

## Bless Me, Ultima Discussion Questions

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences on notebook paper. Please separate each group of questions with the chapter number and include a space between each section of questions. Do NOT write on the back of the paper and text support whenever necessary.

### Chapter One (pgs. 1-13):

1. How old is the narrator when Ultima comes to stay with him?
2. What language is spoken in the household?
3. Where was the narrator born?
4. What happened to Gabriel's horse?
5. Where does Gabriel want to move to?
6. Why does Maria call Ultima "la Grande"?
7. What is the first vision/dream Antonio has?
8. Why will Antonio have to leave his mother?
9. Between Antonio's two sisters, which one is the most inquisitive?
10. Was Ultima at Antonio's birth?
11. When do the children learn to speak English?
12. Why is the Indian called Jason's Indian?
13. Who is teaching Theresa how to speak English?
14. How is a family judged?
15. What animal comes with Ultima?

### Chapter Two (pgs. 14-26): This is True/False.

1. Deborah and Theresa are happy with Ultima's arrival because Ultima starts doing their chores.
2. Antonio's brothers are missing because they are at war in Europe.
3. Chavez is frantic about getting Gabriel's help because someone killed Chavez's family.
4. When Antonio follows the men to find the killer, he finds Lupito hiding in the shrubs.
5. Chavez tries to talk the men out of killing Lupito, claiming he is sick from the war.
6. Lupito's death is the first one Antonio has ever seen.
7. An Act of Contrition is said after one made his confession to the priest, and as the last prayer before death.

### Chapter Three (pgs. 27-38):

1. What about Lupito is Antonio concerned with?
2. Antonio's parents always quarrel on Sunday mornings because:
3. Why is Rosie's house so bad?
4. Are most of the kids at church older or younger than Antonio?
5. Which kid does Antonio flip on his back?

**Chapter Four (pgs. 39-45): These are True/False. If the statement is False, explain what is the truth.**

1. Ultima and Antonio walk in the hills of the llano looking for rocks and dirt for his school project.
2. It is the blood of the Lunas to be quiet, for only a quiet man can learn the secrets of the earth that are necessary for planting.
3. It is the blood of the Marez to be wild.
4. Every autumn the Marez family makes a pilgrimage to El Puerto.

**Chapter Five (pgs. 46-50):**

1. Which of Maria's brothers can Gabriel talk to freely?
2. Which war has taken Antonio's brothers away?
3. Juan wants Antonio to take a summer with the Luna family because:

**Chapter Six (pgs. 51-59): These are True/False. If the statement is False, explain what is the truth.**

1. Antonio's schooling will be the first time he will be away from his mother.
2. Deborah and Theresa are excited about school because they get to meet more boys.
3. Antonio is to see Miss Maestas as soon as he gets to school. She knows the Luna family.
4. According to Ultima, Antonio will be a cowboy, like his father.
5. The Vitamin Kid's real name is Hector Sanchez.
6. Some of the kids in Antonio's class cried when their mothers left them and one even wet his pants.

**Chapter Seven (pgs. 60-64):**

1. Antonio's brothers are coming home because:
2. The first to fall asleep during the prayers is:
3. Which one of Antonio's brothers is a loner according to their mother?

**Chapter Eight (pgs. 65-69): These are True/False. If the statement is False, explain what is the truth.**

1. Antonio's brothers spent the winter sleeping during the day and in town at night.
2. Eugene had shown the most war-sickness among the three brothers.
3. Eugene, Leon, and Andrew are ready to move to California with their father and their family.

**Chapter Nine (pgs. 70-82):**

1. Antonio dreams about:
2. Of the three brothers, which one stays behind?
3. Which brother is thinking about finishing school?
4. Who can nobody beat across the bridge?
5. Who is Samuel's brother?
6. At the end of the school year, Antonio is:
7. What grade is Samuel in?
8. It is bad luck to fish for what in the River of the Carp?
9. According to Samuel, who will find Antonio this summer and show him the Golden Carp?

**Chapter Ten** (pgs. 83-105): **These are True/False. If the statement is False, explain what is the truth.**

1. Antonio's father is dejected about his sons leaving, and he drinks more than before.
2. Lucas is sick because he witnessed his parents in the heat of the moment.
3. When Uncle Lucas gets sick, the family turns to a curandera for help.
4. Ultima agrees to help Lucas as long as the Luna family agrees to kill Tenorio.
5. Tenorio laid the evil curse on Lucas.
6. Ultima takes Antonio with her to help Lucas.
7. Prudencio agrees to pay Ultima \$40 to save Lucas' life.
8. Tenorio is the ugliest man Antonio has ever seen.
9. According to Ultima, the curse was laid upon Lucas by using pieces of his clothing.
10. Lucas has been catatonic for weeks.
11. Prudencio let Lucas' illness go for so long that Ultima is afraid the battle will be long and difficult.
12. Prudencio's church wanted him to call for Ultima a long time ago, but he wouldn't listen to the priest.
13. Ultima is afraid of Tenorio and the powers his daughters possess.
14. The power of the doctors and the power of the church had failed to cure Lucas.
15. Lucas vomits up the hair that the Trementina sisters had cut from his head.

**Chapter Ten Continued** (pgs. 99-103): Explain these pages in your own words. Use complete sentences and paragraph form. What is going on with Uncle Lucas, Ultima, and Antonio? How are they connected? How does Ultima save Lucas' life? Why is Antonio involved? Be thorough.

**Chapter 11** (106-121):

1. Who is calling Antonio in the beginning of this chapter?
2. What has Antonio been hoping to see all summer?
3. Why does Antonio say he cannot believe in Cico's pagan god?
4. Cico makes Antonio swear what?
5. Who lives in the house with the lush garden?
6. Where is the owner of this house?
7. According to Cico, why does Narciso drink?
8. When does the owner of the lush garden plant?
9. Does the gang know about the golden carp?
10. Why is Cico telling Antonio about the golden carp when he is a non-believer?
11. What does Antonio do that makes the other kids think he has bruja blood in him?
12. What kind of fish does Cico fish for?
13. Why hasn't any of the fishermen caught the golden carp?
14. According to Cico's story, what happened to the shepherd?
15. What does Marez mean?
16. In Antonio's dream, who is fighting over his destiny?

**Chapter Twelve** (pgs.122-135):

1. Why were things quieter at Antonio's home? Who has left?
2. Where does Antonio spend most of his long summer evenings?
3. Who does Ultima warn Antonio against?
4. What does Ultima give Antonio?
5. What is in the small, flattened pouch that is connected to the scapular?
6. What does Narciso come to warn Gabriel about?
7. According to Ultima, "a man does not flee from the...":
8. According to Narciso, what is the test for a bruja?
9. Who does the owl seek out in the lynch mob?
10. What does Antonio find on the porch after the lynch mob has left?

**Chapter Thirteen** (pgs. 136-142):

1. Who rides with Gabriel to El Puerto? Who does Antonio ride with?
2. According to Antonio's uncle, why did he not come to Ultima's aid with Tenorio?
3. What does Antonio's grandfather not allow any talk of?
4. What is Uncle Juan asking of Maria and Gabriel regarding Antonio?

**Chapter Fourteen** (pgs. 143-176):

1. Who is Tony's third grade teacher?
2. Who does Antonio stand up to in the gang of boys?
3. What is the last thing the boys are going to do for Miss Violet before Christmas vacation?
4. What is the school play about?
5. What part does Antonio have in the school play?
6. Who was fighting the night before the play?
7. Who has been spanked so many times by the principal that it doesn't mean anything anymore?
8. Is Miss Violet married and who walks her home on the night of the snowstorm?
9. Who does Antonio see fighting outside the town bar?
10. What is wrong with Tenorio's second daughter?
11. Who does Tenorio blame for his second daughter's illness?
12. Where does Narciso go to find Andrew?
13. Why doesn't Andrew come to help Narciso warn Ultima?
14. Where was Tenorio when Narciso was seeking out Andrew?
15. Explain Antonio's dream on pages 172-176:

**Chapter Fifteen** (pgs. 177-185):

1. What did Antonio's father do regarding Narciso's death?
2. How did the coroner's jury say Narciso died?
3. What did Andrew bring to Antonio daily, but he never actually delivers it himself?
4. What will happen in the spring and on Easter for Antonio?
5. What will Antonio do this coming summer?
6. Why does Maria want Antonio to recite his catechism in English?
7. Who visits the family over the winter break?
8. What happened to the brothers' car?
9. Where did Leon and Eugene spend most of their time when they were home?
10. What is Gabriel trying to fix in the snowstorm?
11. When Leon and Eugene leave, who goes with them?
12. Does Narciso's death have anything to do with one of the brothers leaving?

**Chapter Sixteen** (pgs. 186-189):

1. Where would Antonio go after school sometimes? What would he do?
2. What does Antonio hope to understand when he makes his communion?
3. Who does Antonio meet on his way home from school?

**Chapter Seventeen** (pgs. 190-202):

1. What is the "new bomb" that was made to end the war?
2. According to Agnes, what does God know?
3. According to the priest, a "wise man listens to the voice of the":
4. Florence asks Antonio what sin is and his response is:
5. Who gets in a fight in the school bathroom?
6. Big Willie is on the farm boys who is from:
7. Why does Florence go to catechism?
8. What does Florence call God?
9. What happened to Florence's family?
10. What was Florence's punishment for being late to catechism class?
11. What are venial sins?
12. Where do you go if you die with a venial sin on your soul?
13. Who was the only one who ever asked any questions of the priest?

**Chapter Eighteen** (pgs. 203-216):

1. What special day is it at the beginning of this chapter?
2. Who haunted Antonio's dreams?
3. Who sits by Antonio when they practice their communion?
4. Why does Horse get sick during communion?
5. What day did the kids have no school?
6. What was Horse's confession to Antonio when Antonio pretends to be a priest?
7. What did Florence say his sin was?
8. According to Florence, who has sinned against him?

**Chapter Nineteen** (pgs. 217-221):

1. What are the questions Antonio has for God that he expects answered once he has received communion?

**Chapter Twenty** (pgs. 222-235):

1. After school is over, what does Antonio have more time to do?
2. Whose family had the curse been placed on?
3. What exactly is happening at this person's house?
4. According to Ultima, who has the curse been laid on?
5. Gabriel believes that "there is no freedom like the freedom of the...":
6. Antonio realizes that Ultima and Gabriel have what in common?
7. Tellez believes that this curse is the work of the devil, but Ultima says it is the work of whom?
8. Where does Ultima want to be buried when she finally dies?
9. How does Ultima tell Tellez to pay her for her services?
10. Who does Ultima tell Tellez to stay away from?

**Chapter Twenty-one** (pgs. 236-242):

1. Why does Cico go to church?
2. According to Cico, why doesn't he tell others of the golden carp?
3. According to Cico, it is not possible to have more than one god. Why?
4. How did Florence drown?

**Chapter Twenty-two** (pgs. 243-262):

1. What three figures does Antonio see in his dream?
2. When did Gabriel leave his own mother?
3. According to Gabriel, "understanding comes with":
4. Who kills Tenorio?
5. What is Antonio supposed to do with Ultima's owl?
6. What are Gabriel and Maria doing to prepare Ultima for her burial?



