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| Key Motif: Identity and Names |
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| **Prereading Questions****1.** VOLUNTEER QUESTION ONLY – Where did you get your name?2. What significance does it have for you? |

**Lecture Focus: What’s in a Name?*** Odyssey is focused a great deal on the motif of identity and self-definition
* Not a surprise that the epic is focused on names
* Odysseus = Literally means “son of pain.”
* At some point in the epic, though, he will call himself “Nobody” or “no-man.” The Greek word for “nobody” is “Outis” – in other words, a word that sounds like the first part of his own name (ODYS…)
* Names signal other traits:
	+ Telemachus – “Far from Battle”
	+ Calypso - “I conceal”
	+ Circe – “The Encircler”

**Odysseus’ Epithets*** 1. Polymetis = Man of designs
	2. Polymechanikos – Man of many devices
	3. Polytropos – Man of many turns and twists
	4. Polyatlas – Much-enduring

**Focus passage: Odysseus and Nausicaa**Read the scene between Odysseus and Nausicaa that follows. Then answer the “Reader Questions,” referring to the text to support your claim.* In what way is the epic simile here used humorously or ironically?
* In many ways, this passage is pretty funny. Odysseus is basically Weird Homeless Dude with No Clothes, and Nausicaa is basically like a Disney princess. Why is Homer using humor at this point?
* Odysseus has absolutely nothing – he is thrown up on shore naked and vulnerable, with not even his name. He is “no man.” What point about identity is Homer making with this serious “de-volution” of Odysseus’ status here?
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