Bless Me Ultima Summer Reading Assignment

by Quang Huynh

Over the summer, I had read an exciting and fascinating book about a little boy experiencing maturity. In the process, this boy witnesses many dark encounters, some of which include the death of a close friend and observing a curse placed on family. All of these scenarios took place in the state of New Mexico, and the author uses excellence vocabulary to describe the landscapes and the surrounding environment in the view of the protagonist. The book is *Bless Me, Ultima* by *Rudolfo Anaya.* I will now explain this compelling novel in the following paragraphs.

Studying this book supplies sensation and a sense of emotion throughout the story. Before I had started to read Bless Me, Ultima, I thought it wasn’t going to be pleasing. I concluded that religion and the perception of a juvenile developing into adulthood seemed dull to me at the time. Then, I began gathering more and more information every day, accumulating about ten pages daily. Therefore, I found the way the author describes the concept of religion and the importance of family captivating. As of now, I relish Bless Me, Ultima and seeing the book enjoyable to read. This reason is that the main protagonist, the little boy, known as Antonio Luna Márez, believes that his God is the reason for the positivity and joy in the world. He is fascinated and thankful for God to rule the planet. However, as Antonio sees more and more deplorable events during the story, he starts to think. Despite God creating everything and controlling the aspects of the world, Antonio wonders why there’s still pessimism and negativity. I like the way Anaya expresses the story full of a vivid imagination. The writing style of this novel indicates the insightful imagery and perception of the New Mexican culture during the time the story takes place. Likewise, I embrace that the idea the writer of the story uses Spanish in the text. I assume this is planned to get the impression to be associated with the characters with the story culturally. To be straightforward, I felt as if the pace of the narrative was brief. The chapters nearing halfway through the book were remarkably short. For instance, chapter fifteen was merely eight pages. Equally, I noticed that at the opening of the book, there are more extended chapters. What I suggest by this is there are more pages in sections near the introduction than beside the conclusion.

In my own words, I can conclude that one of the central ideas of the writing is Antonio’s loss of innocence. Otherwise, it is Antonio becoming a man and discovering that there is, in fact, lots of corruption in the world. For example, during the beginning of the story, Antonio was seen as an angelic, clean little boy. This little boy didn’t know about the evil in the world, and one of his goals was to achieve the dreams of his parents. To either become a priest for his mother or move to California with his father. As the fiction advanced, Antonio becomes more conscious about the good and evil in his world. Then, when the book finishes, Antonio is clearly showing no innocence whatsoever but is instead substituted with experience and adulthood. The change of Antonio’s purity to a wise individual is seen throughout many sections of the book. These sections provide essential details and knowledge about Antonio’s transformation.