <b><u>rendered motionless, as with terror, or amazement</u></b>  | A. transfixed   | B. stupor         | C. perdition      | D. quavered      |
| _____ | 20. | <b><u>one who takes law enforcement into one's own hands</u></b> | A. phantoms     | B. caravan        | C. drone          | D. vigilante     |

Vocabulary Crossword 2 *Bless Me, Ultima*



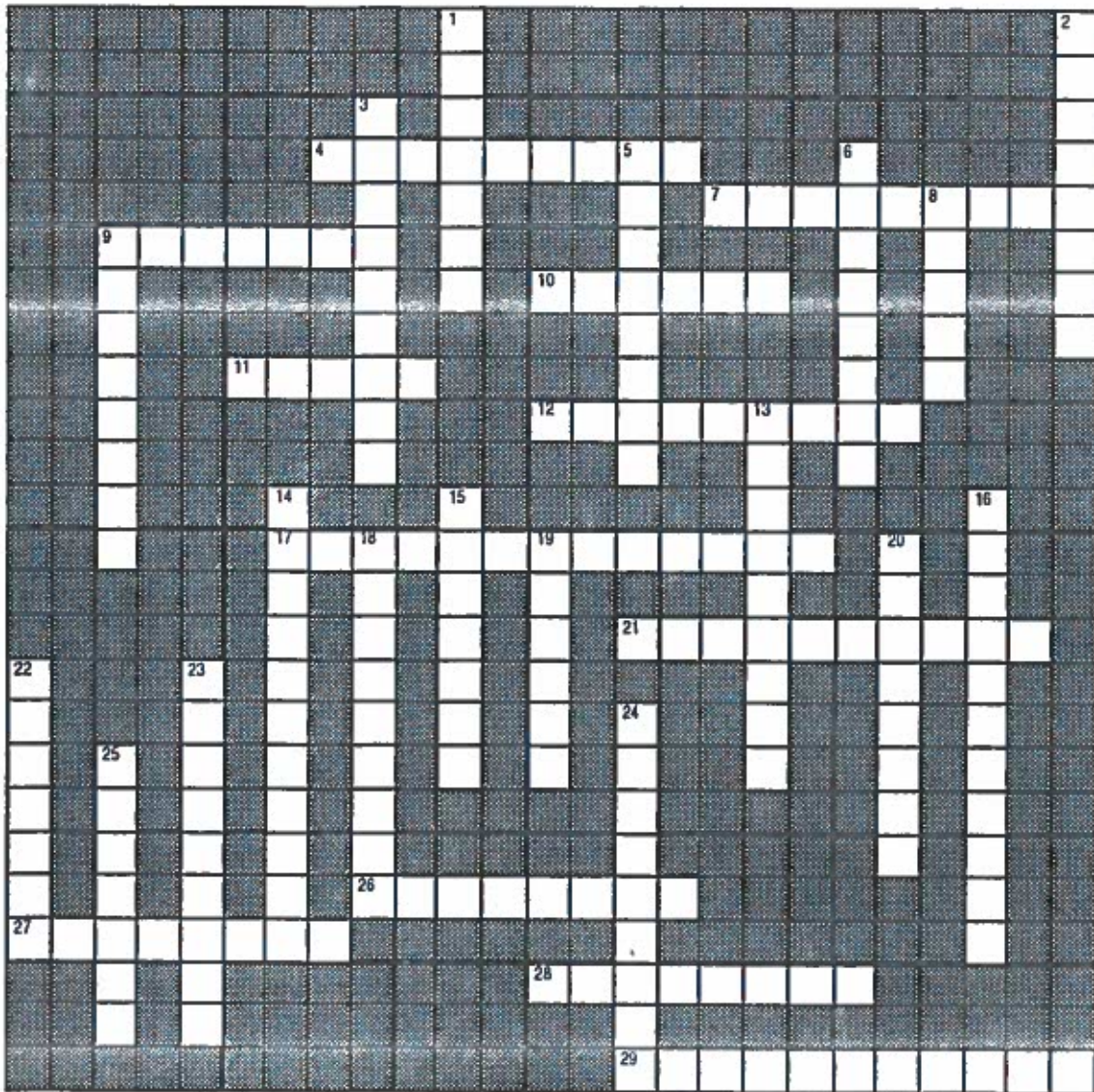
**ACROSS**

- 2 worried unease; anxiety
- 5 done by innate aptitude
- 7 pride; joy
- 8 lying in wait, as in ambush
- 10 fearlessness; boldness
- 11 loss of the soul; eternal damnation
- 12 rude or inappropriate entrance
- 13 reproved gently but earnestly
- 16 disdainfully; scornfully
- 18 provided with property or income
- 20 a rut, groove, or narrow depression
- 21 caused to stand erect; stiffened
- 22 sung softly or in a humming way
- 23 morally, socially, or legally obligated
- 24 to make a loud, sustained noise
- 25 moving swiftly; rapid or nimble

**DOWN**

- 1 expanding and contracting rhythmically
- 3 ritual recitation of verbal charms
- 4 influenced or managed shrewdly
- 5 endless
- 6 rubble or wreckage
- 7 anger or impatience
- 9 lit up
- 14 a violent free-for-all
- 15 positively; definitely
- 16 an agitated disturbance
- 17 very small particles; specs
- 19 made extremely thin
- 20 to wander in search of food

Vocabulary Crossword 1 *Bless Me, Ultima*



**ACROSS**

- |    |   |    |                                   |
|----|---|----|-----------------------------------|
| 4  | caused to undergo great pain or anguish | 3  | giving up                         |
| 7  | to be about to take place               | 5  | to free from evil spirits         |
| 9  | continues in existence; lasts           | 6  | unresistingly accepting           |
| 10 | dissension from dogma                   | 8  | continuous low humming sound      |
| 11 | unpleasantly sharp or bitter to smell   | 9  | made extremely thin               |
| 12 | things that oppose or stand in the way  | 13 | offered in response               |
| 17 | resounding in a succession of echoes    | 14 | impossible to retract or withdraw |
| 21 | violated the sacredness of              | 15 | put together, created             |
| 26 | became less agitated                    | 16 | not disturbed or confused         |
| 27 | made known                              | 18 | people without permanent homes    |
| 28 | ghosts or apparitions                   | 19 | cut into the surface of           |
| 29 | holding persistently to something       | 20 | trembled                          |
|    |   | 22 | mocked or treated with derision   |
|    |   | 23 | unaffected by pleasure or pain    |
| 1  | an imperfection that mars or impairs    | 24 | joyous; full of high spirits      |
| 2  | making claims to unwarranted importance | 25 | travelers journeying together     |

**DOWN**



***Bless Me, Ultima* Final Project  
Creating a Sociogram**

*What is a sociogram?* A literary sociogram is a graphic organizer that represents the relationships among individual characters in a literary text.

*What is its purpose?* A sociogram encourages us to think deeply, critically, and symbolically about a text.

**Directions:**

1. Choose a theme that you wish to explore and portray in your sociogram.
2. Draw the central character in the middle of a large sheet of paper. The character may be sketched, collaged, or creatively detailed, diagramed, or may be represented by a symbol.
3. On another sheet of paper, compose a list of characters with some relationship to the main character. In *Bless Me Ultima*, there are numerous characters who relate to the protagonist, Antonio. Select between 5 and 7 characters who you feel are in some way important in Antonio's life.
4. Select a location where you will sketch, collage, diagram, or symbolically represent each of the other characters on the large sheet of paper. Be intentional and consider where to place them according to their relationship to Antonio. The location represents the perceived psychological distance between Antonio and each character. Once again, the characters may be represented by a sketch, a collage, a diagram, or other symbols. The size of the character should represent his or her power or importance in the story. Be creative and thoughtful!
5. Connect each character to Antonio. The form of the connection should be symbolic of their relationship. Again, be very creative and thoughtful!
6. Include a quote in the sociogram for each of the characters you choose to define their relationship with Antonio in terms of the theme you have chosen. The quotes you include should demonstrate your understanding of the story and to provide evidence of your understanding of the characters, their relationships, and their experiences. Make sure they are **relevant** and meaningful. Be creative!
7. Fill in the background with illustrations of your favorite parts of the story.
8. Be sure to completely color or shade your sociogram. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY NEGATIVE SPACE.**
9. Complete an **ARTIST STATEMENT** and **PRESENT** your Sociogram.

