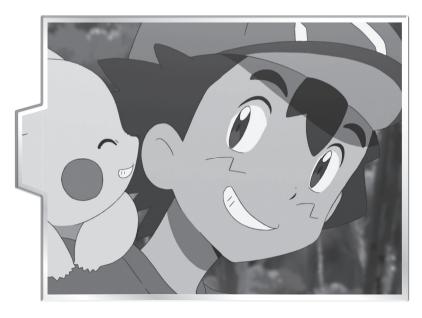


Old Buddles, New Battles

Adapted by Jeanette Lane



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ow, class!" Principal Oak's dark eyes sparkled with excitement. He waited for all the students to pay attention before he continued. "To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of our beloved Pokémon School, we're going on an extra-special field trip."

"Special field trip?!" said Ash Ketchum.

Ash could hardly believe his luck. First of all, he was living in the gorgeous, tropical Alola region and attending the famous Pokémon School. Now that he'd been there for a few months, he felt like a real student, and he claimed all his classmates as friends.

The Pokémon School was like no other. It was a place where people and Pokémon learned together. He and Pikachu fit right in! Principal



Oak and Professor Kukui had taught them many new things, especially about the unique Pokémon of the Alola region.

For Ash, the only thing better than going to the Pokémon School was going on a Pokémon School field trip! Ash couldn't wait to hear where they were headed.

"So does that mean we get to go to some amazing place?" Mallow wondered.

Ash, Mallow, Sophocles, Lana, Kiawe, and Lillie all leaned forward with anticipation.

"We sure do," Professor Kukui answered. He paused before declaring, "We are going to the Kanto region!"



"Oh, boy," Ash mumbled. "Kanto, huh?"

For Ash, Kanto did not seem extra-special or amazing. After all, Kanto was his home region. He had hoped to travel somewhere new. He wanted to learn more about regional differences of Pokémon, or meet famous Pokémon Trainers.

"You're from the Kanto region, aren't you, Ash?" Kiawe asked. He studied Ash with a serious gaze that was typical Kiawe.

"Yeah," Ash replied, still bummed.

The others didn't feel that way at all. "Professor Oak's world-famous laboratory is there, right?" Sophocles asked, sounding excited.

"Yes, indeed!" Principal Oak declared. "We'll visit my cousin Professor Oak at his laboratory, plus you'll get to see lots of Kanto Pokémon, too!"

"Right, and that's not all," Professor Kukui added. "I want you to be able to *Tackle* an experience you can't have here, along with some very special guests."

"Special guests? Who are they?" Now Ash was curious. Who were the guests? Did he know them?

"And just what *can't* we do in Alola?" Mallow wondered, twisting one of her long green pigtails. She was adventurous and loved new experiences.

"You'll have to wait to find out until we get there," Professor Kukui said, sounding mysterious.

"Sounds like lots of fun!" Kiawe and Sophocles said at the same time.

"Sure does!" agreed Lana, Lillie, and Mallow.

Soon, the whole crew was on its way. Once they were on the plane, Ash had totally come around. He was going to get to visit home! He'd get to see his mom!

"Man, I can't wait to get there," Ash said, his own excitement growing. "I'll be able to show you guys around." He thought of all the things he'd like to share with his new friends.

"That'll be perfect!" Mallow agreed.

Although returning to the Kanto region wasn't new for Ash, the trip would provide new experiences for his classmates—some more than others.

"Hey, Sophocles! How is this thing flying?!"
Kiawe asked nervously as he peered out the airplane window. He took a deep breath in and out, fogging up the glass. It was unusual to see the normally composed and brave Kiawe, proud owner of a Z-Ring, seem so anxious.



Sophocles showed no signs of fear. "As far as I'm concerned," he replied, "it's a whole lot safer than a Charizard."

It was clear Kiawe would much prefer to be riding his trusted fire-breathing Pokémon than be trapped inside a machine with metal wings and roaring engines.

Despite Kiawe's concerns, they all landed at the Kanto airport safe and sound. "Here we are!" Ash announced, already seeing familiar sights as they walked through the airport.

"Hope we get to see a Vileplume!" Mallow said.

"Horsea and Seadra, too!" Lana added, focusing on her favorite—Water-type Pokémon.

Everyone was looking forward to the coming adventure—except Lillie.

"Oh no. Is something wrong, Snowy?" Lillie asked, leaning over her beloved Pokémon. She could tell something wasn't right. Her Alolan Vulpix looked tired and droopy. Even its tail looked less fluffy. "Don't you feel well? Poor

dear . . ." Snowy collapsed in her arms. "Now what should I do?"

Lillie was a worrier by nature. Even though she had read hundreds of books about Pokémon over the years, she was not sure how to handle certain situations. And they were in a new, foreign place. What was Lillie going to do?