

**POKÉMON**™

**Ash to the  
Rescue**

**Adapted by Tracey West**

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## Let's Go, Ledyba!

It was a beautiful day in the Johto Region. The sun was shining. The Pidgey were singing.

And Team Rocket was up to no good.

The trio of Pokémon thieves had cut a trapdoor into the walkway of a wooden bridge. Then they tied a large metal cage underneath the trapdoor. Jessie, James, and the Scratch Cat Pokémon, Meowth, stood on top of the cage. They were waiting to set their latest scheme in motion.

Meowth peered through a periscope.

"Ash, Pikachu, and those twerps are headed straight this way," said Meowth.

1

Jessie chuckled. "Little do they know that their travel plans are about to fall through," she said.

"*Fall through* is right," said James.

"When those twerps get right overhead . . ." Jessie began.

". . . when they're just in the right position . . ." James continued.

". . . we pull the rope, the bottom drops out, and they tumble into the cage," Meowth said gleefully. "Then we slip on the lid, and we got 'em right where we want 'em!"

Jessie got a gleam in her steely blue eyes. "And then Pikachu will be ours!"

Team Rocket was always trying to steal Pikachu, Ash's yellow Electric-type Pokémon. They began to dance and sing at the thought of their impending victory.

"We're gonna catch a Pikachu, we're gonna catch a Pikachu," they chanted, dancing on top of the cage. "We're gonna catch a Pika-huh?"

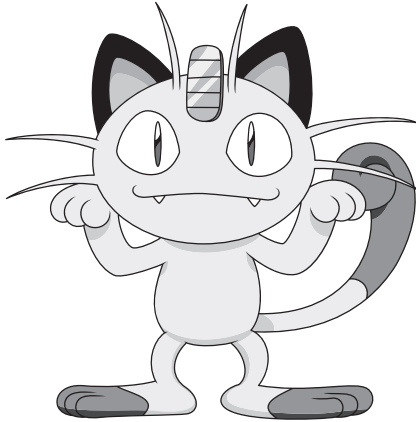
The wooden boards above them creaked. The cage swung back and forth.

"It's collapsing!" Jessie said.

“So is our plan!” added James.

With a sickening splinter, the boards above them gave way. Jessie, James, Meowth, and the cage splashed into the river below.

“Looks like Team Rocket’s splashing off again!” they cried.



Further down the road, Ash Ketchum and his friends made their way toward the bridge. Ash, a Pokémon Trainer, had been busy ever since he came to the Johto Region. His mentor, Professor Oak, had sent him there with a mysterious Poké Ball, the GS Ball. The professor knew of an expert in the Johto Region who might be able to figure out what was inside the GS Ball.

While he was in the Johto Region, Ash was always on the lookout for new Pokémon to capture and train. He also hoped to battle other Trainers at the Johto League gyms. That way, he could earn gym badges, and maybe even a Johto League championship.

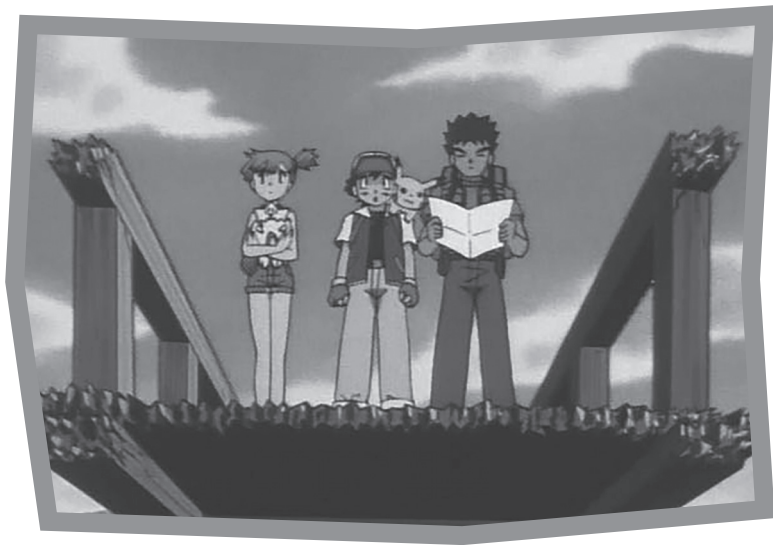
Ash wasn't alone on his quest. The Poké Balls he kept in his pockets contained some of his very best Pokémon. Pikachu, a little yellow Pokémon with pointy ears and a lightning bolt-shaped tail, always walked by his side.

His friends Misty and Brock were traveling with him, too. Orange-haired Misty was once a gym leader in Cerulean City. Brock used to be a gym leader, too. Both Brock and Misty had their own Pokémon. They were also kept in Poké Balls, except for Togepi, a Spike Ball Pokémon. Misty carried the tiny Pokémon in her arms.

Together, Ash and his friends were ready for anything. Except the broken bridge.

Ash walked as far as he could and peered down. The river underneath looked deep – too deep to wade across.

“How are we going to get to the other side?” Ash wondered.



"I guess we could keep walking along the river until we find another bridge," Misty suggested.

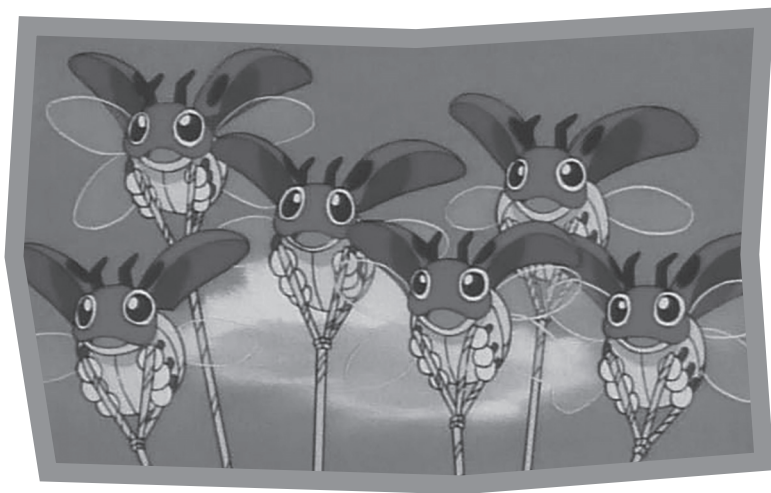
Brock's dark hair stuck out above the map he was reading. "According to this, the nearest bridge is ten miles away."

Ash groaned. "There's got to be some other way."

The sound of a shrill whistle interrupted him. It came from above. Ash looked up.

Something was flying above the river. A *lot* of some-things. Ash couldn't quite make out what they were.

As they got closer, Ash saw that he was looking at a group of Bug-type Pokémon. The Pokémon had round,



red bodies. They each had six legs with tiny white feet, and red wings with black circle markings.

A rope was tied to each Pokémon. The ropes were attached to a swing that dangled beneath the Pokémon. A girl with short brown hair sat in the swing. She held a silver whistle in her hand.

“Wow!” Ash remarked. “Let’s see what kind of Pokémon they are.”

Ash took out Dexter, his Pokédex. The handheld computer had information about all kinds of Pokémon.

Ledyba, the Five Star Pokémon,” said Dexter. “These naturally gentle Bug- and Flying-types gather in groups during cold weather to keep warm.”



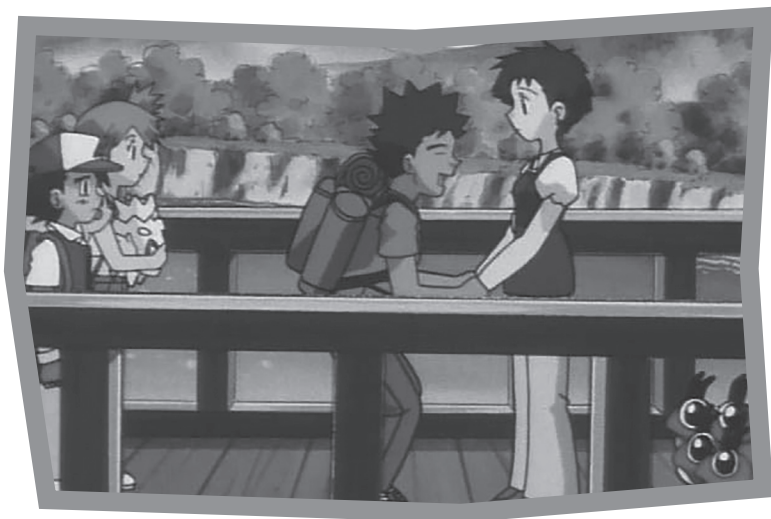
"Bug-type Pokémon usually give me the creeps," Misty admitted, "but these little guys are cute."

The Ledyba and the girl landed on the grass next to them. Brock rushed to greet the girl.

"Thank goodness you've come to save us," Brock gushed. "You're just like an angel from out of the blue."

"My name's Arielle," said the girl. "Can I help you with something?"

"You sure can. We need to get across the river," Ash said. He nudged his friend, who was still staring at Ariel with lovesick eyes. "And Brock here needs to get back down to Earth."



Arielle smiled. "I could fly you across with my Ledyba if you'd like."

Ash was hoping Arielle would make that offer. The Ledyba looked really amazing.

"We can take you over one at a time," Arielle said. She blew her whistle, and the Ledyba hovered in the air. Arielle sat in the swing.

Ash didn't hesitate. He and Pikachu jumped into the swing next to Arielle.

Arielle blew the whistle again, and the Ledyba flew straight up. Ash felt air rushing around them as they flew over the river.

"What do you think, Pikachu?" Ash asked. "This is pretty cool, isn't it?"

Pikachu nodded happily. "*Pika!*"