ANTHROPOLOGY Name: _____

Shakespeare in the Bush
Laura Bohannan

1. What were the author's original beliefs about the universality of the classic – such as Hamlet?

2. Bohannon originally assumed that -- "human nature being pretty much the same everywhere" – Hamlet could be easily adapted for the Tiv. She discovered that small details changed the story significantly. Explain how the following caused difficulty in her storytelling:
    - "a man who knew things"
    - "Had the dead chief no living brothers?"
    - The dead chief's young brother… had married his elder brother's widow only about a month after the funeral." (What is "the levirate?")
    - "ghost"
    - "Why should anyone bewitch Hamlet?"

3. Identify the different ways that respect for age and authority shows up in Tiv statements recorded by Bohannon.

4. How did the Tiv elders react to the marriage of Hamlet's mother to his uncle? How was this different from Hamlet's own emotional reaction?