

Language Barriers

As you read *Bless Me, Ultima*, you will discover multiple Spanish words and phrases. It is standard for Chicano writers to incorporate the Spanish language into their work. This genre is often called a bilingual work.

Luckily, it is not necessary to recognize the meanings for the Spanish words. If the words or phrases do matter, they will be immediately (often subtly), defined in the next sentence...in context. Otherwise, you can read the book with no loss of content even if you do not understand the Spanish. It takes a little adjusting, but it becomes easier as you continue reading. Do NOT assume it is too difficult for you because you do not understand Spanish.

At some points the author includes lines from hymns and prayers that would be familiar to Spanish readers. Their meaning is interesting and enriches the work, but is not essential to comprehension. You will find that Anaya often uses italics to indicate the Spanish words and sentences.

Below you will find a list of many of the words and phrases used in the book. Use this if you feel the need.

<i>Abrazo</i> - hug	<i>Andale</i> - quickly, hurry
<i>Atole</i> - a cornmeal dish	<i>Basta</i> - enough
<i>Bulto</i> - ghost; saint's image	<i>Campana</i> - bell
<i>Compadre</i> - close friend, godfather	<i>Crudo</i> - slang for hangover
<i>Cuentos</i> - old stories	<i>Cuidado</i> - take care
<i>Diablo</i> - the devil	<i>Diente</i> - teeth
<i>Dios</i> - God	<i>Dobando</i> - tolling
<i>Grillos</i> -cricket	<i>Hechicera</i> - witch, enchantress
<i>Hijo</i> - son	<i>Hombre</i> - man
<i>Iglesia</i> - church	<i>Llano</i> - plain; prairie
<i>Mitote</i> - celebration	<i>Mollera</i> - soft spot on baby's head
<i>La muerte</i> - dead one; death	<i>Mujer</i> - woman
<i>Pecado</i> - sin	<i>Pesadilla</i> - nightmare
<i>Purge</i> - purge, clear away	<i>Ristas</i> - string of garlic, onions, peppers, etc.
<i>Sabrosas</i> - delicious	<i>Sala</i> - room
<i>Sangre</i> - blood	<i>Suerte</i> - luck
<i>Tío</i> - uncle	<i>Ultima</i> -last
<i>Vaquero</i> - horseman, cowboy	<i>Vatos</i> - slang for boys
<i>Verdad</i> - truth, true	

Curse words:

A la veca

Jodido

Cabrón

Maldito

Phrases:

Benditos sean dos dulces nombres -blessed be their good names

Lo mato - He killed him

Que Dios te bendiga - God bless you.

Que lastíma - too bad; a shame

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Chingada
Mierda

Tristes de la vida – sadness of life