Albert Einstein High School

Honors English 10 Summer Reading Assignment 2015

Over the summer you will read *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya, a coming-of-age story of magical realism. The novel will introduce you to unit one, which highlights two related genres, coming of age and memoir.

In addition to reading the story, type up the answers to the following questions. Your answers should be at least five full sentences with at least one support from the book for answer. Handwritten responses will not be accepted. Because this is due at the end of the first week of school you have access to the school’s computers. If an assignment is less than 25% complete, it will receive a zero.

These questions will be the basis for (graded) in-class discussion when school begins. Everyone will be expected to participate in the discussion (Socratic seminar style) as a way for me to get to know you. *You will be graded on the quality of your written responses and participation during discussion.*

1. How does Anaya use the southwestern setting to convey the mood of the novel?
2. Explain the significance of the title *Bless Me, Ultima*.
3. What purpose do the folktales (cuentos) in the story serve?
4. Do any of the characters change in the course of the novel? If so, who, and how?
5. Was the symbolism of the owl effective? Why or why not?
6. How did the use of dreams further the plot and character development in the novel?
7. Who is the main character of the novel? Defend your choice.
8. Is the story of *Bless Me, Ultima* believable? Why or why not?
9. Does the use of Spanish words and phrases add to or detract from the novel?
10. Is the character of Antonio believable? Would a seven year old child have the kind of thoughts he does?

**Scoring:** Each question is worth six formative points and be evaluated on
- Thoroughness (2),
- Accuracy (2)
- Support (2)

*If any of the answers are not original (for example, from Spark Notes) you will receive a zero.*
In addition to answering the questions on Bless Me Ultima, create one of the following projects.

Make it pretty so I can decorate my room with it!

1. Illustrate a map of New Mexico. Include the towns of Pastura (Las Pasturas) and Puerto de Luna (El Puerto de la Luna) and Guadalupe which make up most of the setting for Bless Me Ultima. Add others if you think they are relevant. Use icons to identify the characters who reside in those places. Use lines to follow the journeys of some of the characters. Use an 11 x 14 poster board (or cardboard).

2. Create a book focusing on one of the fables or folktales mentioned in Bless Me, Ultima. You may have to do some research on the full story. Create at least five pages, illustrating and paraphrasing the highlights of the story. At the end of your book, explain the meaning of the fable and its relevance to the story of Bless Me, Ultima.

3. Create and illustrate a book focusing on at least five of the superstitions, a belief or notion not based on reason or knowledge, mentioned in Bless Me, Ultima. Be sure to explain the superstition thoroughly.

Scoring: These projects will be worth 50 formative points and be evaluated on
Neatness (10)
Color (10)
Creativity (10)
Accuracy (10)

*A project on loose-leaf paper or written in lead pencil (grey) will not receive any points.

Let's review what is due Friday, September 4, 2015

1.) Read Bless Me Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
2.) Answer 10 questions: typed, five full sentences
3.) Create either a map or a book

Remember, this book will be the source of other lessons during the first couple of weeks of school. Be prepared!

There are a number of these books you can borrow from school if you so choose. Information on obtaining one of the school’s books will be provided during the last week of school. You may choose to purchase your own copy of this novel so that you can annotate it for your projects. You can purchase one for less than $5 on Amazon. Another option is the public library. It is a reading list book and available through all of the libraries. If you have questions about this assignment, please email Ms. Kelley at Anne_M_Kelley@mcpsmd.org