

# Eddie, The Sophomore Year

## Metric Time

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Eddie mentions to everyone, “Kathy can run the 100 in 9.2.” Kathy, knowing Eddie is teasing everyone, quickly responds, “yeah! But, that was with the metric stopwatch!” Mark asks, “what’s a metric stopwatch?” With a serious tone of voice, Kathy explains, “it measures metric time. Instead of sixty minutes in one hour, there are one hundred minutes in one hour. Also, instead of sixty seconds in a minute, there are one hundred seconds in a minute. That’s metric time.” Just taking a wild guess, Kathy mentions, “a 9.2 in metric time would be about fourteen or fifteen seconds in normal time.”

Johnson remarks, “we hadn’t learned about metric time yet.” Kathy tells Johnson, “you’ll learn about it soon in science class. Metric time is like milliseconds and microseconds, that sort of thing.” Paula, meanwhile, is having a very hard time not laughing. Braden brilliantly asks, “do they use metric time when they run the 100 meters and the 400 meters?” Kathy replies, “yeah. That’s why the times are so different.” Kathy never expected her comment about a metric stopwatch to be taken this seriously.

Kathy continues to fuel the fire, telling Braden, “it’s hard to find metric stopwatches in the United States, so we still use yards and miles.” Braden mentions, “yeah, I can see that. I ain’t never seen a metric stopwatch before.” Kathy tells Braden, “see? They really are scarce.” Eddie, who has caught on that Kathy is pulling everyone’s leg, remains quiet. Lunchtime comes to an end, and everyone goes inside to class, some of them believing

there is a such thing as a metric stopwatch. That's what happens when you hang out with students who are older than you are.