

NOW I TEACH

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FADE IN.

INT. DAY. PRINCIPALS OFFICE.

JACK CRANE, 55 walks into the Principals outer office of South Brunswick high school. Jack is in good shape, over 6 foot and still has all of his hair even at age 55.

As he enters the outer office he is greeted by the Principals secretary, JEAN MINDOS, an older woman in her late 60's

JEAN

Hello, how can I help you?

JACK

I have an appointment at 10:00 AM,
I am about 10 minutes early.

JEAN

We were expecting you. At 10.

JACK

10 minutes early? OK?

JEAN

OK. Have a seat please. Principal
Salt will see you in 10 minutes.
Unless of course she is running
late. Her staff meeting.

JACK

No problem.

JEAN

So you are the former IT guy who
wants to teach now?

JACK

That's me.

JEAN

Wow. That's a new one on me.

JACK

(a beat)
How so?

JEAN

Software guys? Almost never seen that before. Most guys in field, stay there.

JACK

Are you being sarcastic? I heard some other guys like me tried this here.

JEAN

Yes, sarcastic. Sorry.

JACK

Well I just turned 55 and after 33 years of sitting in a cubicle I thought it was time for something new. To be honest I got rather sick of it.

JEAN

Really? Why?

JACK

Just reached my limit of code and stress.

JEAN

Well, teaching in this high school, in any high school, is not the holy grail. We have our fair share of stress too.

JACK

I know.

JEAN

You do?

JACK

Yes.

JEAN

(Laughs)
I hope so.

JACK

(Laughs)
Don't worry about me.

JEAN

Not worried.

Jean smiles at him with an evil grin.

VIRGINIA SALT walks in. She is an older woman also in her 60's with gray hair.

VIRGINIA

OH, hello. Are you Jack?

JACK

Yes. Hello. Nice to finally meet you.

VIRGINIA

Yes, Pete Donlon told me a lot about you. Come in.

Jack follows Virginia into her office.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Have a seat Jack. Nice to see you are on time. You would not believe how many meetings I have had in the last week alone where almost nobody is on time.

JACK

Well, I always try to be on time. Do onto others?

VIRGINIA

Its just more professional.

Jack sits across from Virginia.

JACK

I agree.

VIRGINIA

Well as I said Pete spoke highly of you and he told me that you have your certificate?

JACK

Yes, for about 5 months now.

Jack hands his paperwork to Virginia. She quickly looks it over.

VIRGINIA

OK, this looks in order. Well one thing though. I have seen people like you both men and women come in here and think they can teach. Then the reality hits them or they get bored or disgusted, or scared, or well, you can guess the rest.

JACK

They quit?

VIRGINIA

And they.

(a beat).

Yes they just plain up and quit. Give it all up. They are out the door in a few weeks or a few months.

(Pause)

By the way do you mind foul language?

JACK

No, not really. In IT we used it
(a beat)
Sometimes. No we used it a lot.

VIRGINIA

And they are out the fucking door.
They give up before they give it a
damn try! And I for one, am
fucking sick of it.

(a beat)

Are you sure you don't mind foul
language?

JACK

Yes. Sure.

VIRGINIA

You made a face.

JACK

What?

VIRGINIA

You made a face when I said the F
word. When I said fucking.

JACK

I did?

VIRGINIA

Yes you did.

JACK

Sorry.

VIRGINIA

Don't make a face when I curse.

JACK

OK.

VIRGINIA

Are you a quitter?

JACK

No.

VIRGINIA

Are you going to stick this out for at least a year?

JACK

Yes. Of course.

VIRGINIA

What do you mean of course?

JACK

I mean. I mean I will stick it out. I am not a quitter.

VIRGINIA

Well say that. I don't know what "of course" means in the context where I want a commitment out of you for one year. A commitment for teaching our kids Computer Science. And history? You're going to help with history too?

JACK

Yes, some history. I am here for a year. I will give it my maximum effort. My maximum fucking effort!

VIRGINIA

A tip for you for future meetings.

JACK

A tip?

VIRGINIA

I only get to curse in my office. Not you or not any of my teachers. Is that clear?

JACK

Yes. No cursing. Just you.

VIRGINIA

Are you a wise guy?

JACK

No.

VIRGINIA

I am getting a wise ass, wise guy
fucking vibe from you Jack.

JACK

No. I am not wise. I mean I am not
a wise guy.

VIRGINIA

Do you like to make people laugh?

JACK

Yes. Sometimes. Doesn't every
body?

VIRGINIA

No. I don't. I don't ever try to
make anyone laugh.

JACK

I am getting that vibe from you.

VIRGINIA

See.

JACK

See?

VIRGINIA

That was a wise guy fucking
comment.

JACK

I didn't mean it that way.

VIRGINIA

Hmm. Well. Pete, who is after all
is the husband of my best friend
and whom you worked with about 10
years ago?

JACK
Yes. 11 years now.

VIRGINIA
10 years ago at?

JACK
Hamilton Trust.

VIRGINIA
Yes. Hamilton. He said you were his best consultant? You did lots of great things? Coding and shit? What was that, ASP?

JACK
Pete is a great guy and a great manager. And yes, it was ASP.NET At the end.

VIRGINIA
Well all that doesn't mean shit does it? It sure as shit doesn't mean you can teach 14 year old kids.

JACK
(a beat)
No it doesn't. It doesn't mean that.

VIRGINIA
No, sure doesn't mean anything. Coding programs?

JACK
Well, I have taught people. Stuff. I have taught stuff to people in the past.

VIRGINIA
Stuff?

JACK
Computer stuff, software stuff.

VIRGINIA

Have you given speeches?

JACK

Not many.

VIRGINIA

Not many.

JACK

About 3 over the years. Some presentations.

VIRGINIA

Some.

JACK

Yes.

VIRGINIA

Public speaking is a whole new animal to you then.

JACK

Yes. For the most part.

VIRGINIA

You're first day is going to be in 4 days. I would suggest you do some practicing.

JACK

I did in class. Practicing I mean.

VIRGINIA

Well now it's going to be in front of 14 year old kids, whose minds and attention spans are all over the fucking place.

JACK

I know.

VIRGINIA

You don't sound confident.

JACK

I will get the job done ma'am, I mean Virginia.

VIRGINIA

Ma'am is fine. Keep with ma'am please. So why now?

JACK

Now?

VIRGINIA

Now, after over 30 years in IT, now you want to

(a beat)

Do this, teach, whatever you think that is or might be.

JACK

I was on a plane, going to Paris, on a business trip and it. Well it dropped about 5000 feet very quickly.

VIRGINIA

You're kidding.

JACK

No.

VIRGINIA

And while it was dropping you thought, teaching was for you?

JACK

Yes.

VIRGINIA

Wow. Well that is a first for me. I have been doing this for almost 40 years.

JACK

Well I realized that life is short,
and I just could not sit in a
cubicle anymore I wanted something
more, something different.

VIRGINIA

Well, different this will be. THAT
I can assure you.

JACK

Yes I know.

VIRGINIA

There is a meeting tomorrow with
all you're colleagues. Its going to
be in the teachers conference room.
At 3:25 PM.

JACK

I heard about that. I will be
there.

VIRGINIA

Be prepared for some shit from a
few assholes who resent the fact
that you want to be a teacher here.

JACK

Really?

VIRGINIA

Yes really. They don't like people
like you who retire from one field
and then think they can do what
they do for shit money. They also
think you probably made the big
money in IT and now you want to do
this as an afterthought after you
retired.

JACK

I assure you that I don't consider
teaching an afterthought.

VIRGINIA

Well I would hang onto that fucking concept. You are going to need it tomorrow. Just remember one thing.

JACK

What?

VIRGINIA

I can be best friend here, or I can be a nightmare. And please forego any thoughts of another smart ass remark..... In response to what I just said!

JACK

OK.

VIRGINIA

Less is more, do you agree?

JACK

Yes.

VIRGINIA

See you tomorrow at 3:25 PM. And don't be late.

JACK

I will be there.

VIRGINIA

OK. You can leave now.

Jack gingerly leaves Virginia's office. He is rattled but still able to keep some composure.

As he passes by Jean Mindos, the principals secretary.

JACK

Principle Salt? Salty language?

Jean just looks at him with no reaction.

JACK (CONT'D)

(a beat).
Never mind.

FADE OUT.

INT. Teachers Lounge 2 days later at 3:25 PM. Several teachers have gathered, most are in their 40's but one woman is in her 30's.

JOHN OWENDOFF is in his 50's, and the head of the Chemistry department. John is nerdy and regularly wears an "I Love Chemistry" T shirt.

SARAH BUNTING is a woman in her mid 40's. Sarah is the head of the English department.

DIANA SPAMPINATO is the gym teacher at the school for girls. She is in excellent shape.

PAUL NODARI is the gym teacher and football coach and he only cares about having another winning season, his whole life is football.

CINDY HEDDEN is about 5'4, blonde and very attractive and a history teacher, she is early 30's.

Jack Crane walks into the lounge. Everyone sitting on various chairs and a couch in the center of the room, they are all drinking coffee.

JACK

Hi everyone. I am Jack, I am the new Computer Science guy, I mean teacher. Nice to meet everyone.

Jack looks around and nobody responds.

JOHN

Another one of you guys?

JACK

What guys?

JOHN

Guys that come in here thinking they can teach after doing something else for 30 years. You all think it's easy, some kind of a dream you have and as soon as you find out what it's really like you're speeding off going 80 in the parking lot wondering what the hell you were thinking.

JACK

I am for real. Not one of those guys.

JOHN

Come see me in my chemistry lab in about year. Lets see if still here.

JACK

(a beat).
See you then.

JOHN

(Scowling).
Funny guy?

JACK

At times. What do you think so far?

John gives him another bad look.

SARAH

Hello I am Sarah Bunting
(Holds out her hand)
How are you?

JACK

(Shakes her hand).
I am fine. You?

SARAH

I am the head of the English
department, 10 years next month.

JACK

Like it here?

SARAH

Is that a trick question?

JACK

(Pause)

I don't think so.

SARAH

(a beat)

Send me an e-mail, I'll let you
know.

JACK

I will do that.

DIANA

God the cynics in this place. Real
simple, I am Diana I teach girls
gym and no, I am not gay. OK with
you?

JACK

Yes. I think so. And I wasn't
going to think you were gay.

DIANA

Everybody thinks that we Gym
teachers who teach girls are gay.
So fucking sick of that.

JACK

So you are good friends with
Principle Salt?

DIANA

Old Salt language? We are like
this!

Holds out her two hands and fingers wide apart.

PAUL

(Holds out his hand.)
Head football coach man. How are
you. Also I teach boys gym and I'm
not gay either.

JACK

(Laughs)
Nice to meet you.

PAUL

Sure thing. You play football?

JACK

No.

PAUL

You look like you could? Ever play?

JACK

Not in high school or college, just
when I was a kid. I sure like and
respect the sport.

PAUL

You know it?

JACK

You mean football?

PAUL

Yes.

JACK

Yes I watch it all the time.

PAUL

Like the game?

JACK

Yes very much.

PAUL

Want to help out after school?

DIANA

Oh Christ Paul the guy has been here 2 minutes, let him get settled OK? For Christ sakes.

PAUL

Its up to him OK?

DIANA

Let him breathe, you did this to the last guy like him.

PAUL

Am I putting too much pressure on you?

JACK

No, not at all.

PAUL

(To Diana)

See? Stop drinking so much coffee.

DIANA

(Rolls her eyes)

You think all my problems are coffee related.

Cindy walks over to Jack and holds out here hand.

CINDY

Hi, I am Cindy Hedden, History department.

Looks at Cindy shyly and shakes her hand. Cindy is very attractive.

JACK

Hi, nice to meet you.

CINDY

How old are you?

JACK
55.

CINDY
Really?

JACK
Yes.

CINDY
Really?

JACK
Yes, for about 9 months now.

CINDY
Wow, I would have thought you were
35 at the most.

JACK
Thanks.

CINDY
You have you're hair and
everything.

JACK
Thanks.

CINDY
You're welcome. Do you like
history?

JACK
Yes.

CINDY
What kind?

JACK
Mostly American History and the
Civil War and World War 2.

CINDY

I hear you might help out with a few classes.

JACK

Yes.

CINDY

My favorites and European History too. Mostly French history. One of my majors in college.

JACK

One of them?

CINDY

I am a double major. European History and English. NYU.

JACK

Wow.

CINDY

And you?

JACK

Computer Science. NJIT.

CINDY

NJIT?

JACK

New Jersey Institute of Technology.

CINDY

Just one major?

JACK

Minor in Engineering. Industrial.

CINDY

And now you want to teach?

JACK

Always thought I could do it.

JOHN

Thinking and doing are two very different things.

JACK

As I have heard. Several times. Starting with Principal Salt.

JOHN

Well we have had several guys come in here and ...

JACK

Heard that too. I am not one of those guys.

JOHN

We will see, wont we? When is your first day teaching a class?

JACK

In 2 days.

JOHN

Well, see you back here then.

CINDY

I am sure you will do fine.

JOHN

Thank you.

CINDY

No sweat.

JOHN

Sweating is the least of his problems. Computer Science?

JACK

Yes.

JOHN

We just added that about 3 months ago for the 9th grade. The last guy quit.

JACK

Which is why there was an opening and I got it.

JOHN

Lots of these kids look at computer science as their future career.

JACK

Makes sense.

JOHN

Don't blow it.

JACK

I wont.

CINDY

I think he will do fine.

JACK

Thanks.

DIANA

You guys want to get a room?

Both Cindy and Jack blush.

CINDY

Always with the perfectly appropriate comment at the perfectly appropriate time.

DIANA

Well thank you. Its all that weight training I do.

Cindy smiles.

PAUL

You know anything about bullying Jack?

JACK

Sure heard about it on the news a lot.

PAUL

We got it here. Girls and boys, but surprisingly mostly girls. Its online and it can get nasty. Very nasty. You have to report everything you see.

JACK

Should we do anything?

CINDY

The policy is to report it back to Principal Salt and that's all. You are not allowed to get involved, regardless of seniority.

JACK

OK. I will do my best.

JOHN

Man I am really going to be following you. Seeing how you do here. I am fascinated about how you do.

JACK

(a beat)

Well, I feel warm all over.

JOHN

I heard you were a funny guy. Virginia told me. You were funny at work. Well that shit wont work here.

JACK

And why not?

JOHN

Others have tried and failed. The kids won't respect you if you're funny.

JACK

(To Cindy)
You agree with this?

CINDY

Be funny smart, not funny goofy or stupid. You can do both. Be funny and respected too.

JOHN

Never seen that done. Never.

JACK

I will be the first then.

JOHN

The first? Trust me I know what I am talking about.

DIANA

You married?

JACK

Divorced.

DIANA

How long?

JACK

Married or divorced?

DIANA

Both.

JACK

5 years.

DIANA

For both?

JACK

Yes.

DIANA

Wow.

CINDY

Wait a minute. So you were married for 5 years and now divorced for 5 years?

JACK

Yes.

CINDY

(a beat)

Wow.

DIANA

Its rare that I see symmetry like that. Something I strive for when I work out.

CINDY

Yes. Me too. Symmetry. Never seen that before.

(Smiles)

FADE OUT.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT, 10:00 AM. JACK CRANE IN HIS CAR DRIVING TO FIRST DAY OF TEACHING A COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS FOR THE 9TH GRADE.

Jack looks very nervous as he has trouble finding a parking spot. As he finds something he has to back out and in a few times as the spaces are very tight. He exits the car grabbing his jacket and briefcase as he leaves his car. He looks around at the different students, wondering of one of them will be in his class.

He walks slowly into the main entrance of the high school and is greeted by two women, one Jean Mindos and the other a teacher in the history department who is about his age, her name is JANE MUNLEY.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LOBBY. 10:00 AM.

JEAN

First day I see?

JACK

Yes.

JEAN

Nervous?

JACK

No, not really.

JEAN

Nervous?

JACK

Maybe a little.

JANE

Hello I am Jane Munley, I teach history down the hall from you're class? Want to walk there?

JACK

(Holds out his hand)
OK. Nice to meet you.

JANE

(Shakes his hand)
Nice to meet you too.

JEAN

Sure you are not very nervous?

JACK

I already said I.
(A beat).
Forget it.

Jean laughs and watches Jane and Jack as they walk down the hallway.

JANE

So how are you doing, really?

JACK

I am very nervous, scared to death.
Its public speaking and it's this
huge life change I am making and
it's. Fear.

JANE

Fear of the unknown?

JACK

Fear of the unknown. That's
probably the biggest one.

JANE

All of us here have been through
their first day and survived and we
still work here. You will get
through it too. If you need me I
am down the hallway.

JACK

Thanks for you're help.

JANE

No sweat.

Jane exits into her classroom and Jack looks at the door to his classroom and is almost afraid to walk in. After some hesitation he walks in.

There are about twenty 14 year old kids in the class, and they seem not to happy to see their new teacher.

Some of the students are JAMES WILLIAMS, 14 a black kid, who is thin and somewhat nerdy looking.

MOLLY STAMPER, 14 an attractive young girl and one of only 2 girls in the class.

DAVID HELD, 14 a young kid who looks very intelligent.

RAYMOND KEENE, 14 is another kid in the class, a nerd, heavy set.

WILLIAM DOYLE, 14 is a very shy kid with acne and almost never talks and has a bad stutter.

JACK

Hello. My name is Jack Crane. How are you?

ALL

OK.

JACK

Good, good to hear it. This is my first day so. Well I am a little nervous. As far as computers I worked in the computer field for over 30 years.

JAMES

Wow. You must be old!

JACK

55.

JAMES

Wow. That's old!

JACK

Well thanks!

The class laughs rather loudly.

JACK (CONT'D)

But I don't look old?

Nobody makes a sound.

JACK (CONT'D)

Right? Right?

Some laughs.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well. So much for that last great hope.

More laughter.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well to start off I wanted go around the room and find out about you guys and talk a little about me and my very challenging career. I retired about a year ago, when I was in France, walking on the beaches of Normandy. Anybody know what happened in Normandy France a long time ago? And I will be teaching some history too along with this class.

(A long beat)

In case, anybody cares or is taking history.

DAVID

June 6, 1944 the Normandy invasion by the allies, the biggest invasion in human history.

JACK

Yes. Yes very good. And what is you're name?

DAVID

David Held.

JACK

David?

DAVID

Yes. I don't like Dave. David is my name, NOT Dave.

JACK

OK, no problem I will make a note of that. Anybody else have a name change I should know about?

(a beat)

I have to apologize that I am not that great at remembering names. Give me a few days if I forget. OK?

Silence. Nobody answers.

JACK (CONT'D)

OK. Um. I will be back in a few minutes. Read chapter one? I will be right back.

Jack quickly leaves his classroom and knocks on Janes classroom door.

JANE

Jack? What? Is there a problem? I mean already? Already a problem?

JACK

Kind of. Can I talk to you?

Jane looks back into her classroom.

JANE

Hey guys. I am going to be right out in the hallway, any noise and it's a quick call to the police!

Jane holds up her cell phone.

(The sound of laughter from the classroom).

Jane walks out into the hallway.

JANE (CONT'D)

Jack? What the hell is going on? You're sweating. You are wet! You are sweating like a pig. Did someone pull a knife in there?

JACK

No. They are not responding to me. The looks I am getting. They don't like me already.

JANE

Were you expecting dancing monkeys and balloons inside of 10 minutes?

JACK

No, but not this. My God it's like I am not even there.

JANE

Its 10 minutes! They are 14 years old. Are you kidding me! Get back in there! Jesus Christ the last guy at least lasted 2 weeks we had to talk him off the fucking roof! My God. You're in you're 50's! Who gives a shit what they think!

JACK

Ok, Ok. You're right. I am overreacting.

JANE

Go into the mens room first and clean that sweat off you're face. You would think you were in a pool! My God. Where are you from, Panama?

Jack tries to keep from laughing.

JACK

Are all the women in here like you and Virginia?

JANE

Well as you probably have guessed, Virginia is kind of a major role model to all of us here. Its a requirement for this job.

(Pause)

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

I heard you were funny, why not use that?

JACK

Where did you hear that?

JANE

Virginia. We talk, we're women.

JACK

I can be funny, sometimes.

JANE

A great sense of humor can go a long way with these kids. Trust me. Hear the laugh I just got?

JACK

Yes. OK. I will try.

JANE

What choice do you have? You can always go home and sit on you're ass and wonder what might have been Jack.

JACK

I think you helped me. I hope you helped me, thank you.

Jack goes down the hallway to the mens room. He cleans some sweat off his face with some paper towels.

JACK (CONT'D)

(Talking to himself)

Be funny. Be funny. I can do that.

Be funny.

Jack walks slowly back into the classroom and the kids are making noise.

JACK (CONT'D)

OK, OK! Settle down! Too much coffee today! Hey.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Why are you standing on you're
chair? Looking for birds? Sit down
please.

Raymond a heavy set kid sits back down in his chair.

RAYMOND

Welcome back to class!

DAVID

Yes, welcome! Are you sick or
something?

JACK

No problems. OK settle down now.
This is my first day give me a
break already.

The class starts to get quiet.

JACK (CONT'D)

Like I said before lets go around
the room and get to know each
other.

DAVID

You first.

JACK

I am Jack Crane, I am 55 years old
and I retired from IT after 33
years last February. In Normandy
France as I said before.

DAVID

Why did you retire?

JACK

I just reached my upper limit of
stress and code I guess. Life is
short and it was time. Time to do
something else.

RAYMOND

And this is what you picked?

Raymond tries to control a laugh.

The class laughs.

JACK

Well teaching is a very noble profession and after 33 years in IT, it's far more noble than my field.

RAYMOND

But the money. What about the money?

JACK

What about the money?

DAVID

The pay is shit for teachers.

JACK

Hey, we don't use foul language in this class OK? We use it IT however out of necessity. God knows the Principal here uses it.

Some laughs in the class.

DAVID

Stress and pressure?

JACK

Yes.

RAYMOND

Bad people?

JACK

Yes. How did you know?

RAYMOND

Word of mouth. My Dad is in you're field.

DAVID

Other reasons?

JACK

Many. But that is not the purpose of this class.

JAMES

Sounds like you're teaching computer science but you don't like the field?

JACK

No that is not the case. All professions have their upsides and downsides. I just reached a point where I needed to do something new.

JAMES

Like this?

JACK

Yes. Like this. You guys know why you're here right?

RAYMOND

To learn about computers?

JACK

Not really, no.

RAYMOND

What do you mean?

JACK

You're in school so you will be able to make a living in the real world. And there is much more to working for companies and other people than just writing software.

RAYMOND

Like what?

JACK

Like reading, comprehending, like writing, which is a lost art, definitely in my old field. Like dealing with difficult people, which was not my strongest talent, and like making money and more importantly, keeping the money you make.

DAVID

Sure don't make it sound too rosy.

JACK

What I hope you guys will learn in this class is that no job and no profession is perfect. You will learn about computers and programming in this class and something about the real world along the way. I hope. David?

DAVID

Yes.

JACK

What is your story? Tell the class.

DAVID

Do I have to stand?

JACK

No, of course not.

DAVID

I play around with software myself.

JACK

What languages?

DAVID

C and C# mostly.

JACK

We will be learning mostly C# in this class, and some .NET.

DAVID

Yes. I use Visual Studio. My Dad bought me Visual Studio 2008 to play with.

JACK

Windows or browser?

DAVID

Both.

JACK

Wow, I am impressed, maybe you can teach this class some things yourself.

DAVID

Maybe. Maybe even you?

JACK

(Smiles).

Yes, just maybe you could. Raymond?

RAYMOND

I like to eat.

The class laughs.

JACK

Anything else? And you can tell us you're favorite foods if you want.

RAYMOND

Yodels and pop-tarts.

JACK

Any interest in software or programming?

RAYMOND

Computer games mostly. XBOX.

JACK

Which games?

RAYMOND

Call of Duty. That's all I really play.

JACK

Really just that one?

RAYMOND

Yes. Blowing things up. That's my favorite.

JACK

Well a great deal of genius and code went into making that game. Are you interested in learning how they created that software?

RAYMOND

Yes. That's why I am here, I would like to do that when I start working.

JACK

That's a hard area of the field to break into, it's not considered normal Data Processing.

DAVID

Did you ever do that?

JACK

No. I did normal Data Processing. Screens, data, databases, logical data modeling, object oriented technology.

DAVID

Boring stuff?

JACK

God knows it can be. I have had some contracts and jobs as an employee where I was hired to sit around and do nothing for months on end.

RAYMOND

Really? Why did they do that?

JACK

Companies waste money. Its that simple. I will be telling you guys all about my career in this class in the hopes to help you in your careers when you start working. There is a lot to know, some of it good and some of it bad. The bottom line is you have to make a living.

Looks at William who is sitting at the back of the class.

JACK (CONT'D)

(To William)
And you are?

JAMES

Oh that's William. He doesn't really talk.

JACK

What? Why not?

DAVID

Well. He really can't. He has a. Lets just say he has trouble talking so he avoids it.

JACK

Oh that's a shame. Too bad. Its OK William you don't have to say anything if you don't want to.

DAVID

He stutters.

JACK

Oh, well that's OK. Many people do.

RAYMOND

Thanks as always for your tact David.

DAVID

Well he does so why not say it?

JACK

I stuttered for many years when I was his age and it went on for most of my career. Its one of the reasons why I hate public speaking.

DAVID

Really?

William looks at Jack surprised, his eyes widen.

JACK

Its nothing to be ashamed of it's a very common problem. William if you want to see me after school about this I am always here for you. And I am here for all you guys. And there will be NO bullying in this class or making fun of any other person for any reason in this class. Is that understood?

Most of the students nod.

DAVID

Will there be homework?

JACK

Yes some programming work. And if you don't have a computer.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

How many of you don't have a computer at home or a laptop?

Nobody raises their hand.

JACK (CONT'D)

OK then. All I would ask would be that the homework assignments that involve code be typed up and you can even use notepad. If you don't have a computer you can use one in the Computer Lab. I will be teaching logic and C# syntax, and some higher level things in this class. And at the end of this semester, hopefully all of you will be able to code in C#.

The School bell suddenly rings, Jack is startled by how loud it is.

JACK (CONT'D)

OK guys, that's all for today - or that bell is signalling the end of all civilization! Why the hell does it have to be so loud!

RAYMOND

Budget issues, they were suppose to fix it last year but they never did.

JACK

I am going to go deaf! Class dismissed.

FADE OUT.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA 12:00 NOON LATER SAME DAY. JACK WALKS INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA FOR THE FIRST TIME. HE SEES CINDY HEDDEN STANDING IN LINE WITH HER TRAY.

JACK

Hello.

CINDY

Hello.

JACK

Can I join you guys for lunch?

CINDY

No.

JACK

No?

CINDY

No sorry, they don't like you. We had a meeting.

JACK

What? Why?

CINDY

Because they think you're rich, or heard you're rich. They think you are a rich guy who is bored and wants to try to be a teacher.

JACK

That's stupid. And who told them I was rich?

CINDY

Virginia probably. Are you?

JACK

Am I what?

CINDY

Rich?

JACK

Well, what do you consider rich?

CINDY

Over a million dollars?

JACK

Well, that really isn't rich anymore.

CINDY

So you are rich.

JACK

No, no not really.

CINDY

You have over a million dollars right?

JACK

Well that is no one's business.

CINDY

Sorry they hate you. They don't like any rich people. Its one of our pacts. Hate the rich. Sorry.

JACK

So I have to sit alone?

CINDY

You can sit with Jane. She doesn't like any of us, so you can sit with her.

JACK

This is a nightmare. A nightmare of little cliques isn't it.

CINDY

Ya, sorry.

Cindy walks away with her tray and walks towards the group of other teachers. John Owendoff gives Jack a bad look as he stands there with his tray.

Jane walks by with her tray.

JANE

You're with me fellah.

JACK
Sure looks like it.

JANE
Love your enthusiasm.

Jack and Jane walk to the other end of the cafeteria and get some pretty bad looks from the other teachers.

JACK
So much hatred and they don't even know me.

JANE
Previous people who have been through here, and I hear you are rich.

JACK
Again with this rich crap. How the hell does anybody know how much money I have?

JANE
Virginia. She knows everything about everybody here. Haven't you heard. Isn't that obvious by now?

JACK
Jesus, I'll say. How nosey. How the hell did she find out my net worth for Christ sakes. And why did she tell them?

JANE
She probably doesn't like you either.

JACK
I am starting out in a deep in a hole or what?

JANE
So how was your first class? How was it after you came to see me?

JACK

It was OK. I got better as time went on. Its a very unusual group of kids. One kid has a bad stutter and wont talk.

JANE

William?

JACK

Yes.

JANE

I have him my class. He talked to me once and it's pretty bad.

JACK

I had it when I was his age and a good part of my adult life.

JANE

Really. I wouldn't have known.

JACK

Its still there. I still have to find a new word on the fly sometimes.

JANE

How do you mean?

JACK

You know that there is a word you're about to say and at the speed of light, while you're talking you have to think of another word that is similar instead. It sure speeds up the brain, that I can tell you.

JANE

Wow, that's pretty impressive.

JACK

What it is more than anything is
damned annoying.

JANE

Maybe you can help William.

JACK

I already told him to come see me
after school if he wants to.

Looks at the other teachers.

JACK (CONT'D)

So what the hell am I going to do
about them, and even Cindy too?

JANE

You like her?

JACK

What do you mean?

JANE

What do you mean? What do you mean
by even Cindy too?

JACK

I just thought she was at least one
friend after my first meeting with
that tribe over there.

JANE

You know what she is 32?

JACK

Yes. Early 30's I heard.

JANE

And you are?

JACK

55, which I assume you already knew
from Virginia.

JANE

Yes that and you're approximate net worth.

JACK

Of course.

JANE

She is too young for you. What would you talk to her about?

JACK

I really haven't thought about that. My concern is not crapping out of this job before I even start.

JANE

Well you agree though?

JACK

That she is too young for me?

JANE

Yes.

JACK

No.

JANE

No?

JACK

Yes. No.

JANE

Why?

JACK

I look much younger than my age.

JANE

I agree. But you look older than her.

JACK

Being that I am 23 years older that would be true.

JANE

What would you talk to her about?

JACK

I don't know.

JANE

She is a heart breaker, you know that?

JACK

No I don't. How do you know that?

JANE

Virginia.

JACK

I saw that one coming from Albuquerque. What is this all about anyway? Why do you care?

JANE

I am married, so don't worry about that.

JACK

Not worried.

JANE

I just know she has broken some hearts and I know you were divorced so, starting a new job I don't want you to get hurt again. Besides work relationships can be dangerous, work relationships in a high school can be suicide.

JACK

I accept that. But like I said I am trying to hold onto a job here, nothing more.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I am not trying to build a whole new personal life by trying to be a high school teacher.

JANE

What did you think this all would be like in you're fantasies?

JACK

Mr. Holland's Opus?

JANE

Oh. One of those fantasies. That's not real life Jack.

JACK

When one of the things I have realized at age 55 is that nothing is really the way you imagined it would be. I felt that way about my marriage and of course then my horrible divorce.

JANE

Horrible?

JACK

Is there a not horrible divorce?

JANE

I see your point. Glad I never went through that.

JACK

Happily married? How many years?

JANE

21 this summer. Perfect? No way. We stay together now because of our 2 kids and the alternative would kill us.

JACK

Wow.

JANE

You had kids in your 5 years?

JACK

Thank God, no. The divorce was bad enough without child custody and all that other mess.

JANE

I have a friend who went through that. Her husband died of a heart attack after about 6 months, he was 45.

JACK

My God. What a nightmare. How many kids?

JANE

They had 3 kids.

JACK

And I thought I had problems.

JANE

Lose money in the divorce Jack?

JACK

Yes, but thank God she had her own money, but the legal bills and other crap took a pretty good hit. I moved to a townhouse in town about a year ago.

JANE

There is no Shangri-la is there?

JACK

If you find one. Send me an e-mail.

Looks across the cafeteria at the other teachers who are still staring at them.

JACK (CONT'D)

My God, they are still looking at us. What is up with them? Aren't you afraid to be seen with me?

JANE

I have not been part of that group for years. I am kind of friends with Cindy, but that's about it.

JACK

What is this crap about them caring about my money?

JANE

They don't like rich people. Jealousy? Anger at what they make? Life being so damn unfair? Don't ask me.

JACK

I am not rich and they should know I was divorced, didn't Virginia fill them in on that already? And, oh yes I remember, I just told them I was divorced a few days ago!

JANE

Doesn't matter, they think you are rich and they see another IT guy trying to be a teacher. You're mud to them. Yes, even Cindy.

JACK

I wasn't going to mention Cindy.

JANE

Well they still think you have money and think you can do what they do. There have been 2 guys before you, both total wash outs.

JACK

I am not like them and this is really getting on my nerves.

JANE

Over time you can win them over. Then again who gives a shit about them? I don't. And you shouldn't. But take it from me, if you do care, you got your work cut out for you.

JACK

I will try not to care. I am nervous enough about teaching.

JANE

You ready for history class this afternoon?

JACK

Yes. American History 101.

JANE

I hope you studied.

JACK

Well I didn't for Computer Science, I didn't have to but for this, I am ready, trust me. But nervous.

JANE

Some of the same kids should be in your class. Some new ones. Good luck.

JACK

Thanks, you have been a big help.

JANE

I know.

Jack laughs and smiles as they stand up with their trays and start to leave the cafeteria.

Jack notices the other teachers watching them leave and then notices Cindy getting a drink by the cafeteria fountain.

Jane is still walking with him when Jack approaches Cindy.

JACK

Hello.

CINDY

(Not looking happy).

Hello.

JACK

Did I do something wrong?

CINDY

No, just we all found out that you are a rich guy trying to find out how the other half lives.

JANE

I told you.

JACK

Well that is not true, and nobody knows how much money I have and it's nobody's business anyway!

CINDY

Virginia knows.

JACK

How could she know that?

CINDY

Your guy. your reference. Pete. He told her what you were paid working with him.

JACK

Pete?

CINDY

Pete?

JACK

This is the dumbest thing I have ever heard. The stupidest. I have been divorced since Pete. Did Virginia tell you that too?

CINDY

Yes, I know that from you. But we don't like rich guys trying to see if they can be a teacher. Sorry.

Cindy walks away and back to the other group of teachers.

JACK

This is like a bad episode of Welcome Back Kotter!

JANE

And every day! That's the real charm of this place!

Jack looks back at the group of other teachers and leaves with Jane with a disgusted look on his face.

FADE OUT

INT. VIRGINIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Jack Crane knocks on Virginia's office.

VIRGINIA

Come in. Sit.

Jack sits down across from Virginia.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

This William boy in our class.

JACK

Yes.

VIRGINIA

He stutters?

JACK

Yes.

VIRGINIA

You stuttered when you were his age?

JACK

Yes.

VIRGINIA

Stay away from him. This is not your job to help him. Understood?

JACK

What do you mean?

Virginia heaves a large breath of frustration.

VIRGINIA

Are you deaf or something?

JACK

No. But I just talked to him. We really didn't even have a conversation. And how do you know I ever talked to him?

VIRGINIA

I know everything about what goes on around here. Everything. I told you that day one.

JACK

I just talked to him. Told him I had that problem when I was young.

VIRGINIA

Still do?

JACK

To some degree. I am able to change words around when I know I am going to have an issue.

VIRGINIA
Change words?

JACK
Yes.

VIRGINIA
How do you do that?

JACK
If I know there is a word coming up
I will change it to something else.

VIRGINIA
He has Aspergers.

JACK
Oh.

VIRGINIA
So it's not just some fucking
stuttering issue.

JACK
Oh.

VIRGINIA
So that is why you can't be
involved, OK?

JACK
I can't even talk to him?

VIRGINIA
About school and school work only.
This kid is very borderline, he was
barely able to make it into this
school. Apparently his parents want
him to live a normal childhood,
which I think is fucking stupid.
He should be in a special school.

JACK

OK. Well I wont talk to him about
stuttering or anything except
schoolwork.

(Pause)

OK?

VIRGINIA

Good.

Virginia looks down at some papers.

JACK

Can? Should I go now?

VIRGINIA

Go.

Jack slowly gets up and leaves Virginia's office and slowly
shakes his head as he walks out.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

I saw that.

Jack leaves Virginia's office.

FADE OUT.

INT. LOCAL DINER - DAY.

Jack is sitting in the booth of an old run down and local but
popular diner.

He looks up and sees Jane coming into the diner.

JACK

Thanks for coming.

JANE

No sweat. What's up?

JACK

You want to order first?

JANE

No. What's up.

JACK

Virginia.

JANE

What about her. More non stop F words? She is too noseey? She is insane?

JACK

Well all of those but.

JANE

She is trying to control you, what you do, what you say to the kids.

JACK

Yes.

JANE

Which kid?

JACK

William.

JANE

He has Aspergers.

JACK

Yes and he also stutters. I stuttered when I was his age, and I still do sometimes.

JANE

Wow, I didn't know. Its not obvious.

JACK

I can control it for the most part. I change words.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

The stress of over 30 years in IT
sure didn't help the situation
either.

JANE

So you think you can help this kid?

JACK

Yes, with the stuttering.

JANE

You have to be careful, you are not
trained to help a kid like this. He
should not even be in this school.

JACK

I heard his parents pushed for him
to be here.

JANE

Yes they did and they made a
mistake. He doesn't fit in and we
have some real creeps and bullies
around here, or haven't you noticed
that yet?

JACK

No, not yet.

JANE

Virginia is right. Steer clear of
this kid. You're too new to get
involved.

JACK

I can't even talk to him about
stuttering?

JANE

Virginia is a stickler for teachers
only teaching. We have gotten in
trouble before. Two guys years ago,
kind of like you. The Parents
complain and people get fired.
Don't do it.

JACK

Aren't we suppose to help kids?

JANE

Its too risky. You want the job?

JACK

I got money. If I get fired I get fired.

JANE

Easy for you to say. So you are rich after all.

JACK

Not rich, just don't have work if I don't want to.

JANE

Regardless. Just talk to the kid about his education. Don't venture over there. Its happened before and it's ugly. Besides this kids parents are really on top of this kid. You say the wrong thing, and it's going to be trouble.

Jacks takes a deep breath and rolls his eyes.

JACK

Its just that. Half the reason I took this job was to help kids.

JANE

What TV show are you watching about teaching? This is not TV in case you haven't noticed.

JACK

I found that out day one with the foul month tirade in the Principal's office.

JANE

(Laughs)

Oh yes. She does have quite the salty mouth. Hence her last name. Salt.

JACK

Another thing I noticed on my first day.

JANE

So have I convinced you? Won you over?

JACK

I guess so. I will lay off. Jesus Christ.

JANE

That's the attitude. A few hundred more of those and you'r home free!

(Pause)

So what about Cindy?

JACK

What about Cindy?

JANE

She still giving you the cold shoulder?

JACK

Haven't seen her since the Cafeteria. I assume that is still on.

JANE

Pretty stupid isn't it?

JACK

Sure is.

JANE

Its all about money here, and what we don't get paid.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

And as I told you, two guys were here before you, same kind of shit and they got booted.

JACK

Did they have money?

JANE

Yes. And they got the same cold shoulder treatment too.

JACK

Just plain ridiculous.

JANE

Sure is. But the 2 guys before you were real jerks. And they flaunted their money and they were wash outs as teachers. Just because you do well in one field does not mean you can teach kids. That's what pissed them off.

JACK

Well I am not them. And I drive a 8 year old Volvo!

JANE

But you're rich.

JACK

I have more money than them.

JANE

They hate that.

JACK

That is not my fault.

JANE

Sorry. Its their issue. You should ignore it and concentrate on teaching.

JACK

And every time I go to the cafeteria I get cold stares and bad looks.

JANE

Over time.

(Pause)

That will distract you from the bad food here!

JACK

(Laughs).

Thanks for that UNIQUE idea! That could actually work.

JANE

Give it another month.

JACK

I will give that a shot.

FADE OUT.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY.

Jack is walking down the crowded hallway and sees Cindy.

JACK

Hello.

CINDY

(Without looking at him)

Hello.

JACK

Still hate me?

CINDY

I don't hate you.

JACK

Well then why don't you look at me?

Cindy turns to look at him.

JACK (CONT'D)

Do I see a smile or a laugh coming on?

CINDY

No.

JACK

Yes I see it.

Points to the left corner of Cindy's mouth.

JACK (CONT'D)

How can you hate me if you're about to giggle? How can that be?

CINDY

I said I don't hate you. Don't you listen? Ever?

JACK

You know, I am not like those two other guys who washed out here.

CINDY

How do you know? You have been here a week?

JACK

Nine days.

CINDY

A week!

JACK

I am not rich. I promise.

CINDY

I don't believe you.

JACK

I got divorced. How can I be rich?

CINDY

You are a guy from some other profession in your 50's thinking you can teach and you didn't pay any dues like we have.

JACK

Oh so that's it?

CINDY

Yes, that's it. And it's happened too many times here. We hate it.

JACK

I see a smile again.

CINDY

Don't point to the corner of my mouth again!

JACK

Or?

CINDY

Or I will scream!

JACK

Scream what? Rich guy pointing to the corner of my mouth? Rich guy attacking me?

Cindy laughs and walks away as Jack looks at her and smiles.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well. I don't really think she hates me.

Jane walks by.

JANE

Any progress with the babe?

JACK
I will send you an e-mail!

JANE
Can't wait to read it!

FADE OUT

INT. JACKS COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASSROOM. - DAY.

JACK
For many years, since the beginning of programming and computer science in the 50's people were all writing code the same way. What we use to call spaghetti code. Code that was written sequentially. You guys in your computer careers, should you decide to go that route will never see code like that again.
(Pause)
Has anybody heard of OOP?

DAVID
OOP?

JACK
Its an acronym.

DAVID
Well I know what an acronym is.

JACK
OOP stands for Object Oriented Programming.

DAVID
I have heard of that. Not OOP.

JACK

No more spaghetti code. We now create applications as objects that stand on their own and interface with other objects. The languages out there like Java, C#, Visual Basic, C++ are now all fully object oriented. That last major language to join the OOP club was VB or Visual Basic.

DAVID

So what's your point?

JACK

When you go on to a browser, what do you see?

JAMES

Buttons.

RAYMOND

Urls.

JACK

What does URL stand for class?

ALL

Uniform Resource Locator.

JACK

Wow. I am impressed. Very good!

DAVID

Well, we all use the internet and browse.

JAMES

Porn!

JACK

At your age, I would hope not! And porn will not be on the test!

JAMES

Too bad! I might actually study for that. By the way, what does PORN stand for? Is that an acronym?

JACK

No, Porn is short for Pornography.

JAMES

OH.

Some laughs in the classroom.

JACK

The buttons, the urls, the tabs on the page of a browser like Chrome, Internet Explorer, Opera are all objects. Objects that have code that creates them and has methods - or routines that give the object life, and properties just like any object. For instance, I have black hair. Black is a property. My height is 6 foot 1. 73 inches could be the value of a property called height that describes my height, etc. So rather than the disorganized and hard to maintain code of the past, we are all in a new era now that enables things like buttons and controls in a windows program or a browser program to stand on their own as objects and while in development can be literally dragged onto a web form or a windows form and be programmed or inherited by other objects.

DAVID

So you're saying that without object oriented programming, there might be nothing like the internet or a browser?

JACK

Yes. That is exactly what I am saying. Object oriented technology was the essential building block for everything. Don't get me wrong, there is still a great deal of garbage code out there despite this amazing new technology, but the process of writing code is so much better than it was before.

DAVID

Are you old enough to have spaghetti coded?

JACK

Yes. Very unfortunately. COBOL and even card readers.

JAMES

What is that?

JACK

In 1976 through the early 80's while in college we had to create cards that were punched by a machine and read into what was called a card reader. Yes it was a horrible nightmare.

RAYMOND

How old are you anyway?

JACK

55.

RAYMOND

Wow, that's pretty old!

Laughs from the classroom.

JACK

Thanks. But at least I have seen the past and can appreciate the present more than would have otherwise. If there is a silver lining from being 55 years old, in this case a very small silver lining.

DAVID

Are we going to get to do some OOP stuff?

JACK

As a matter of fact we will be using some of the computers in the computer lab this semester and creating some GUI - which stands for Graphical User Interface programs.

JAMES

Windows or browser?

JACK

Both. This is a very smart class and I am going to teach you guys some advanced stuff. There is a lot to know with this technology.

RAYMOND

I am intimidated.

JACK

Don't be. I will guide you along. If you enjoy something you will understand it better. I will make this fun for you guys!

RAYMOND

Promise?

JACK

Yes.

(Pause)

Ever hear of Inheritance?

Polymorphism? Encapsulation?

RAYMOND

No. No way.

JACK

Anyone?

Nobody answers.

JACK (CONT'D)

Those are the 3 building blocks of object oriented programming and knowing the definitions of these 3 things will be on the test! You can all count on that! This is the time to take notes.

All the students grab their pads and pencils.

JACK (CONT'D)

The easiest one to explain is inheritance. Its really simple. You have an object like an animal. That is a generic term, animal correct?

A few students nod.

JACK (CONT'D)

So if we have a defined object called animal, we can define it with generic characteristics of animals can't we?

DAVID

Yes.

JACK

Like what?

DAVID
Size and speed maybe?

JACK
Right. Very good. What else?

DAVID
Weight?

JACK
Good anything else?

DAVID
A ton of things. Strength?

JACK
Yes. So if we have an animal class,
and class is the programming word
for a template, something we use to
define an object, then if we have a
cat class in the same program we
can have the cat object inherit
from the animal object and then it
would have everything that animal
has correct?

DAVID
Correct.

JACK
But then cat has characteristics
that are very specific to cat but
not specific to animal.
(Pause)
Like what?

JAMES
Is it a tabby? Long hair, short
hair?

JACK

Very good! Yes. So this is great!
We Have created a high level
generic class object and from that
class object, now we can create
more specific objects that are
DEPENDENT on that high level Animal
class by INHERITING them from the
Animal class.

Jack writes some diagrams and code on the blackboard.

JAMES

This is good stuff.

JACK

Yes. It is. And remember now, in
the olden days, my youth, none of
this was possible with code. It
didn't exist then. And with this
kind of code and technology we can
build software systems like the
internet and windows applications
like you guys use every day.

Jack notices William in the back of the classroom who is
laser focused on what he is saying and wide eyes.

JAMES

William. Looks like you like this
stuff?

WILLIAM

Yes.

DAVID

First thing he has said in a year.

JACK

Stop it.

DAVID

What?

JACK

Molly? Do you like this stuff?

MOLLY

Yes. Its nice.

RAYMOND.

Nice? This is not nice. This rocks!

JACK

And it gets far more interesting than this. Believe me. Now I want you guys to use the High school Tech lab to create a VERY simple GUI program using Visual Studio that prints out some methods and properties that show that you understand inheritance. Something simple! Just some buttons and some fun stuff. You will also be doing this for Polymorphism and Encapsulation. These labs will be part of your overall grade. Have fun!

The bell rings for the end of the class.

JACK (CONT'D)

OK. That's the class for today. Tomorrow we will talk about the 2 more difficult concepts, Encapsulation and Polymorphism.

The class starts to leave, most of them smiling.

MOLLY

Nice. I liked it.

RAYMOND.

Good show.

JAMES

Cool stuff!

JACK

Thanks!

DAVID

I liked what you said.

JACK

Thanks.

WILLIAM

Good class sir.

Jack is a little amazed, and looks at William.

JACK

Wow. Thanks William. Glad you liked it!

WILLIAM

It was good.

FADE OUT

INT. SAME CLASSROOM, 5 MINUTES LATER. - DAY

Jane looks into the classroom the door is slightly open.

JANE

Hello.

JACK

Oh, you startled me. Hi.

JANE

I saw the kids leaving. They looked.

(Pause)

Happy.

JACK

They did?

JANE

Yes.

(Pause)

Jack are you crying?

JACK

No.

JANE

Yes. I think you are. I even see a tear.

JACK

I am not crying!

JANE

God you men. You show emotion and you would think that it's the end of the world.

JACK

I am emotional but I am not crying.

JANE

OK, now we are getting somewhere.

Trying to contain his overwhelming emotions.

JACK

Today was a good day.

JANE

How so?

JACK

I reached them. They liked what I said. I dreamed about this day my whole life and when I was actually doing it,

(Pause)

I couldn't believe it was happening. It was like someone else was teaching them.

(Pause)

The looks in their eyes.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Especially William. They were engaged. Enjoying what they were learning. Happy.

(Pause).

It was unbelievable.

JANE

Remember this day and that moment.

JACK

How could I not.

JANE

You know what Jack?

JACK

What?

JANE

You are a teacher. You really are.

JACK

Are you trying to make me cry now?
Are you Barbara Walters or something?

JANE

No. What a shame it took you all these years to realize that you are a teacher.

JACK

I think I was unhappy for most of the entire 30 years I was in IT. Sitting in a cubicle, killing myself with all that stress and so many bad people.

(Pause)

I did it because of the money, and the irony is that because of the money the other teachers here hate me.

JANE

Two things.

(Pause)

They don't hate you and this latest
bit of stupidity will pass.

Especially after more days like
today.

Jack tries to control his emotions again.

JACK

(Pause)

Like I said. Today was a good day.

JANE

That it was.

(Pause. Jane turns to leave)

I will let you go now, so you can
really have a good cry.

Jane smiles as she looks back at Jack and leaves the
classroom.

JACK

I am not crying!

JANE

And I am not leaving this
classroom!

Jane closes the classroom door.

JANE (CONT'D)

Some privacy for you.

Jack starts to cry.

FADE OUT

INT. TEACHERS LOUNGE 1 DAY LATER - DAY.

Jack enters the teachers lounge almost every body is there
except for Virginia and Jane.

JACK

Hello.

CINDY

Hello.

JACK

What is that? A hello I heard from you?

CINDY

Yes. So what is the big deal?

JACK

No big deal. Its just the first hello from you. In a while.

CINDY

So?

JACK

Like I said. No big deal.

JOHN

Heard you had a big day the other day.

JACK

Word travels fast around here. Jane?

JOHN

Yes. Jane.

JACK

Virginia know?

JOHN

That's a stupid question, Virginia knows everything that goes on here. Jane and Virginia are rather close. Not lesbians, if that's what you are thinking.

JACK

Was not thinking that. And Jane is married.

(Pause)

To a guy.

JOHN

So Jane thinks you are really a teacher. Probably one all along.

JACK

Glad to hear that she thinks that.

JOHN

I will believe that when I see it.

DIANA

Me too. We have seen guys like you come and go around here. More than a few times.

JACK

I heard it was two times.

DIANA

Two is a few.

PAUL

One day does not make a career man.

JACK

Another great tidbit. Is there any reaching you people? Or am I going to receive this shit every day I work here? I will say this one last ever time. I am NOT another one of those last two guys who worked here!

PAUL

Like I said. One good day is not a career. It takes hundreds, and thousands of good days.

JACK
Had your's yet?

PAUL
Funny.

CINDY
Yes. Funny.

JACK
Did you say I was funny?

CINDY
(Smiles)
Don't get yourself all excited.

Jack watches Cindy as she leaves the room.

JOHN
Like her?

JACK
Why do you care?

JOHN
(Whispers to Jack)
She is out of your league.

JACK
Thank you George Clooney. Why don't
you go mix some chemicals!

JOHN
Only if you come with me.

Jack watches as John leaves the room.

JACK
Why does everybody leave this room
after a smart remark?

DIANA
Were teachers! Its what we do!

JACK

I have got to be in some form of hell.

FADE OUT.

INT. JACK CRANE'S COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS - DAY.

JACK

First order of business today, is to drop off your flash drives on my desk for inheritance projects. Here is the disk, just drop them in here. Hopefully you guys used the same folder I told you to use for your code.

All the students drop off their flash drives. William walks up last and drops his off on top of all the others.

JACK (CONT'D)

So did you guys enjoy the project?

ALL

Yes.

DAVID

Especially. I did something special on mine.

JACK

What was that?

DAVID

Don't want to spoil the surprise.

MOLLY

I liked it. It was fun.

RAYMOND.

Not too challenging though. I hope Encapsulation will be even harder.

MOLLY

Harder? Are you crazy?

RAYMOND.

Yes as a matter of fact I am, but I like challenging code!

JACK

William did you have fun?

WILLIAM

(Long pause)

Yes.

DAVID

Try can contain your enthusiasm!

Jack gives David a bad look.

JACK

As far as what Raymond said. Yes Encapsulation will be slightly more challenging. But after that is Polymorphism, and that is where all the excitement starts!

(Pause)

So how many of you guys actually read chapter 7?

RAYMOND.

The Encapsulation chapter?

JACK

Yes. The Encapsulation chapter.

Nobody raises their hand.

JACK (CONT'D)

So you guys are relying on me to explain all this stuff?

(Pause).

You can all say yes now!

ALL

Yes.

Jack smiles.

JACK

OK. Security. Protecting our things. We use a safe for that don't we? Sometimes if it is very valuable we use a safe deposit box.

DAVID

Right. My dad has one of those.

JACK

Does he have money in there?

DAVID

Maybe old porn magazines for all I know.

The class laughs.

JACK

Well the point is. Now with the internet security is more important than ever. When you are on Amazon buying something and using your credit card we need the information to be protected from everybody else don't we?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

But guys. How do we protect ourselves? How do we protect our important PRIVATE data? Note the use of the word private. Because what is considered private and what is considered public? Is a person's credit card number with Amazon, is that private?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

How about a customer's name,
address and phone number?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

How about a customers order
history?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

Is this less private than a credit
card number?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

So there are levels of privacy.
Levels of security that we have to
worry about as programmers?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

Interesting. So how do we do all
this?

(Pause)

Its called Encapsulation.

Encapsulation is a method within a
class, and a class BECOMES and
object but at some point once it's
created, the data that the class is
exposing to the world must be made
secure. This is the essence of
Encapsulation. This is what it's
all about.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

In other words I can define a variable in my class and make it private, which means that this variable can only be accessed from inside the class. But, something outside the class can certainly see the value of this variable but only for example if a password is passed into a routine that allows the outside user to see that value. Do you see what I mean? If someone rings the doorbell of your house (Pause) Do you look outside to see who it is first?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

I hope you do. That's all this is. I will open the door for you, but I have to see first that you are someone that I know and trust first. That is all the class is doing. You can see my data, but (Pause) Do you have the password? If you don't have the password, you don't get to see the data I have in my class that is marked private.

DAVID

Great. I like this.

RAYMOND.

You make it sound easy.

JACK

Would you like to see the code for this?

ALL

Yes.

Jack lifts up a blank page on an easel and shows a property function and how it assigns private data.

JACK

Pretty simple stuff? All this is saying is, yes you can see the private stuff inside here, but first you have to pass me the right password first and regardless, all the data marked private inside my object is secure!

(Pause)

So what if I have a variable like this one, that I mark Public? What does that mean?

DAVID

Anybody can see it.

JACK

Correct! Anybody can see it, there is no security on this part of the object.

DAVID

But why would want to do that?

JACK

Well, suppose the class is defining a CAT? Should the type or color of the CAT be something that is considered private?

DAVID

Not necessarily.

JACK

But what about who owns the cat? Is that information about a Cat that could be considered private?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

Yes. Of course these are high level design decisions when you are building your data structures and defining application. What is private and what is public is extremely important to the overall design of the application, wouldn't you think so?

ALL

Yes.

JACK

Very good. And you would be surprised, how many mistakes are made with decisions like this. Object oriented technology is everything. It is the building block for the internet, for browsers, to complex windows applications for something called GUI, Graphical User interfaces. These ideas have changed the world for everyone.

The bell rings for the end of class.

JACK (CONT'D)

OK that all for today. Now please do part 2 of your labs. Add an example of Encapsulation to your inheritance projects. Then once I review your first project on your flash-drives you will then copy your project back to flash drives into a new folder. For now keep projects on your machines until the next class.

The class starts to file out. Everybody looks very happy about the class.

RAYMOND.
You did it again. Good class.

DAVID
Yes. Good stuff.

MOLLY
Thanks Mr. Crane.

WILLIAM
Thanks. Bye.

Jack looks at William as he leaves.

FADE OUT

INT. JACK CRANES DEN - NIGHT

Jack is looking through the contents of the flash drives and checking out the code. We see that each flash drive has each students name on it.

Jack inserts Williams flash drive into his computer.

We see the computer screen as it opens up Microsoft's Visual Studio and then opens William's code. We see some of the code on the screen.

CAMERA PANS TO JACK's face as he looks at the code as his eyes widen.

JACK
(Long Pause)
WOW!

FADE OUT

INT. VIRGINIA'S OFFICE - DAY.

Jack walks into her office and sees Virginia sitting at her desk.

VIRGINIA

Nice to see you on time.

(Pause)

For a change.

JACK

When are his parents coming?

VIRGINIA

As I said to you on the phone yesterday, at 4. They should be here any minute.

Virginia notices Jack looking nervous and worried.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

As I told you, this is a positive meeting. The parents want to say nice things about how you are teaching William.

JACK

I know.

VIRGINIA

Well, why do you look like you just ran over my cat?

JACK

Because. I looked at his code last night.

VIRGINIA

Whose code?

JACK

William's.

VIRGINIA

And?

JACK

He is a genius. He is a software,
computer savant.

VIRGINIA

So?

JACK

So?

VIRGINIA

Yes So? I know that, so do his
parents for Christ sakes.

JACK

Any thoughts of telling me this?

VIRGINIA

Why?

JACK

Why?

VIRGINIA

Yes why? I thought you would find
out yourself. Being that you are
supposedly a software person
yourself.

JACK

I should have been told this before
hand.

VIRGINIA

You will be told whatever I feel
you need to know. I am the boss
here remember?

JACK

You should have told me.

VIRGINIA

Well you know that now, so what is
the big deal?

JACK

The big deal is....

William's parents knock on Virginia's door.

VIRGINIA

Please come in.

Doris and Steve Doyle, Williams parents walk in.

STEVE

(Holds out his hand). Hello again
Virginia.

Steve shakes Virginia and Jack's hands.

DORIS

(Holds out her hand) Hello again.

Doris smiles and shakes Virginia and Jack's hands.

JACK

Nice to meet you, nice to meet both
of you.

DORIS

Nice to meet you too. We have heard
some great things about you and
your class from William.

JACK

Oh, that is great to hear. Thank
you.

STEVE

He has never raved like this before
about any teacher.

JACK

Thank you. Also nice to hear.

VIRGINIA

Well, Jack here was a former
software developer himself for 30
years and he is our new teacher

(MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

(Pause)

And we are reasonably happy with him so far.

Jack gives Virginia a smirk.

JACK

Thanks.

VIRGINIA

So the purpose of this meeting is to meet Mr. Crane and discuss how William is doing in all his classes.

DORIS

Yes, we are mostly happy with how things are going, as you know this is an experiment. Everybody told us to put William in a special school.

STEVE

I want to thank you again for letting us try this. We want William to live as normal a life as possible.

DORIS

Yes, that is so important to us, and thank you for your help.

VIRGINIA

Well we are always open to experimentation in this school and we have done this before, so while it's been a challenge at times, most especially with bullying, for the most part we are proud of our progress this year with William.

Doris looks at Jack

DORIS

William raves about you after school.

JACK

Thanks. That is so great to hear.

STEVE

He tells me that you had a stutter too?

Virginia glares at Jack.

JACK

Oh yes, early on, on one of my first days here we had a very quick discussion about that.

DORIS

You seem fine now.

JACK

Mostly. But it's still there. It never fully goes away. Stress mostly. And 30 years of software work didn't help.

STEVE

I can imagine. I am an engineer myself. Nothing easy about making a living.

Jack looks back at Virginia who is still glaring at him.

JACK

You said it.

DORIS

William tells me you are teaching. OOP? Object oriented something?

JACK

Yes, object oriented programming. He and actually the whole class really seems to enjoy this.

DORIS

He loves it. He spent an entire day in his room the other day, a whole Saturday with no video games! He was writing something, some program?

JACK

It was probably the inheritance lab for my class. And I saw his code. And I will just say this. (Pause) Your son is a genius. Just a total programming genius.

STEVE

It is one of the few side effects of Aspergers that is positive. Very high IQ.

JACK

From what I saw his code is about as advanced object oriented application as I have ever seen. As good as any software design expert. He even used several complex design patterns. Only the best people out there know about design patterns.

DORIS

He has been tested and has an IQ of at least 180.

JACK

It shows. I was very impressed with what I saw. You should be very proud. He is already at a professional developer level with C sharp and object oriented programming.

DORIS

Could he have a job doing this?

JACK

No doubt about that. Pure genius level. He already skipped ahead and did all the object oriented labs I had planned. Just amazing and he is only 15? I have never seen anything like this.

STEVE

Do you plan to mention this to the rest of the class?

JACK

No, I think the best strategy would be to keep that private. He is so advanced that he might intimidate the other students.

VIRGINIA

I also agree that this would be the best strategy.

DORIS

Is there any bullying in your class? William has had his problems in the past.

JACK

Yes there is some. I have heard that bullying is an issue in this school. In my class at least while I am there I have seen nothing obvious. Any remark I don't like from another student and I immediately knock it down. I will not allow bullying in my class, in any form.

DORIS

That is good to hear.

VIRGINIA

Jack has experienced that as well.

DORIS

You have?

JACK

Both in school and in my former field. Yes. I was a contractor for most of my career and against an employee a contractor always loses. That created some real conflict with some pretty bad people.

STEVE

Care to elaborate?

JACK

Not really. You pay a price for everything in my former field. I reached a point where the stress was getting bad for my health and so I moved on.

STEVE

Do you think that IT is a good possible future for William?

JACK

Technically 100% yes. son is a genius. As far as the people in IT, well that is another story. Hopefully he will grow into something like this.

VIRGINIA

That is where we come in. Its part of our education. As you know from the beginning I was recommending that William should be in a special school, but now after about 4 months, I think he is doing rather well, considering his issues.

JACK

As far as my class. I have his back. I can promise you that.

Doris becomes emotional.

DORIS

Thank you. That is good to hear.
Thank god for good teachers like
you.

JACK

Thank you. I appreciate that.

Steve and Doris stand up and start to walk towards the door.

VIRGINIA

Thank you both for coming in. I
will be in touch, and please any
questions my phone or e-mail,
please let me know your questions
or concerns.

STEVE, DORIS

We will.

DORIS

Thanks. And thank you Jack.

Jack shakes hands with both Doris and Steve as they exit
Virginia's office and close the door.

VIRGINIA

You talked with William about your
stuttering issue?

JACK

Yes. Very early on.

VIRGINIA

Like I said, that is not our area.
You are a teacher not a counselor.

JACK

Like I said.

VIRGINIA

(Loudly)
I KNOW what you said!

JACK

More Loudly)

Hey! Hey! When you talk to me you do so with respect! If you want to pick on someone why not pick on someone who isn't a millionaire after 30 fucking years of software development! I don't need you or this job! I am sick of being talked to like I am a 23 year old shit head on his first day of work!!

(Less Loud)

Like I told you, I only talked about his stuttering BEFORE we had our discussion and we already talked about this you senile old bitch! This will be the last time we talk about this OK?

VIRGINIA

(Long Pause)

OK.

Jack quietly leaves Virginia's office.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Wow. Finally some balls.

FADE OUT

INT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Jack sees Jane in the parking lot about to get into her car.

JACK

Well, I am probably gone. Out of here.

JANE

What do you mean?

JACK

I just told off the bitch.

JANE

Bitch?. Who? Who the hell can that be? Who?

(Pause)

Oh that bitch.

JACK

I can only take so much shit and I broke.

JANE

What happened?

JACK

I was in her office, talking with Williams parents, and it was going great, and then they left and she attacked me like a stupid bitch and I let her have it.

JANE

What did you say.

JACK

I called her a stupid bitch.

JANE

Oh. Is that all? Well who cares.

Jane starts to get into her car.

JACK

What do you mean who cares. Is that all? I am screwed here aren't I? I have to be out of a job.

JANE

No way. It was only a matter of time. We all break and call her a stupid bitch. Who cares. No problemo. See you tomorrow.

Jane drives off.

JACK

(Long Pause)
No problemo?
(Pause)
I'm in hell.

INT. TEACHERS LOUNGE - DAY

Next day.

Jack cautiously enters the teachers lounge.

CINDY

Hi.

JACK

Hi.

CINDY

Hi heard you dropped the B bomb.

JACK

The B bomb?

CINDY

You finally called her a bitch? A
stupid bitch?

JACK

Well. I couldn't help it.

CINDY

(Smiles)
Welcome to our little group.

Jack is surrounded by all the other teachers and in the background Jane looks at him and smiles.

JACK

Wow. If I knew that is all I had to
do I would have done it on my
interview!

PAUL

I am proud of you man. What took you so long? Now if you could just give all your money to charity we would all be in love.

JACK

Well I am not doing that!

Several onlookers laugh.

JOHN

Yes. Its about time. I called her a stupid bitch on my second day.

JACK

This has to be the most unusual place I have ever worked at and I have worked in some real hell holes.

PAUL

Not so unusual when you think about it. She is nuts, she is the principal and she is a bitch.

JACK

I guess if you put it that way.

SARAH

I heard you found out that William is some kind of a super genius?

JACK

Yes. He has the coding abilities of a very advanced developer, a Microsoft guru. He is truly exceptional.

DIANA

I don't think any of us knew about his programming skills. I knew he had a very high IQ. He tested in the 180 range.

JACK

I can believe it. He should be probably be in college right now.

DIANA

Well his parents considered that, but he is not emotionally ready yet.

JACK

So what now with this kid?

DIANA

Keep doing what you are doing. We hear he really likes you.

JACK

It's hard to tell with William. He hardly says a word and when he does say something, it's more of a grunt.

CINDY

But he can code. You love that right?

Cindy smiles sarcastically.

JACK

Not so much anymore. I'm a school teacher now, remember?

CINDY

Yes. And a rich one too!

JACK

Yes. Rich. That again.

Jack rolls his eyes.

Cindy smiles and leaves the room.

Virginia enters the teachers lounge as Cindy leaves.

VIRGINIA

Jack. I have to see you in my office.

JACK

OK, what about?

VIRGINIA

I have to see you in my office!

JACK

OK.

ALL

Oooooooooo!!

JACK

Are you all 12 years old?

Several laugh as Jack follows Virginia to her office.

JACK (CONT'D)

Nice. Its nice to back in the IT world again!

FADE OUT.

INT. VIRGINIA'S OFFICE - DAY.

Jack walks into the office, the door is open. There is a very official looking heavy set man sitting next to Virginia

VIRGINIA

Please close the door.

Jack closes the door.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Jack this is Agent Rosenblatt from the NSA.

JACK

The NSA?

VIRGINIA

Yes, the NSA. National Security Agency.

JACK

I know what NSA stands for, thanks.

AGENT ROSENBLATT

Hello Jack. Nice to meet you.

They both stand and shake hands.

VIRGINIA

This is about William.

JACK

What about William?

AGENT ROSENBLATT

He hacked a major NSA web site.

JACK

What?

VIRGINIA

Are you hard of hearing today?

JACK

Man it never ends with you does it?

VIRGINIA

You want your job here?

JACK

As long as the Principal, I really don't know anymore to be honest.

AGENT ROSENBLATT

Enough of this bullshit.

VIRGINIA

William says you taught him about this hacking.

JACK

At the risk of saying WHAT again, WHAT?? I didn't tell him shit. I told him about object oriented technology, nothing more. This is bullshit, what the hell is going on here. What the hell did he hack anyway?

AGENT ROSENBLATT

He didn't get far. We caught it in time.

JACK

Well than God for that. Why the hell would he tell you that I helped him with this.

AGENT ROSENBLATT

He was probably scared but we had to pursue this, we had to investigate.

JACK

Jesus Christ. So much for my 2nd life and career. This is a nightmare! I did nothing to help this kid with any hacking. He is a genius who can do just about anything by reading it and understanding it from the internet. I had nothing to do with this. Nothing!

AGENT ROSENBLATT

I tend to believe you, but there will be an investigation.

JACK

What kind of an investigation?

AGENT ROSENBLATT

Your personal computer, your work computer, and every computer that you use for class. They will be confiscated and examined. We already have William's computer.

JACK

William's computer will tell you all you need. God knows the kid never used my machine.

AGENT ROSENBLATT

I think you can understand our position. We have to check every single possibility.

JACK

Unbelievable. Just plain fucking unbelievable.

VIRGINIA

Jack you are on suspension pending this investigation. I was considering doing that anyway based on you calling me a bitch the other day.

JACK

But I thought everybody eventually causes you a bitch? They all said so in the teachers lounge? And for the record, you are a bitch.

VIRGINIA

That would be two.

JACK

Well, I have a class to teach, what happens to the kids during the time this bullshit is investigated. How long is the investigation for anyway?

AGENT ROSENBLATT
Should take about 2 weeks.

JACK
Two weeks!

VIRGINIA
Be glad it's not a month! Don't
complain!

JACK
OK, there is nothing I can do here.
Do you need a written statement
from me about this?

AGENT ROSENBLATT
Yes, here is the form. Just fill it
out.

Jack puts the paper in his shirt pocket.

AGENT ROSENBLATT (CONT'D)
RIGHT NOW!

VIRGINIA
Off your game today?

JACK
You are a bitch.

VIRGINIA
Three. Hanging by a thread.

Virginia laughs. She stands up with Agent Rosenblatt leaving Jack to fill out the statement form. Jack looks at the form and frowns from disbelief.

FADE OUT

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF VIRGINIAS OFFICE - DAY

A few minutes have past.

Jack exits Virginia's office and he is very startled because almost all of his co-worker's are standing outside Virginia's office.

ALL
(Laughing and pointing)

HA!!! HA!!!

JEAN
We got you! We got you!

PAUL
HA. You are go gullible man!

JACK
(Pause). You have got to be kidding me! You have got to be kidding me!

DIANA
Hopefully you have a sense of humor!

VIRGINIA
I sure hope so, you need that working here.

JACK
You people are insane. Just plain nuts.

JANE
Oh Jack, come on, it was just a joke.

Jack starts to walk away, very angry, ignoring Jane.

JANE (CONT'D)
Come on, where is your sense of humor! Don't they have COMEDIANS IN THE IT FIELD!! Jack! Jack.

VIRGINIA

(Pause)

The man has no sense of humor at all. None.

JANE

(Pause)

I guess we take a long time to get use to.

VIRGINIA

He has to get with the program here.

DIANA

That he does.

JANE

At least he called you a bitch.

VIRGINIA

Three times now.

JANE

Three?

VIRGINIA

Three.

JANE

Encouraging news.

FADE OUT.

EXT. PARKING LOT. HIGH SCHOOL.

Jane chases after Jack after he briskly walks to his car.

JANE

Jack. Jack!

JACK

What?

Jack turns to face Jane.

JANE

Where the hell your is sense of humor?

JACK

I left it in my car. Can't you see I am trying to get it?

JANE

Come on man! It was a joke! A good joke! Don't you want to be part of the gang?

JACK

You guys are just plain fucking insane. All of you!

JANE

And?

JACK

And? What the hell does that mean?

JANE

It's obvious we are insane, you're just realizing this now, because of a stupid practical joke?

JACK

I am sick of this. I am sick of Virginia. Sick of the weird people and everybody caring about my money! You are all crazy! This is what I left before, in my old stupid life!

JANE

Its just a way of reducing all the stress. can't you see that? It doesn't mean anything. This was our way of telling you, that are part of the group now!

JACK

They hate me because they think I am rich.

JANE

They are past that now.
(Pause)
Mostly past that. Trust me.

JACK

Trust you? You were part of that stupid joke weren't you?

JANE

Yes. But so what. We love you. You are a great teacher.

JACK

What?

JANE

You heard me.

JACK

Great?

JANE

Good.

JACK

You said great.

JANE

Good. OK, very good. The kids love you. And because of that
(pause)
We have as a group, decided to overlook your money. For now at least.

JACK

Even Cindy?

JANE

Yes. Even Cindy.

JACK

Really?

JANE

Yes. Are you hard of hearing as well as having no sense of humor at all?

JACK

No. Just wanted to be sure. Do you think?

JANE

Do I think Cindy likes you?

JACK

(Pause)

Yes. Do you?

JANE

Why don't you ask her yourself.

JACK

We never got past the money thing.

JANE

Just ask her.

JACK

I will.

JANE

So does this mean you are staying here? Staying a teacher?

JACK

I will think about it.

JANE

Oh come on. Stay.

JACK

I said I will think about it.

Jack walks to his car and opens the door.

JANE

Nice car.

JACK

I will call you over the weekend,
and let you know if I am staying.

JANE

You're staying.

JACK

We will see.

JANE

I saw your face.

JACK

My face?

JANE

When I told you. You are a good
teacher.

JACK

You said great.

Jane smiles as Jack drives off. Talks to herself quietly.

JANE

You're staying.

FADE OUT

