***Bless Me, Ultima* – Childhood Narrative**

**Lesson Question:** What can we gain by changing our perspective of the world?

The narrator tells the story with a specific perspective informed by his or her beliefs and experiences. Narrators can be major or minor characters, or exist outside the story altogether. The narrator weaves her or his point of view, including ignorance and bias, into telling the tale. A first-person narrator participates in the events of the novel, using “I.” A distanced narrator, often not a character, is removed from the action of the story and uses the third person (he, she, and they). The distanced narrator may be omniscient, able to read the minds of all the characters, or limited, describing only certain characters’ thoughts and feelings. Ultimately, the type of narrator determines the point of view from which the story is told.

*Bless Me, Ultima* is narrated by Antonio from the first-person point of view. We see and experience all the novel’s events through Antonio’s eyes. Antonio is very young when the story opens, only six years old. His point of view remains limited because he does not fully understand much about the world, especially why people act as they do. Antonio’s narration is at times observant and at times perplexed about what he sees and hears. He narrates the novel in English and Spanish, moving between the two languages while discovering his multicultural identity. He learns about the spirituality of Catholicism from his mother and the spirituality of nature from Ultima. He inherits the dream of freedom from his father and brothers. His point of view and narration move among these influences, which sometimes conflict.

**Assessment:** Students will be assessed on their completion and competency in writing their childhood narrative for the *Bless Me, Ultima* unit.

**Complete an in class writing assignment regarding childhood memories. Students will brainstorm their favorite childhood memories in groups or on their own prior to writing. Students will then write a 1-2 page (typed, MLA format) short story recounting a memory they have of their childhood. Students will finish their narratives (if desired) for homework. Narratives will be worth 25 formal points and will be assessed for writing competency.**