

Reviewer username: Anonymous

School: El Dorado High School

Grade: Junior

Book Title: Bless Me Ultima

Book Author: Rudolfo Anaya

Rate 1-5: 4.5

The novel Bless Me Ultima is about a young boy, Antonio and his identity connected with his lifestyle and heritage. Joining the family, Ultima, opens Antonio's view to a new perspective as her magical healing power seems to be more effective than Gods and her owl allows a watchful and protective presence into his life. This spiritual conflict is major as he has been surrounded by God and Catholicism all his life until he believes it fails him and ideas of sins within the golden carp influence his views. In addition his confliction over family is major as he doesn't know what to do anymore. Satisfying Dad becoming a vaquero and roam the llano or his mothers desire of him becoming a priest. Which will he choose or will he take another path in life?

Overall I liked this book as a whole because of its connection to me personally especially with the themes of maturity and moral independence emerging. My only dislike of this novel was the sadness and darkness of it. There were a lot more tragic events than I anticipated. My favorite character in the novel was the main character of Antonio because I had many of the same feelings as him as he grew up and also understood his emotions as it related to me in certain situations. In the book, I was very surprised at how much religion and culture played a role in building up Antonio as a character.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wants a traditional yet heartfelt read. This is because the novel contains lots of differing religious and cultural ideas while also portraying the characters on a deeper level. Any teenager would enjoy this book as you can connect with some of the characters and relate to them as you have had similar experiences. This novel doesnt remind me of any book I have read because of how unique its storyline and plot is.