



CARTER HIGH
SENIOR YEAR

THE *Last Time*



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

Ben woke up. He looked at the clock. He couldn't believe it. He overslept.

Why didn't his mom wake him up?

Ben quickly got ready for school. Then he went in the kitchen. His dad was sitting at the table. He seemed surprised to see Ben.

"I thought you had gone to school," his dad said.

"No. I just got up. Where is Mom?" Ben asked.

"She had to go to work early," his dad said.

"Why didn't she wake me up before

she left?" Ben asked.

"She thought she did. And she thought you were going to get up. Didn't you hear her tell you to get up?" his dad asked.

Ben thought about it.

Then he said, "Yeah. I guess I did hear her. But I went back to sleep. And she didn't tell me again. You need to take me to school now. I will be late."

"I will take you. But I am going to eat breakfast first. And you need to eat breakfast too," his dad said.

Ben said, "I don't have time to eat. I have to go now. I will be late. And Mr. Young will make me stay after school."

Mr. Young was Ben's science teacher. Ben had Mr. Young for his first class.

"I am going to eat breakfast before I go to work. So you will just have to be late," his dad said.

"But I can't be late. I can't stay after

school. I have track practice,” Ben said.

Ben was the fastest runner on the team. The team had won all of its meets so far. And Ben had won all of his events.

His dad said, “You will just have to be late to practice.”

“But Coach Mann won’t like that,” Ben said.

Coach Mann was the track coach. He was also a P.E. teacher.

“Your mother told you to get up. You should have gotten up. Then you wouldn’t have missed the bus. And you would have gotten to school on time,” his dad said.

Ben knew that. So why did his dad have to tell him?

His dad said, “Sit down at the table, Ben. Eat your breakfast.”

His dad wasn’t going to take him to school right then. So Ben sat down at the

table. He started to eat breakfast. Ben didn't say any more.

Ben and his dad ate breakfast. Then his dad took him to school.

Ben was late. But he already knew he would be.



Chapter 2

Ben went in the school. He hurried to his class. He quickly went to his desk and sat down. He sat next to Steve.

Steve was his best friend. Steve was on the track team too.

Class had started. The students were working from their books.

Mr. Young looked at Ben. Then he looked at his watch. But he didn't say anything to Ben.

Ben quickly got his science book out. Steve showed him what page they were on.

Then Steve said, "You were late.



Mr. Young will make you stay after school today. And we have track practice.”

Ben knew that. So why did Steve have to tell him?

Ben started to work. But he wasn’t sure how to do it. Ben got to class late. So he didn’t want to ask Mr. Young how to do the work.

The students worked for a while.

Then Mr. Young said, “Time to stop. You can do the rest of the work at home. We need to talk about your senior trip for a few minutes.”

Ben was glad Mr. Young talked about the trip. Ben was going on the trip. Most of the other students were too.

Then Steve asked, “When is our money due?”

Mr. Young said, “I don’t know yet. We will have to talk about that later. But your money has to be in on time, or you

won't go on the trip."

Ben wanted to go on the trip very much. He wouldn't forget to bring his money. And he would get it in on time.

The bell rang. All of the students got up to go.

Mr. Young said, "Ben, I need to see you before you go."

Ben went over to Mr. Young's desk. He knew what Mr. Young wanted.

Mr. Young said, "You know my rules, Ben. You were late. So you have to stay after school today."

Ben wanted to tell Mr. Young that he had track practice, and he couldn't stay after school. But Ben knew better than to tell Mr. Young that.

"OK," Ben said.

But it wasn't OK with Ben. He would be late to track practice. And Coach Mann wouldn't like that.

Ben hurried out of class. Steve was waiting for him in the hall.

“Why were you late to school?” Steve asked.

“My mom had to go to work early. She didn’t make sure I was up before she left. So I got up late,” Ben said.

Steve said, “You are a senior. You should get yourself up. Your mom shouldn’t have to get you up.”

Ben knew that. So why did Steve have to tell him?



Chapter 3

The school day went by too quickly for Ben. Most days he was in a hurry for school to be over. He wanted to go to track practice. But today he had to stay after school for Mr. Young.

Ben went to his locker. He saw Steve.

Ben said, "Tell Coach Mann I will be late."

Steve said, "OK. But Coach Mann won't like the fact that you will be late."

Ben knew that. So why did Steve have to tell him?

"Get to practice as soon as you can," Steve said.