

Name:

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## Shakespeare in the Bush by Laura Bohannon

### Before you read:

1. Dr. Bohannon felt that Shakespeare was a universal play, meaning it can be read and understood by all people at all times. Consider other pieces of timeless literature. Do you believe that Dr. Bohannon's statement is true? Do you believe it could be false? Why or why not?

### As you read:

2. Examine the following cultural characteristics ideas that did not allow the Tiv to understand Hamlet.
  - A. Explain the difference between an omen and a witch. Cite three examples of their beliefs.
  - B. What are differences in their practice of marriage?
  - C. How do they differ in their respect for elders? Give two examples.
  - D. Explain how the Tiv view water.
  - E. Explain Polonius death. Why did the Tiv think he was a fool?

4. What happened to the story of Hamlet when viewed through the lens of Tiv culture?

5. Describe how the Tiv felt about the storytelling ability of Dr. Bohannan.

**After you read:**

6. Explain the following quote from the article.

*When you return to your own land your elders will see that you have not been sitting in the bush, but among those who know things and who have taught you wisdom.*

Were the Tiv “men who knew things”? Were they intelligent? Did they possess wisdom? (Suggested length: one paragraph)

7. Why is storytelling so important to the Tiv?

8. Respond to this sentence: **A text has no meaning until someone reads and interprets the information, making it intelligible in cultural terms.**  
(Suggested length: two paragraphs)