

TEACHING BLESS ME, ULTIMA
CHARACTERS

- María Luna: Tony's mother, symbolizes the quiet earth, as constant as the moon, devout
- Miss Maestas: Tony's teacher at school
- Narciso: the town drunk; sees the Carp; keeps a lush garden
- Prudencio: Tony's grandfather, old, bearded, respected
- Red: the boy who brings Tony to his classroom
- Rosie: a prostitute
- Samuel: Tony's friend in third grade, seems wise and old
- Tenorio Trementina: an evil man, owns a bar and barbershop in town; symbolizes darkness, gloom; kills Narciso, kills Ultima's owl
- the Trementina daughters: witches who perform black magic, say Ultima is a witch, threaten to kill her
- Tony: the protagonist in the novel, just turning seven at the beginning; middle name is Juan; Juan Diego was the Indian who saw the Virgin of Guadalupe.
- Ultima: a curandera, not related to the Marez family but was midwife to Tony's birth; lived in both Las Pasturas and El Puerto; a mediator; Tony's mentor and spiritual guide; name means "the last," "the end," "the ultimate."
- Ultima's owl: often a companion of a curandera, a source of her power; often a symbol of evil, portrayed positively in the novel; owl is the spirit of the llano.
- Uncle Juan: Tony's uncle
- Uncle Lucas: Tony's uncle; becomes sick because of a curse, has curse lifted by Ultima with Tony's help
- Uncle Pedro: Tony's uncle
- Virgin Mary: Jesus' mother; often identified with the moon
- Vitamin Kid: one of Tony's friends who races him across the bridge*

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