

Eddie, The Collegiate Sophomore

Technicalities ☺

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Wanting some sympathy from the group, Mr. McCutchen explains, “look. Todd, on occasion, has had some very severe panic attacks. At times, Todd can’t breathe and gets a cardiac arrhythmia from all the stress he’s been under. It would definitely help him if the harassment would stop.” Kathy tells Mr. McCutchen, “that’s a bunch of bullshit. Todd McCutchen doesn’t have a cardiac arrhythmia. And, he can breathe perfectly fine.” Getting hot under the collar, Mr. McCutchen responds, exclaiming, “and, how would you even know? This is exactly the attitude toward Todd that I am talking about!” Kathy explains, “if he had an arrhythmia, he’d be dead. And, if he can’t breathe, he would also be dead. Don’t ya think?”

Mr. McCutchen briefly turns around, trying not to lose his cool. Knowing exactly to what Kathy is referring, Paula comments, “well, she does have an excellent point.” Quite frustrated, Mr. McCutchen exclaims, “and, just what point does she have?” Kathy explains, “an arrhythmia is, as the prefix ‘a-’ suggests, the lack of any rhythm. Perhaps you meant to use the term dysrhythmia. The term dysrhythmia refers to irregularities of the heartbeat and disturbances of rate and conduction. And, if someone can’t breathe, as you claim, they pretty much die. He may have had difficulty breathing but, I can assure you, he can breathe. This is a university, Mr. McCutchen. We are in the exercise science program. We know what we’re talking about. Apparently, you don’t.” Mr. McCutchen, sensing that he is up against a brick wall and getting nowhere, moves on.