

## EASY REFERENCE OUTLINE FOR THE “BLESS ME, ULTIMA” ESSAY CONTEST

1. **Read the book**, “Bless Me, Ultima” by Rudolfo Anaya. Ask your teacher for availability of the book in English or Spanish. Copies of the book and the book on CD may also be found at the Jackson District Library. Visit [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com) to view the JDL catalog for the book’s availability (A library card is required to reserve material online. Library cards are free to all Jackson County residents with proof of residency. Please contact JDL at 517-788-4087 for more information). Your local independent bookstore may also have copies of the book available for purchase.
2. **Write a 750-word essay** answering this question: *How is the book “Bless Me, Ultima” relevant to Jackson County high school students today?* Be sure you properly site quotations or sources of material that are not your own words. Your work may be disqualified if work other than your own is not credited.
3. **Include** your name, grade, school, and age at the top right corner of each page. The essay should be double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-sided on white paper, with a one-inch margin all around. Please staple your work in the upper right corner. Please, no title page or binders.
4. The **deadline** for essay submissions is **no later than Monday, March 10**. You may mail your entry to: The Jackson District Library, The Big Read “Bless Me, Ultima” Essay Contest, 244 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49201 Attn: The Big Read Committee. There will be no acknowledgement of the receipt of your essay. You may also personally deliver your essay to the Jackson District Library administration building at 290 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson (west of the Carnegie building in downtown Jackson) no later than Monday, March 10, 2008 by 5 p.m. The administration office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. No special privilege is given to how the essay is received.
5. Your essay will become the sole property of the Jackson District Library and may be reproduced in its entirety in the media or in Jackson District Library publications without notification or remuneration to the essay writer. A **winner will be announced** at The Big Read Celebration event on Friday, March 28, 6 to 8 pm at the Ella Sharp Museum of Art & History, 3225 Fourth St., Jackson. Essay entrants and their families are invited to attend this event free of charge. Pulitzer-Prize nominee in 2004, author Luis Alberto Urrea, will be speaking on Rudolfo Anaya’s book “Bless Me, Ultima”. The winner will receive an Apple iPod Touch 8 GB. The winner will be selected from five finalists and chosen by a consensus of the judging panel selected by The Jackson District Library and the Big Read committee. The five finalists will be posted on the Jackson District Library website, [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com) by Friday, March 21.
6. The Jackson District Library reserves the right to cancel the essay contest if a sufficient number of eligible entrants are not received by the deadline. No prize will be awarded upon cancellation of the essay contest. Notification of the cancellation of the contest will be announced on Jackson District Library’s website, [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com) no later than March 11.
7. All entrants must read **the rules and regulations** sheet attached. A submission form, stating that you have read and understand the rules and regulations of the essay contest must be signed by entrant and a parent or guardian if entrant is under that age of 18 and attached to the essay. Essays submitted without the form will be automatically disqualified. A downloadable copy of these documents is available at [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com).