



CARTER HIGH[®]
CHRONICLES

THE FASTEST *Runner*



SADDLEBACK
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Chapter 1

Ben was in his math class. Mr. Wong was his math teacher.

The class was working on a study sheet. It was for the exam.

The next week was exam week. Ben didn't like exam week. He had to study too much. And he was never sure what the teachers would ask.

Mr. Wong was at his desk. He was going over the last test with each student.

Mr. Wong said, "Ben, your turn."

Ben got up. He walked over to the desk. Mr. Wong showed Ben his test.

Ben had an F on it. But Ben wasn't worried. He had a passing grade in the class.

Mr. Wong went over the test with Ben. He helped Ben with what he missed.

Then Mr. Wong said, "You still have a passing grade, Ben. But it is not that good. Study hard for the exam. Or you might have to take this class again next year."

Ben knew he had to study hard. But for science. Not for math. He would do OK on math.

Ben went back to his desk. He worked some more on the study sheet. But he got tired of doing it. So he didn't do it all. He was glad when math class was over.

And he was glad when school was over for the day.

Ben saw Steve after school. Steve was his best friend. They both had Mr. Reese

for science. But not at the same time.

“What are you doing this weekend?”
Ben asked.

“I have to study for our science exam,”
Steve said.

Ben said, “So do I. Do you want to
study with me?”

Steve said, “Sure. As long as you
really study.”

“I will,” Ben said.

Steve said, “I want to go out for track.
Right now I have all passing grades. And
I want to keep them.”

Ben was going out for track too. He was
the fastest runner in the school. And he
had won all of his track events last year.

On Saturday the boys helped each
other with science. Steve studied science
on Sunday too. But Ben didn't.

Then Monday morning came. It was
the first day of exam week.

Ben was on his way into the school. Steve was with him.

Steve said, "I hope I do OK. I always worry too much about my exams."

Ben thought Steve did too.

Ben's science exam was hard. But he thought he did OK on it.

Ben saw Mr. Wong after the exam. Mr. Wong was walking down the hall. He stopped when he saw Ben.

Mr. Wong said, "Don't forget what I said, Ben. Study hard for your math exam."

"I will," Ben said.

Ben would study for it. But not a lot. He had studied his science a lot. He was tired of studying. And he was sure he would do well on his math exam.

Ben studied some for his other exams. And he studied some for his math exam. But he did not study a lot for it.

The math exam was his last one. It was much harder than Ben thought it would be.

There was some math he didn't know how to do. He had been sure that kind of math would not be on the exam. So he didn't do those math problems on his study sheet.

Mr. Wong should not have made the exam that hard.

Ben was not sure he did well.

Would he still have a passing grade in the class?

Ben was sure he would.

He had to have a passing grade to go out for track.



Chapter 2

It was the first day of the new semester. Ben was in his first class. Steve was in the class too. They had history. Miss Brent was their teacher.

Ben wanted his new class card. He knew what his new classes were. But he didn't know the time of each class. And he didn't know who all of his teachers were. He just knew he had Miss Brent for his first class.

The bell rang.

Miss Brent said, "Time to start class. Get out your books."

Miss Brent always started class on time.

Miss Brent called the roll. She wanted to make sure they were all in the right class.

Then Ben said, "Can we get our class cards now?"

Miss Brent said, "No, Ben. You will get them at the end of class. We have a lot to do now."

Miss Brent didn't like to waste time. So she kept the class busy.

But the time went by slowly for Ben. He was in a hurry to get his card.

It was five minutes before the class was over.

Miss Brent said, "You can put your books away. And I will pass out your class cards."

The class started to get ready to go.

Steve said, "I hope we have some

more classes together.”

“So do I,” Ben said.

Miss Brent said, “Steve, here is your card.”

Steve walked over to Miss Brent. He got his card and thanked her. Then he walked over to Ben.

Steve said, “See you after our next class, Ben. I can’t wait for you. I want to get to class early on the first day.”

Ben said, “OK. I will see you after the next class.”

Steve quickly left the room.

Miss Brent said, “Ben, here is your card.”

Ben quickly got his card. Maybe he could catch up with Steve. Maybe their next class was the same one.

Ben hurried out into the hall.

“Wait, Steve,” Ben said.

Steve stopped. Ben quickly walked

over to him.

Ben looked at his card. Then he said, "Not again."

"What's wrong?" Steve asked.

Ben said, "This is the card of the other Ben Davis. I got the wrong card first semester too. Now I have to go to the office to get my card. I get tired of that."

Ben was Ben K. Davis. The other Ben was Ben E. Davis. But he was called Ed and not Ben. Ed was his middle name.

Ben hurried to the office. He would be late to his next class. Just like he was first semester. He had to go to the office then too.

Ben got in a long line. He would have a long wait.

Ben saw Ed Davis come in the office.

Ed walked over to Ben.

Ed said, "I have your card. You must have my card."

Ben said, “Yeah. I get tired of them mixing up our cards.”

The boys quickly swapped cards.

Ben knew he couldn't make it to class on time.

What a way to start the first day of a new semester.