**Optional BMU Supplementary Assignment:**

**Write a thesis-driven paragraph** using one of the Bless Me, Ultima essay prompts that you did NOT use for your essay. Instead of a full essay, write one paragraph starting with a thesis statement, with at least 3 pieces of direct evidence and analysis of each. Think of it as a mini-essay.

Your paragraph can earn **up to 10 points** applied towards your BMU test score and will be graded using the same criteria as your essays.

**Submit to Turnitin.com by 8am Tuesday, January 22nd.** As this assignment is being given weeks in advance, and because it is optional and supplementary, no late work will be accepted for any reason. If you are concerned about missing the due date I highly recommend aiming to complete the assignment several days early, so you can discuss any technical difficulties with me ahead of time.

This supplemental credit opportunity will not be reflected in the gradebook until final grades are posted for the semester.

**Prompts**

1. How do the elements of magical realism shape Bless Me, Ultima?
2. What does the Virgin of Guadalupe symbolize? How does this relate to gender stereotypes, Antonio’s parents, forgiveness and God?
3. Analyze how Anaya characterizes Antonio using 1-3 method(s) of characterization—explain how this method shows Antonio’s change from start to finish of Bless Me, Ultima.
4. What effect does Rudolfo Anaya’s juxtaposition of God with other religious idols/powers have on Bless Me, Ultima?
5. Anaya is ambiguous about whether Ultima is a bruja. How does this affect the archetype she inhabits?
6. How does Anaya comment on culture’s tendency to label women and curanderas as witches? What is the effect of the juxtaposition of Ultima’s powers with the church’s powers and/or the bruja’s powers?
7. What is Rudolfo Anaya’s attitude (tone) or social commentary towards Catholicism/the church in Bless Me, Ultima? How does Antonio reveal or hide these opinions?