

*The room becomes silent as Mr. Drone717 steps in. The students slowly tone down their conversations and begin observing their new substitute teacher.*



**Mr. Drone:** Hello class. My name is Mr. Drone [Mr. Drone begins writing his name on the board with chalk] and I'll be filling in for Mrs. Frizzle today. But first, let me take attendance. Everyone here?

**Mr. Drone:** The proper response is "yes sir," but I'll take your silence as an indication that everyone is indeed here. Where'd you leave off on Tuesday?

**\*\*Student raises her hand. By this point, most students realize something is amiss. Mr. Drone's stature is not of a substitute teacher. Plus, there was two Secret Service agents standing outside the door.\*\***

**Danielle:** Do I know you from somewhere? You look familiar.

**Mr. Drone:** I guess you've just seen me around the school. Anyway, where'd you leave off?

**Jared:** We finished the lesson on the freedom of speech in Chapter 4 of the textbook.

**Mr. Drone [Flipping through textbook]:** Ah, so that means we're on chapter 5.... The freedom of religion. Well, the US Constitution contains both the Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment clause. Today we're going to be focusing on the free exercise clause.

[Drone proceeds to write down "Congress shall make no law ... prohibiting the **free exercise** (of religion) on the chalkboard]

**Mr. Drone:** It's a very simple concept. The US government, and state and local governments (as the free exercise clause was incorporated in *Cantwell v Connecticut* [Mr. Drone copies the name of the case on the board]), can not prohibit an individual from exercising their religion. It doesn't just prohibit the government from telling an individual "you can't believe that," but also it prohibits the government from telling an individual "you can't do that."

**Mr. Drone:** So, let's say you are a Native American and part of your religion involves the smoking of peyote, an illegal drug. It would seem that by prohibiting the Native American from smoking the peyote, the government would be infringing upon his right to free exercise of his religion. Right?

**\*\*The class nods\*\***

**Drone:** Well that's not what the Supreme Court ruled! They dealt with this exact issue in *Employment Division v. Smith*. The Supreme Court ruled that the free exercise clause does not allow an individual to violate a "neutral law of general applicability," meaning a law not directly targeted at one religious group and which applies to everyone. The state didn't even need to prove that it had a compelling interest in doing so! Surprisingly, it was Justice Scalia who wrote the opinion for the Court.

[Mr. Drone writes the name of the case on the board]

**Mr. Drone:** I like Justice Scalia a lot, but I think he was definitely wrong in this case.

[One of Mr. Drone's campaign staff walks in and whispers something in his ear]

**Mr. Drone:** Well class, it appears that the President of the United States needs to speak to me. If you haven't figured it out yet, I'm the Secretary of Defense. Hopefully, being in a civics class and in the 10th grade, you know what that means. If you don't, start paying more attention in class and to the news. While I'm speaking with the President, please take the following quiz.

[Mr. Drone pulls out a stack of papers from his briefcase and has a student pass them around the class while he takes his call]

[Several minutes later]

**Mr. Drone:** Okay class, pencils down. Before I grade these quizzes, I have a surprise for y'all. I have the President of the United States on facetime and he wants to talk with you.

[The class hurdles around Mr. Drone's phone and speaks with President Gunnz. The Drone campaign is sure to snap some pictures of the scene for facebook.]

**Mr. Drone:** I'll leave these quizzes for Mrs. Frizzle to grade. She wanted me to tell you that Chapter 5 reading is due tomorrow. Have a good day everyone.