

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Bless Me, Ultima Chapters 15-18 Commentaries

Directions: Fill in the blanks as you listen to the commentary being read aloud. These commentaries should help you better understand the novel. You will receive credit for filling this commentary out in full.

Because _____ was known as the _____, no one is much interested in punishing his murderer. The coroner decides to rule his _____ an accident. This _____ gives Antonio an _____ in the tragic unfairness of social prejudice.

Antonio also begins to deal with the matter of cultural identity. Maria insists that he _____ his prayers in English, as well as Spanish. She still _____ that Antonio will be a priest, a spiritual _____ for his people. She believes that fluency in English and Spanish will make him a better priest. Maria is aware that Anglo culture is placing _____ on her culture and considers bilingualism a good way to adapt to these changes. Antonio has already felt the sting of Anglo arrogance toward his cultural and ethnic identity at his school.

The _____ between Antonio's maternal and paternal heritages ceases to be his major preoccupation. After society refuses to punish Tenorio for murdering Narciso, Antonio struggles to _____ why there is evil in the world. He regards the Catholic Church with both extreme _____ and extreme _____. As a bulwark against these doubts, he places all his hopes on his first communion, certain that it will bring him complete understanding.

Father Byrnes _____ to Antonio that even priests can be prejudiced and _____. When he and Florence are late to catechism lessons, Father Byrnes punishes Florence but not Antonio. Florence is the only _____ who _____ Catholic orthodoxy during classes. His teaching does not give the children an understanding of God but a _____ of Him.

It is hope that _____ Antonio in the face of doubt and the incontrovertible fact of evil in the world. He desperately wants Florence to have some form of hope, as well. Therefore, he agrees with Samuel that perhaps the golden carp will give him hope where the Catholic God has failed.

Antonio again _____ the outcast when he acts as a priest for his friends. The other _____ horrify him, sensationalizing the confessional ritual with sexual voyeurism and competing with one another to _____. Therefore, their savage desire for him to punish Florence, who truly believes that he has not _____, sickens him. This experience shows Antonio that he may not be suited to life as a priest. Florence does not suggest that it is any failing in Antonio, but rather that his "congregation" is not _____ for the kind of priest that Antonio would be.