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

**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 appreciate nature through knowledge of her surroundings ex: wild orchids (Act 1, i).
- He also embraces and appreciates nature through his final poem and his death (Act 1, i).
- This family values materialistic amusement (Act 1, ii).
- She wants to get away from the hotel and refuses to respect the beauty of nature (Act 1, i).
- The iguana symbolizes Shannon’s loss of job, sanity, and his confinement (Act II).

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.

**Sources:**