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***The Power of a Name***

When you first meet someone whether it be at work, school or even on a blind date the first thing you ask is “what’s your name?” and that’s because knowing a name to a person is how it helps us identify them. A name typically forms the foundation of a person and becomes part of their identity. Our names and identities help describe and illustrate who we are, for certain people as they grow older they choose to dissociate from the name they were given at birth for either no longer connecting to that name or even more personal identity issues. Depending on the situation and circumstance what we call ourselves may change.

In the play “Anon(ymous)” by Naomi Iizuka, the topic of names comes up a lot. Iizuka decides to leave the lead of the play nameless which helped the reader be able to connect more with the character opposed to if she would have given it name like “Jake” or “Chris”. Throughout the play “Anon” finds himself in different situations which when asked for his name he always gives different answers to different people. At the beginning of the play “Anon” is at in the back of a restaurant in the trash he is later asked to come in to get some food when Ritu asks “What’s your name again? I don’t think I caught it” Anon responds with “Nobody I mean Koo RI. I mean nobody I mean Koo ri.” (Iizuka 10) his response was unsure as if he doesn’t know who he wants to be or who he wants these new people to think he is. Anon being a refugee can have a big impact on his identity which can do with why he’s constantly hiding his true identity and in a way giving people a name that he thinks will make him fit in with all of them and not be looked at as different.

Besides Anons name and him trying to figure out his identity throughout the play and him always changing his name his mother Nemasami also faces an issue dealing with her name in which her coworkers in the factory that she is working in refuses to call her by her real name because it can be too hard to pronounce so they decide to call her penny instead .Nemasani unlike Anon isint too happy about that and would much rather be called by her real name “My names not penny”((Iizuka 2) she responds when not called by her real name. According to an article on Financial post called “Your name is a part of your identity” by Sandeep Tatla In which I believe she is able to touch on a few points on name and identity for example one of my favorite lines from the article was **“**Too often people accept nicknames or Anglicized names to “fit in” or, as did, to make it easier on others who cannot pronounce my name..” With names being such an important part of who you are I believe nemasami doesn’t want people to call her different names because her name is a part of her culture which she doesn’t want to have to change to fit into somebody else’s culture.

Overall names and identity can go hand in hand with one another. In the play “Anonymous” two different approaches between both of the characters in the play “Anon” and Nemasami are taken when they have to deal with the issues of names and how that affects their identity. Anon decides to change his name in every single different scenario that hes in to fit in with the different new people he has to deal with. Meanwhile Nemasami decides she dosent want people to call her out her real name because that’s who she is.

**Work Cited**

Iizuka, Naomi. “Anon(ymous).” *American Theatre,* Feb. 2007.

Sandeep Tatla, “Your name is a part of your identity” Financial Post, 2011

**Reflective Statement**

From doing this research paper on the play “Anonymous” I learned that’s its important to look deeper into the play and wonder why the author or in this case play writer chose to write the play and characters the way that she did. I also learned how changing one little detail in the play would have completely changed it for me. For example, if the play actually had an ending instead of kind of leaving it up to the audience to decide and figure out if it was all a fake and if Nemasani actually recognizes anon it would have given the play a different feel if it didn’t end that way. I think this will come in handy when I have to read other plays or do other research papers for works that aren’t so straight forward. I think in order to push my analysis further I could have gone deeper into how Anon being nameless really shapes his identity I think its hard actually putting it into words for a paper but maybe going more in depth and into detail would have made this paper better. The process of peer review was very helpful because we were all grouped with people who were kind of doing the same topics and in my case we were all in the same part of our paper so it was helpful hearing the others critique and tips on how to make the paper better.