

Day 1: A few new friends.

Dear Diary,

Today was my first day on the road to be a pokémon master! Professor Sycamore invited a bunch of kids from the neighborhood, including myself, to start collecting data on pokémon in the region. To help us with this, he gave us all a pokémon to start out. Three little pokéballs with unknown pokémon inside, waiting for us to be their friend. Tierno and Trevor offered me the first pick, and they were about to tell me what pokémon was in which ball, but the one on the far right called to me.

And so it was then that I met my new friend, Azzy. The cute little Froakie was a gentle little soul who seemed to love coming to my defense. He was capable of taking a few hits, but I always tried to get him to dodge... We had a meal with the neighborhood kids, and that's when Shauna challenged us to our first pokémon battle! It was so exciting, oh man. My heart was racing the whole time. I don't know how much Shauna knew about pokémon, but I had a pretty obvious type advantage, so Azzy and I were victorious in no time. We didn't want our new friends to get seriously injured, so we stopped the battle and sent Shauna to the pokécenter at the first sign of bad injury to her cute little fluffy-eared fennekin.

After making sure they were okay, we waved goodbye, grabbed a bunch of pokéballs from the nearby store, and started on our way to the first town on our path. Route 2 is pretty short, and there is a path through the tall grass that meant I could completely avoid it, but I decided to search for some pokémon. I charged right through and nearly tripped on a Pidghey! The Pidghey just sat there and stared at me. I could tell she was a mild mannered little ball of feathers, but as soon as I went for Azzy's pokéball, she attacked!

I had Azzy weaken the strong willed pidghey a bit, wear her down so that I could catch her easier. And I wish I could say Azzy was good at dodging.... but he always seemed to dodge toward the attack rather than away from it... Maybe he just didn't understand what I meant. He was just a pokémon after all. Either way, I threw a pokéball after Azzy landed a few solid hits, and made a new friend, Bella.

Unfortunately, some of my other new friends, namely Calem, got on my nerves a bit. After I got Bella and started heading further down route 2, Calem and Trevor blew on by and Calem then proceeded to "teach" me how to catch pokémon. I really wanted to show him Bella right then and there, but the dude seemed to have a thing for me, so I don't know. I guess I just let him try and have a moment. Plus he did give me some free pokéballs after his demonstration... Can't complain about that part at least.

By the time I made it to the entrance of Santalune forest, I'd knocked out a few more wild pokémon and got a solid feel for both Bella and Azzy. I saw a kid up ahead, couldn't have been more than nine or ten... He was playing with his zigzaggon, cute little bugger, looked pretty

strong, too. The kid was pretty scrawny, though. He definitely had the spirit of a trainer, though. As soon as he saw me, he called out and came running, his zigzagoon in tow. "When two trainers' eyes meet, a pokémon battle must begin!" he claimed. I agreed, but I also made sure he was aware of the official rules for pokémon matches. He showed me the money he had on hand. It wasn't really worth the effort. The kid was about to share his lunch money with me.

Yeah, his zigzagoon was definitely tougher than the wild ones in the area, but not by much. Though he did give Bella a rough hit, Azzy finished him off without much effort. I felt sorry for him. I offered to let him keep his money, but he just cradled his beaten ziggy and shook his head. He said if he wanted to battle like an adult, he has to be responsible like one. Pretty remarkable for a little kid.

I sent him off on the way back to Aquacorde, after my offer to escort him was declined, and continued forward into Santalune forest. It was a pretty amazing sight. The shaded canopy kept out the hot sun and the path was a partially cleared trek. This meant plenty of wild pokémon to see! Or at least, I thought it would be like that. I don't know if I scared all the pokémon off or what, but I didn't see a single pokémon I heard was in the forest! They told me to watch for caterpies, weedles, scatterbugs, fletchlins, the pan monkeys... and pikachus! But I didn't see a single one. Not until a silly little geyser head, that's a panpour, came along, I saw nothing. I caught that panpour, by the way. I wasn't sure how I felt about him at first, he didn't seem to have much personality. Especially for a monkey type... I named him Guysir (sounds like geyser... get it? I know it's stupid, shut up) after imagining him with a tophat and monocle... which I giggled at a liiittle too hard.

But yeah... I took Azzy, Bella and Guysir through the boring forest and made it out without much effort. It was rather disappointing. The only thing that made it a little less boring was running into a couple more trainers, another little boy and a couple tween girls. They must attend the same middle school, since they were wearing the same uniform. One of them did brighten my day a little. I didn't get to see any wild pikachus, but her trained one was really cute.

Continuing on to route 3, caught a bidoof... named her Whittley. Because they whittle things down with their teeth... shut up, it's clever. Anyway, had several pokémon battles with some kids. These ones were REALLY young. Lucky them, getting started so early... I'm getting tired now diary.

Love you mon amie,

Yvette

P.S. We're finally doing it. Professor Sycamore opened the door I have been trying to find for years now... I couldn't be happier!