The Use of Naturalism in Tennessee Williams’ *The Night of the Iguana*

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**Thesis:** This project examines the connections among setting, themes, and character development in *The Night of the Iguana* and explores the transformative potential contained within and revealed by these connections.

### Nature

- **Setting**
  (Rainforest in a hotel in Mexico)

- **Religion**

- **Animals**

- **Forces of Civilization**

**Why does it matter?**
In analyzing the characters’ relationships with each other and the setting, audiences can witness the transformative nature of the human experience, a vicarious experience they may, in turn, apply to their own lives.

### Characters

- **Reverend T. Shannon**

- **Maxine**

- **Hannah**

- **Nonno**

- **The Fahrenkopts**

- **Judith Fellowes**

- **Iguana**

### Development

- He uses nature as a refuge from his loss of job, his thoughts, and his desires (Act I, i).

- She is the guiding force for Shannon and attempts to help him with all of his endeavors (Act II).

- She embraces and appreciates nature through knowledge of her surroundings ex: wild orchids (Act I, i).

- He also embraces and appreciates nature through his final poem and his death (Act I, i).

- This family values materialistic amusement (Act I, ii).

- She wants to get away from the hotel and refuses to respect the beauty of nature (Act I, i).

- The iguana symbolizes Shannon’s loss of job, sanity, and his confinement (Act II).

**Sources:**
