

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Bless Me, Ultima Chapter 22 Commentary

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.

Antonio's _____ addresses his crisis of religious faith. The three figures of _____ he tried to save state that Antonio prayed for them in his innocence. Then, they proceed to _____ him the failure of all three spiritual paradigms in his life. The dream hints at Antonio's understanding that people often _____ the rules of their own religions. His dream also _____ how Ultima will die. Seeing the failure of all three spiritual paradigms, Antonio asks God why He has forsaken him, echoing the _____ of the crucified Jesus.

A voice in the dream _____ that Antonio must learn to accept that _____ brings _____. Now Antonio has to build the faith of an adult for himself, the kind of faith that can accept doubt, contradiction, and loss in the absence of absolute answers. Ultima _____ this because she advises his parents to send him to his uncles to learn about "growing things." Moreover, before he leaves, she _____ him that he must learn to accept _____ and make it a part of his _____. This is a repetition of the message in his dream.

Antonio's conversation with his father signals his departure from absolutist modes of thinking. Gabriel has finally come to terms with the sweeping changes that are _____ the vaquero way of life. Antonio learns that adults face _____ their whole lives. Gabriel's assertion that every man builds something new from his past echoes Ultima's _____ that Antonio has to make change a part of his strength.

Antonio's summer with his _____ prepares him for his _____ separation from Ultima. When the _____ between Ultima and Tenorio comes to its violent end, Antonio has reason to _____ his father's relativist attitude toward "evil." Antonio finally begins to understand the spiritual value that Ultima places on harmony. After he affirmed both his Luna and Marez heritages, he felt at _____ with his identity. He came to understand that his maternal and paternal heritages are compatible. He ceases to see them in terms of diametrical opposites but as opposites in a

balancing unity. This is how he comes to understand the _____, as well, so death ceases to be an “evil thing.” Antonio regards it as another change that brings _____. This time, he recognizes that it can also bring _____ and increased understanding.