

POKÉMON™

**Thundershock in
Pummelo Stadium**

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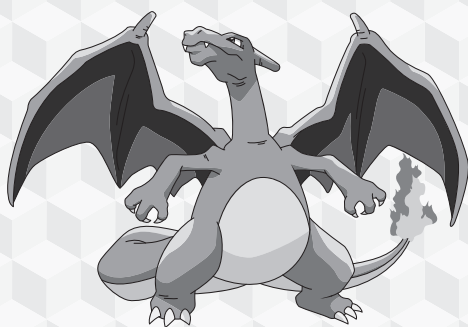
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Adapted by Tracey West

Scholastic Inc.



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Battle for the Jade Star Badge

“The battle between the Kumquat Gym Leader, Luana, and Ash Ketchum from Pallet Town will now begin,” the gym announcer said. “The Jade Star Badge hangs in the balance.”

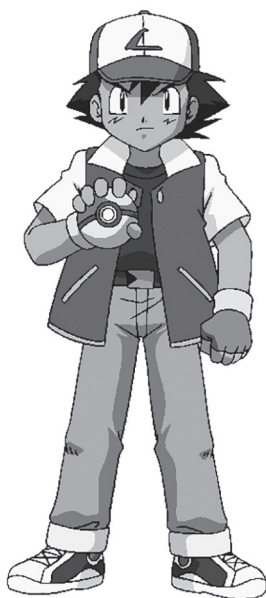
Ash Ketchum took a deep breath. Luana stood on the opposite end of the large gym. White lines on the floor marked off the battle area.

Ash had come a long way since he first became a Pokémon Trainer. His journey to capture and train Pokémon had led him to the far-off Orange Islands. Here, Trainers could battle four Gym Leaders known

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as the Orange Crew to earn badges in the Orange League. So far, Ash had earned three badges: the Coral-Eye Badge, the Sea Ruby Badge, and the Spike Shell Badge. Earning the badges hadn't been easy. The Orange League battles revolved around strange tests of skill, rather than the traditional one-on-one Pokémon face-offs he was used to in the Indigo League.

This was his final battle. If he earned his fourth badge, he could go on to compete for the Winner's



Cup. Ash wondered what to expect. What kind of twist would Luana throw at him?

“According to Kumquat Gym rules, this battle will be conducted as a double battle,” the announcer continued. “Each Trainer will battle with a team of two Pokémon.”

Ash absorbed this information. In a typical battle, two Pokémon would battle each other until one fainted. The Pokémon left standing was the winner. But two Pokémon battling together was a different story. Ash knew they’d have to look out for each other. If one of them fainted, the battle would be over.

Luana smiled. The older woman reminded Ash a little of his mother. But he knew she wouldn’t go easy on him.

“Have you selected your Pokémon, Ash?” Luana asked. She threw out two red-and-white Poké Balls. “Marowak! Alakazam! I choose you!” she shouted.

The balls burst open, and two Pokémon appeared. Ash recognized them both.

Marowak was a Ground-type Pokémon that wore a skull mask and used a bone in battle. Alakazam was a powerful Psychic-type Pokémon with long, pointed ears.