

Mr. Smith Side 1

1.

a high school classroom

everyone has the same textbook open to the same spot

MR. SMITH

“sex”

THE ENTIRE CLASS

(in unison)

“the biologic character or quality that distinguishes male and female from one another as expressed by analysis of the person's gonadal, morphologic, chromosomal, and hormonal characteristics.”

MR. SMITH

or...

START → THE ENTIRE CLASS

(in unison)

“The physiologic and psychological processes within a person that prompt behavior related to procreation or erotic pleasure.”

MR. SMITH

Lee...

that's enough

any questions so far?

beat

I know it seems really lame, guys

believe me

I remember being exactly where you are

and feeling like “are you kidding me?”

but this is the curriculum

these are the facts

IVY

but I mean doesn't it make sense for sex ed to actually come like before people know about sex?

NELL

yeah like

I had sex ed in fifth grade when I still lived in Atlanta

a scandalized beat

MR. SMITH

Mr. Smith Side 1

that's a good point, Ivy
and Nell's right –
many schools, especially in bigger cities,
believe in teaching these things much earlier
and I guess it just comes down to philosophy
I guess here
we believe you're not ready for big ideas like this when you're younger

Beth suddenly raises her hand

MR. SMITH
yes! Beth!

BETH
sorry!
for interrupting

MR. SMITH
not at all
go for it

BETH
okay
sorry
but like
I mean
why do you have to be the one to teach us about se-
this material
in the first place?
it just feels like we've wasted so much lit time
which is
I mean the syllabus is just so good
I'm worried we won't have enough time to dig deep
into the reading

~~MASON~~
~~dude~~
~~why are you freaking out~~
~~about doing less work~~

MR. SMITH
well, you know
ten minutes of sex ed a day for six weeks isn't too bad
and we're almost finished

BETH

Mr. Smith Side 1

no of course

I'm sorry

I didn't mean to sound like I was complaining

MR. SMITH

no no no

I didn't mean to sound like I was minimizing the way you feel
and honestly?

it has been kind of a bummer

that time adds up

and I know you guys already know about sex...

but you know

there have been some uh

unfortunate cuts in the last couple years

and we're all just pitching in as best we can

at the end of the day, it's now part of my job to make sure you hear this info
so let's just muscle through it together, yeah?

then we'll get to some stuff I actually like teaching

and that you actually like learning

at least I hope so

some laughter from the class

this next stretch of the semester is my favorite

we've got *The Crucible* up next

we've got *Wuthering Heights* later on

Beth raises her hand again

BETH

also!

sorry!

just wondering

I mean speaking of *The Crucible*

I know on the syllabus it said the drama unit starts today

is that still true?

NELL

do you have the syllabus memorized?

IVY

she Absolutely does

some giggles

Mr. Smith Side 1

~~NELL~~
~~but honestly yeah same~~
~~like~~
~~are we gonna talk about this play or what~~

MR. SMITH
we'll start the drama unit as planned
if we can make it through the rest of these definitions

some slight panic
a lot of people forgot to do the reading

I'm not sure what all these panicked looks are about
since I'm sure everyone already did the reading for today

BETH
yes!

MR. SMITH
anyone besides Beth?
act one of *The Crucible*?
right?

some other vague murmurs

okay look
I'm gonna level with you
this is a really important play
and I want to make sure we're all going into it in the right headspace
so how about this?
how about I give you until Friday to finish act one

a few small cheers

great okay we like that idea
and then today how about I just tell you why the play is so awesome
that way we can all be on the same page for our first discussion
sound good?

END

general murmurs of agreement
Mason raises his hand

MASON
so we're reading like
the Whole Play?