

Study Guide Questions for *Bless Me Ultima*

Chapters 1-3 (Uno – Tres)

1. How old is Antonio when Ultima comes to visit with his family?
2. Why Does Ultima live with Marez family?
3. What is the setting of the novel? (Time, place, mood)
4. Name and describe each member of the Marez family.
5. Describe Ultima's occupation.
6. What is the conflict between Gabriel and Maria concerning Antonio's future?
7. What pet does Ultima bring with her?
8. What nickname did Ultima and the family call Antonio? What does the name mean?
9. Describe the incident with Chavez.
10. How did Antonio get accepted by the gang with Bones, Abel and Horse?

Chapters 4-8 (Cuatro – Ocho)

1. How did Ultima feel about plants, the river and other parts of nature?
2. How did the Marez family always do after supper?
3. How did Ultima describe the Luna and Marez families?

4. Why did Antonio describe the time spent in El Puerto?
5. How did Antonio feel about going to school?
6. What did Antonio discover about his cultural background on the first day of 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?
10. What did Antonio's brothers talk about doing, and what were their opinions on the subject?

Chapters 9-10 (Nueve – Diez)

1. Describe Antonio's dream in Chapter 9.
2. What was the conflict between the Marez boys and their parents?
3. In Maria's opinion, what was the cause of the boys' desires?
4. What did the boys finally do?
5. Antonio asked Andrew if Andrew would become a farmer or a priest. What was Andrew's reply?
6. What Happened to Antonio at the end of first grade?
7. Briefly retell Samuel's story of the carp, including the golden carp?

8. What was the supposed cause of Uncle Lucas' illness?
9. Who was Tenorio Trementina?
10. Briefly describe the way Ultima cured Lucas.

Chapters 11-12 (Once – Doce)

1. What did Tony discover about Narcisco?
2. How did Tony feel when he saw the golden carp?
3. What feeling did Antonio and Cico share?
4. How did Cico say the golden carp would punish people?
5. Antonio described his mother's definition of learning to sin. What was it?
6. What did Antonio learn from Ultima's stories?
7. Why were Tenorio and the men coming to the Marez home?
8. What did Narcisco say to shame the men who came with Tenorio?
9. Of what did Tenorio accuse Ultima?
10. What was the test for being a witch, and did Ultima pass the test?

11. What Happened to Tenorio?

12. What did Antonio find on the ground after the men had gone?

Chapters 13-14 (Trece – Catorce)

1. About what was Tony thinking as the family rode to El Puerto?

2. What happened at the church when Tenorio went to have a 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 Tony'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 handled? How did it serve as comic relief?

8. Whom did Antonio see when he was walking home from school after the play, and what were they doing?

9. What was Narcisco's final destination after the fight, and why?

10. Where did Narcisco stop on his way to his final destination? Why did he go there? What was the result of his visit?

11. Describe the fight at the juniper tree. Who witnessed it? What was the result of the fight?

12. What happened after Antonio reached his home?

Chapters 15-17 (Quince – Diecisiete)

1. What illness did Tony get after he saw the murder?

2. What did Maria tell Tony 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' visits and why?

5. What did Andrew do when Leon and Eugene left?

6. What did Antonio think about much of the time?

7. What did Tony think would help him understand his dreams and questions?

8. Whom did Antonio meet on the way home from school and what happened?

9. The people thought a special event was causing the dust storms and harsh winter. What was the event?

10. What was the topic of discussion between Florence and Antonio in chapter 17?

Chapters 18-20 (Dieciocho – Veinte)

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 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 Tony's dream about - the night they returned from Agua Negra?

Chapters 21-22 (Veintiuno – Veintidos)

1. What did Cico tell Antonio about God/gods?
2. What did Cico say Tony'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 house?
13. What did Ultima ask Antonio to do for her?
14. What did Tony think about the upcoming mass of the dead and the burial of Ultima?