

Salem High School
Gifted English 10
Summer Reading Assignment
<http://shslboyd.pbworks.com/>

I am excitedly anticipating our 2009-2010 academic year together, and I know that you will want to begin your tenth-grade year with panache by preparing yourself to be successful when you return to Salem.

Texts

During your summer, you must read two novels:

- Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima*
- another of your choice from the summer reading list (Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*, Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*, John Gunther's *Death Be Not Proud*, Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, or Jane Yolen's *Devil's Arithmetic*)

Assignments

- All students enrolled in Gifted English 10 will be expected to complete a written assignment for each book and **submit it on the first day of class**.
 1. Like some other important American novels—most notably, Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—*Bless Me, Ultima* may be viewed as a book for young adults as well as a book for adults. As such, there are two levels of meaning: one on the surface and one submerged. The word *sophomore* (including roots that mean both *wise* and *foolish*) literally suggests these different levels, so I am asking you to read Anaya's novel as the sophomore you will be next year. Keep a log of 12 quotations that are significant in their relevance to these two levels of reading. For each, record the quotation from the text exactly, citing page number, and explain its two different meanings.
 2. For your second book, imagine that you are an editor at the company that publishes the novel. You are printing a new edition of the novel and must write a two or three-paragraph blurb for the book jacket. Rather than simply summarizing the plot as many publishers do, you want to persuade readers to purchase and read the book. Be creative and convincing as you tempt prospective readers with the novel's central ideas and issues!
- In addition to these written assignments, during the first week of the semester, students will be responsible for hands-on assignments regarding the novels, as well as an oral component. I will provide you with the exact specifications, guidelines, rubrics, and deadlines for these assignments on the first day of fall semester.

Your best preparation for beginning your tenth-grade year with success is to fully read and *interact* with the two novels. As part of this interaction, I strongly recommend that you keep a journal or make notes as you read so that you will be able to maintain a frame of reference for your impending evaluations.

Enjoy both your summer and your summer reading, and come back ready for another outstanding year in English 10! Contact me (lboyd@rockdale.k12.ga.us) if you have questions or need assistance as you are reading and working on your assignments.