

POKÉMON™

**Prepare
for Trouble**

Adapted by Tracey West

Scholastic Inc.

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ISBN 978-1-338-28404-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

18 19 20 21 22

Printed in the U.S.A.

40

First printing 2018



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Sun, Sand, and Shellder

Even bad guys need a vacation.

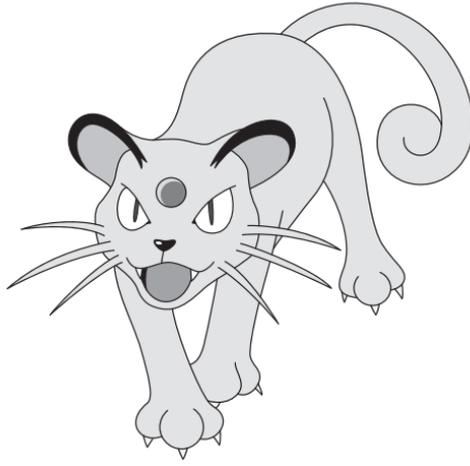
And when it came to bad guys, no one was badder than Jessie, James, and Meowth.

Jessie was a girl with long red hair and a short, fiery temper.

James was a purple-haired boy who was great at concocting evil schemes – and even better at messing them up.

Meowth was a clever Pokémon who helped them cause trouble.

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The three villains worked for Team Rocket, a powerful crime organization. Team Rocket's leader, Giovanni, was bent on capturing the world's rarest Pokémon.

Today, however, Giovanni was bent on capturing the sun's rays. He lounged on a beach on Seafoam Island. His Persian, a sleek, Classy Cat Pokémon, purred at his side.

Jessie, James, and Meowth were on the beach, too. But they weren't lounging in the sun. They were digging in the wet sand. Everyone else on the beach wore bathing suits, but they were stuck in their white Team Rocket uniforms.

Meowth jealously watched Giovanni stroke Persian's sleek fur. "Just look how the Boss fawns over that feline fink," Meowth grumbled.

James tossed his shovel aside. "Some vacation this turned out to be," he complained. "First the Boss has us swabbing the deck of his yacht. Now he's got us digging for clams like a couple of clam diggers. Well, I've just dug my last dig!"

Meowth pushed the shovel back into James's hand. "Ya better keep digging until we get to China, or else he'll make us take another pay cut," Meowth warned.

Jessie frowned and turned to James. "Why don't we bury Meowth in the sand headfirst?" she suggested.

"Hey!" Meowth cried.

Just then, the sound of laughter drifted over the ocean waves. Happy people surfed, swam, and water-skied in the sparkling blue sea.



"Everybody's having fun but us!" James whined. "The Boss makes me so mad sometimes." James angrily slammed his shovel into the sand. The shovel became a blur as he furiously dug and dug. Sand flew everywhere.

Thump! James's shovel hit something hard.

"Jess, I think I discovered a colossal clam!" James exclaimed. He dug away the sand to reveal a large blue-gray shell.

Suddenly, the shell flew up from the hole and landed in front of them. This was no ordinary shell. It was a Water-type Pokémon.

"Look, it's a Shellder!" said Jessie.

Two round white eyes stared out from inside the Pokémon's shell. Shellder stuck out its long pink tongue. "Oh, you're a wise guy, huh?" said Meowth. "Don't stick that tongue out at me, ya crummy crustacean, or I'll clam you up good!"

