**“Introduction/Conclusion Paragraphs”**

At times, the awfulness of a situation can overwhelm someone. It sometimes takes an outside, wizened voice, as well as time to realize the broader purpose of the events and that have occurred. In reflection, they can often be viewed positively after all. In “Bless Me Ultima,” a novel by Rudolfo Anaya, this is the case for Antonio with all of the death he experienced. Antonio faces the growing issue of losing his innocence as the story progresses, demonstrated by the events that occur throughout the story. Bless Me Ultima uses common life experiences for a growing Antonio to create a growing amount of experience and knowledge, resulting in his ultimate resolution and realization.

Antonio’s years of youth faced him with tough events, however the information and experience he gained resulted in his contentment and understanding. Parental pressures, the pressing issue of losing innocence in youth, life and death experiences, as well as religious conflicts all lead up to Antonio’s conclusion. These trying experiences demonstrate the necessity of perseverance, and the ultimate importance of reflecting on life events. Antonio proves this as he grows up, living through the novel “Bless Me Ultima.”