

POKÉMON™

**Go West,
Young Ash**

Adapted by Tracey West

Scholastic Inc.

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Pikachu vs. Eevee

"Ash! It's good to see you," Professor Oak said.

Ash Ketchum walked into Professor Oak's lab and smiled. Professor Oak hadn't changed a bit since the last time Ash had seen him. He still wore a white lab coat. Ash figured Professor Oak was too busy studying Pokémon to worry about how he looked.

"It's good to see you, too, Professor," Ash said.

Professor Oak knelt down and patted the little yellow Pokémon at Ash's side. "You're certainly looking well, Pikachu," Professor Oak said.

"Pika!" Pikachu replied happily.

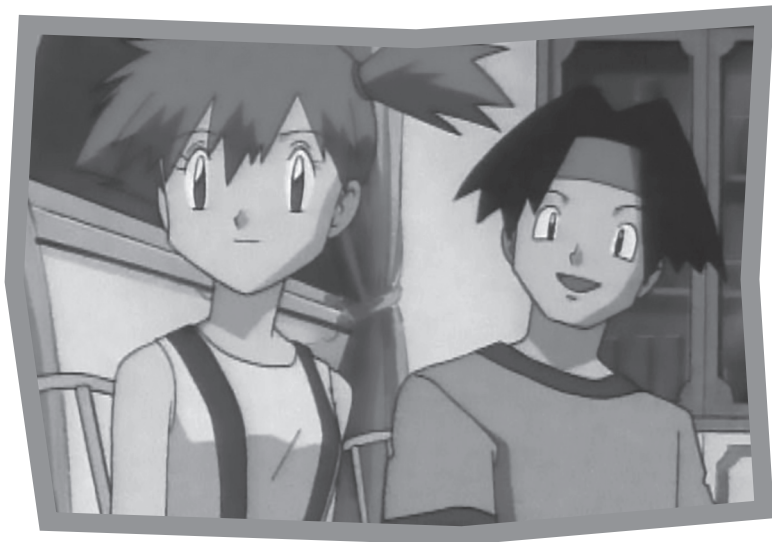
Ash's three friends walked into the lab behind him.

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Misty, a Pokémon Trainer, had an energetic personality that matched her bright orange hair. She carried Togepi, a tiny Pokémon, in her arms.

Brock was studying to become a Pokémon breeder. His eyes glanced around the lab from under his mop of spiky dark hair. Brock had just met up with Ash and Misty after taking time off to study with a famous Pokémon breeder, Professor Ivy.

Tracey was a new friend Ash and Misty had met on their journey to the Orange Islands. He was a Pokémon watcher who studied Pokémon behavior and drew pictures of them. Professor Oak was Tracey's hero.



"It's such an honor to finally meet you," Tracey said, pumping Professor Oak's hand. "I have some reports of my studies that I'd love to show you. It would mean so much to me."

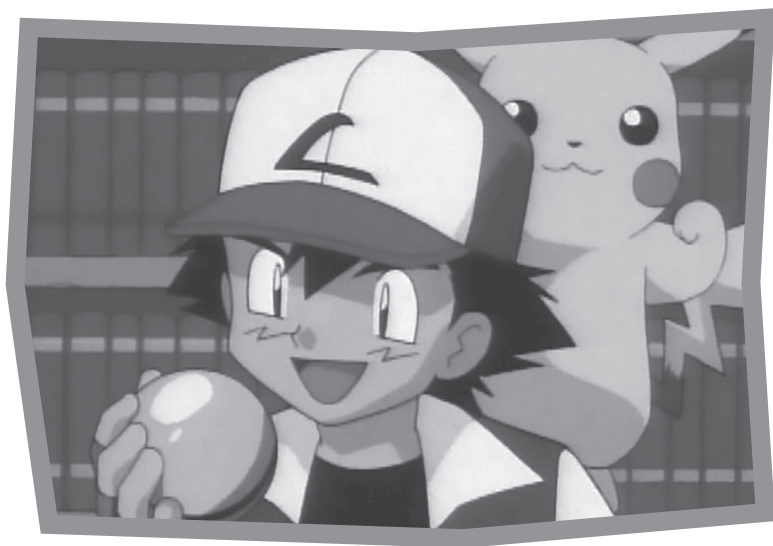
"I'd be happy to – later," Professor Oak said. "Right now, I'm anxious to get the GS Ball from Ash."

"Right," Ash said. The reason Ash had traveled to the Orange Islands was to bring the mysterious Poké Ball to Professor Oak. It couldn't be transported from one lab to another like most regular Poké Balls. Most Poké Balls were red and white and held captured Pokémon. The GS Ball was gold and silver. No one could figure out how to open it or what was inside.

Ash reached into his backpack and retrieved the shiny ball. He handed it to the professor.

Professor Oak studied the ball, a pleased smile on his face. "Marvelous! Good work, Ash."

Ash beamed. Professor Oak had started Ash on his Pokémon journey by giving him Pikachu, his very first Pokémon. Ash wanted to make Professor Oak proud. He had made many mistakes on his journey. He had a lot to learn if he was ever going to become a Pokémon Master.



Bringing the GS Ball to Professor Oak felt good.

“Well, if it isn’t that loser, Ash Ketchum,” a nasal voice twanged.

Ash knew that voice. It was Gary, Professor Oak’s grandson, and Ash’s biggest rival.

“Who are you calling a loser?” Ash asked. He and Gary faced each other, nose to nose. Gary reached for a Poké Ball.

“Not in the lab!” Professor Oak said, stepping between them to stop the battle. “Let’s all go outside.”

“Gary stopped by for a visit,” Professor Oak said as the others followed him to the green lawn outside

the lab. "He wanted to surprise you."

"Some surprise," Ash said under his breath. He turned to Gary. "I'm no loser. I won the Orange Islands Winner's Cup, you know."

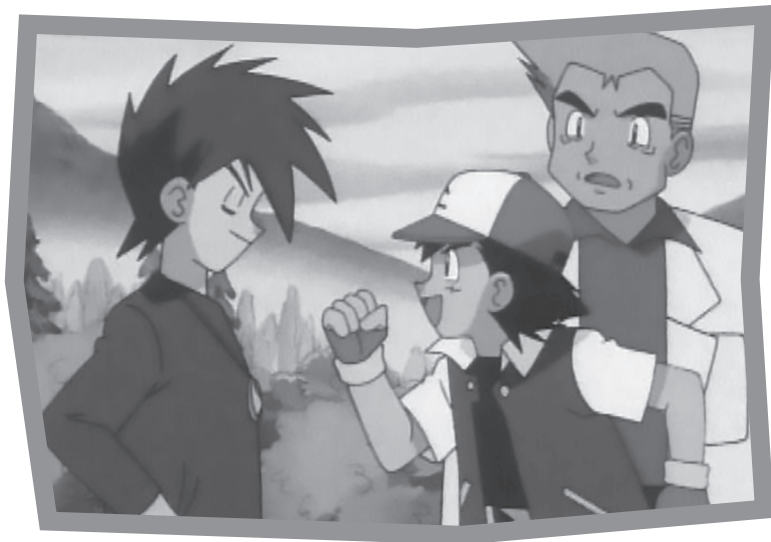
"Big deal," Gary said. "I'm still better than you."

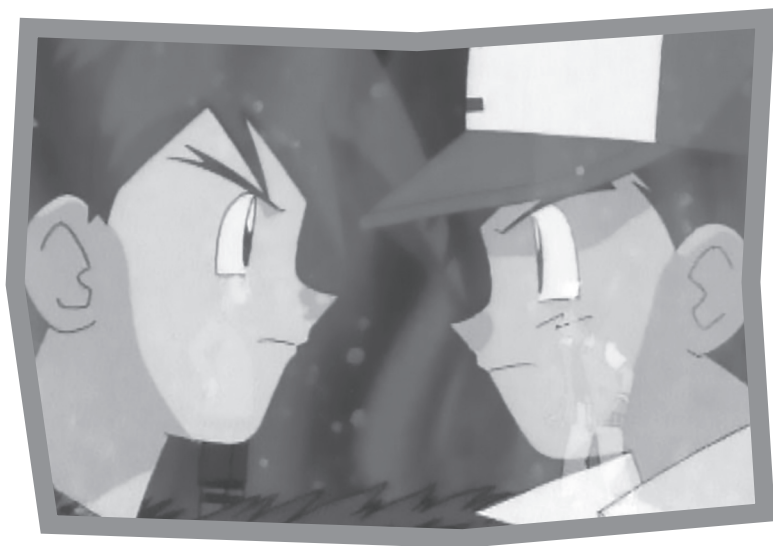
"Oh, yeah?" Ash asked.

"These guys argue more than Ash and Misty," Tracey remarked.

Ash looked Gary in the eye. "Let's settle this once and for all."

"You're on!" Gary said. "Let's battle with our best Pokémon. One-on-one."





A cool spring breeze kicked up, blowing strands of dark hair into Ash's face. He pulled down his red-and-white cap and stared at Gary. He had to concentrate. He had to win.

Pikachu stood next to Ash. The lightning mouse wore a look of determination on its face.

"My Pokémon will be Pikachu," Ash said.

"Pika!" said Pikachu.

"I see," Gary said. "In that case, I choose Eevee!"

Gary threw out a red-and-white Poké Ball. A cute, furry Pokémon appeared. Eevee had a bushy tail, pointy ears, and big, dark eyes.