NOW I TEACH

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Copyright (c) 2020 This screenplay may not be used or reproduced for any purpose including educational purposes without the expressed written permission of the author. 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

OK?

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?

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?

1 1

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? 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.

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? (MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

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. 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. (MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

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 and "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. (MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

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. (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? 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. 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 wont 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? Both.

JACK

5 years.

DIANA

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 has 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 your 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? 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 your 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.

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 your 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.

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 your 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 your 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. Why are you standing on your 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 your field.

DAVID Other reasons?

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

JAMES Sounds like your 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 your here right?

RAYMOND To learn about computers? 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 your 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?

30.

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. (MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

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.

Really?

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

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. 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. 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? 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 your 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 your 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.

No?

JANE

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.

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

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? 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.

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.

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 nosey? 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?

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. 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. (MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

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. 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.

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 your 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. I will give that a shot.

FADE OUT.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY.

Hello.

Jack is walking down the crowded hallway and sees Cindy.

JACK

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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 and 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?

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.

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!

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.

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 This is what it's Encapsulation. all about. 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

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.

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 seems 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 (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) (MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

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. (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? (MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

(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 00000000!!

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.

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