

POKÉMON™

**The Chikorita
Challenge**

Adapted by Tracey West

Scholastic Inc.

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Who's That Pokémon?

Ash Ketchum had been a Pokémon Trainer ever since his tenth birthday.

Since then, Ash had gone on incredible adventures. He'd traveled to faraway places and seen many strange and unusual Pokémon.

But he'd never seen anything quite like Chikorita.

The first time he spotted a real Chikorita, Ash was traveling through the West. As usual, his friends Brock and Misty walked by his side. Brock, an older boy, had dark hair. Orange-haired Misty always carried around Togepi, a Pokémon that still wore a colorful eggshell.

Like the others, Ash carried his Pokémon in

red-and-white Poké Balls – all but one. Pikachu, a yellow Electric-type Pokémon, liked to walk at Ash's side. Pikachu had become Ash's closest friend.

But like any good Pokémon Trainer, Ash was always looking for new Pokémon to catch and train. He was daydreaming about his next catch as they walked through a small town. Then a loud voice brought him back to reality.

“Go, go, Chikorita! Knock 'em down! Knock 'em down!”

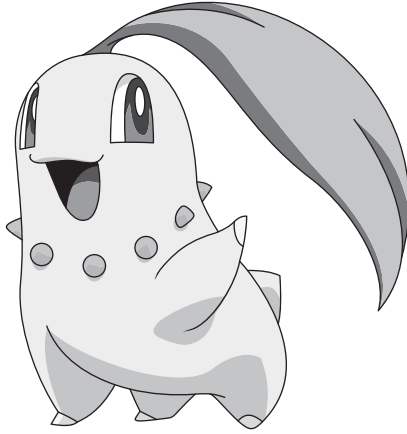
The voice belonged to a young girl. She wore a yellow-and-black baseball shirt and cap. Her name, Casey, was spelled out on the back of her shirt.

Casey was standing in a park up ahead. In front of her stood a small green Grass-type Pokémon. A green leaf grew out of the top of its head. A ring of green dots circled its neck.

“Look, it's a Chikorita,” Misty said.

Ash switched on Dexter, his Pokédex. Ash had seen a picture of Chikorita before, but he wanted more information. Dexter, a handheld computer, would have just what he needed.

“Chikorita, the Leaf Pokémon, is able to release a subtle, sweet fragrance from the leaves on its



head," Dexter said.

Ash still wasn't satisfied. To really learn about Chikorita, he'd have to see it in action.

It looked like that's exactly what Casey had in mind. Ash saw a Rattata run out from a bush in the park. The wild Pokémon was small and had purple fur.

"She's going to use Chikorita to catch that Rattata," Brock remarked. "She must be a new Trainer."

Ash knew Brock was right. Rattata were easy to catch.

Casey started to talk like a sports announcer. "Chikorita is pitching for Team Casey. With a wild Rattata at bat, Chikorita is looking to strike out the other team. Chikorita, Tackle!"

Ash couldn't believe it. Casey was acting like she was at a baseball game. What did baseball have to do with Pokémon?

Her Chikorita didn't seem to care. It sped toward the Rattata. The wild Pokémon quickly dodged the attack.

Casey wasn't concerned. "Ah, the first pitch is a ball, but Chikorita goes into a second windup! One more Tackle, Chikorita. Go!"

Chikorita ran at the Rattata once again. This time, the Leaf Pokémon made contact. The Tackle knocked Rattata to the ground.

