



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

BLESS ME, ULTIMA

BY RUDOLFO ANAYA



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Written by Marie Y. Smith

Name: _____

Date: _____

Dos**Interviewing Skills****Objective:** Developing interviewing skills**Activity**

Antonio had a close view of the events that lead up to Lupito's being shot. Although Lupito shot the town sheriff, the police must still investigate the events surrounding Lupito's death. Assume the role of a police detective and develop a list of questions you can ask Antonio when you interview him about what he saw.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Seis

Point of View

Objective: Understanding the significance of the first-person point of view

Activity

Authors sometimes use first-person narration to inform the reader of a character's private thoughts and feelings about people and events in the story.

Although Antonio recognizes that education is very important to his mother, he is very nervous about going to school for the first time. Using the chart below, list examples of first-person narration in which Antonio describes his feelings about school—information you would not have if Antonio was not telling the story. Summarize the image, and tell how it increases your understanding of the story. The first one is done for you.

Point of View Chart

Page	Passage	Summary
Pg. 51	"On the first day of school I awoke with a sick feeling in my stomach. It did not hurt, it just made me feel weak."	Describing his stomachache tells us that Antonio is nervous about going to school.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Ocho

Interviewing Skills

Objective: Developing interviewing skills

Activity

Antonio's brothers—León, Eugene, and Andrew—have returned from fighting in World War II. Many of their friends from the town and in their army units were killed in the war, so it is fortunate that all three of them came home uninjured. However, their experiences in traveling around the world have made them discontented with the small town where they live, and the brothers do not see many opportunities for themselves.

Pretend that you are the host of a controversial talk show on the local television station and prepare to interview the three brothers on your next show. Ask them about their experiences in the war, their current activities, and their future plans. To prepare for the interview, you may need to research the war, talk to Antonio's parents, and ask other people in the town about the brothers' activities before the war and after their return. Remember that your audience is accustomed to hearing you ask difficult questions that may make your guests uneasy and sometimes angry.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Diez**Résumé Writing****Objective:** Interpreting information about a person's career**Activity**

A résumé includes a professional objective, education, current and prior positions, and related experience. Using the information you have learned thus far, create a résumé for Ultima. You can make up some of the information needed for the résumé if it is not in the book.

If you have access to Microsoft Word, you may want to use the résumé templates. To do this, click on the "new document" icon on the Word toolbar. When the "New Document" menu appears on the right side of your screen, click on "On my computer." On the "Templates" screen, click on "Other Documents," and select the format of résumé you want to use.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Doce**Symbolism****Objective:** Identifying sacred images used as symbols**Activity**

Because of Antonio's presence during Ultima's cure of Uncle Lucas, she is concerned for his safety. She does not want Tenorio to harm Antonio, so she gives him her scapular to protect him until he received his own on the day of his first communion. A scapular is a sacred symbol that is supposed to protect the person wearing it. Antonio notices that Ultima's scapular is different from his sisters' scapulars; theirs have pictures of saints on the chain, but Ultima's is a bag that contains herbs.

Pretend that you are making your own scapular, and decide what you would wear around your neck to keep you safe. You can draw a picture of someone or something that is important to you; or you can pretend to have a small bag, like Ultima, and identify special objects that you can carry in the bag.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Catorce**Perspective****Objective:** Understanding point of view**Activity**

The reader learns about the fight between Narciso and Tenorio from Antonio's point of view. As Antonio follows Narciso to Rosie's and then home, Antonio shares his feelings and fears with the reader. Although Antonio recounts what he hears Narciso say, the reader does not know what Narciso thinks.

Assume the role of Narciso and rewrite the section of this chapter in which Narciso heads to Antonio's home to warn the family about Tenorio's plans to kill Ultima. Be sure to write as if Narciso is the narrator, sharing his thoughts and feelings. Refer to pages 167–168 to re-read the section from Antonio's point of view.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Quince**Wanted Poster****Objective:** Inferring physical and emotional characteristics**Activity**

After killing Narciso, Tenorio rides away on his horse. Antonio runs home and tells his parents what he saw, and Antonio's father goes to look for Narciso and get help. Assume the role of Antonio's father, and prepare a wanted poster that explains why he is looking for Tenorio. Be sure to include a description of Tenorio and the crime he committed.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Diecisiete**Symbolism****Objective:** Understanding the significance of an analogy**Activity**

When writing about a complex topic, an author often uses a simple story as a symbol to help make the point. The story most often uses familiar situations, events, and terminology to explain the topic.

In this chapter, Father Byrnes uses an analogy to explain the difficult concept of eternity to Antonio's confirmation class.

First try to imagine our whole country is a mountain of sand. A mountain of sand so high that it reaches to the clouds, and so wide that it stretches from one ocean to the other... Now, suppose across the ocean there is a flat country. The ocean is very wide and it takes weeks to cross it, right. But you want to move this huge mountain of sand from here to there....A little bird, a sparrow, is going to move that mountain for you. And the sparrow can only hold one little grain of sand in its beak. It has to pick up only one grain of sand, fly all the way across the wide ocean, put down the grain of sand, then fly all the way back for another grain of sand. It takes the little bird weeks just to fly across the ocean, and each time it carries only one grain of sand— (Pgs. 201–202)

Earlier in the chapter, Antonio asks his father why the storms are so strong and why there is so much dust. Review Gabriel's response to Antonio, and rewrite his description of the wind on the llano (Pg. 191) as an analogy, making the same point—it is essential to take care of the earth or the storms will be stronger.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Dieciocho**Theme****Objective:** Using images to represent theme**Activity**

In this chapter, Antonio explains several of the important elements of his Roman Catholic faith—Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross, duties of a priest, and first confession. Antonio continues to struggle with his belief in God versus the mystical beliefs about the golden carp.

Using a variety of materials, create a collage that represents Antonio's struggle with faith. Some suggested items you can use to design your collage are magazine clippings, drawings, photographs, symbolic items, art supplies, and any other appropriate materials. When you are finished, present your collage to your class, and explain how each item on your collage is related to Antonio's struggles.