

Hello and welcome to Not A Scratch, the only podcast that believes that Scratch is an overpowered move! I am your host, Anirudh himself, and this is the ARC 0 summary episode! We at Not A Scratch understand that there are... a lot of episodes to listen to in order to catch up to the show. As a result, we wanted to create “summary episodes”, which, unsurprisingly, summarize arcs and make it easier for listeners to catch up to the current action!

Some quick notes before we go into the summary. The summaries are broad overviews of each arc, and we highly recommend checking out each individual episode to get more details, references, and a better understanding of the overall story. If you’re looking for major plot points, you’ve got them here, but note that this isn’t going to talk about every single interaction our players have. The goal is to make sure you’ve got a good understanding of the events of the arc, and can jump into the first episode of the next arc without any major concerns. When the music changes, that signifies the “next episode”. For more information on the show and on us, check the end of the episode. Without further ado, let’s dive on in.

This is the summary episode for Arc 0. All of the episodes were released on June 4th, 2020. The Not A Scratch squad recorded these episodes as a trial run to see how the system would work, how the podcast format would look, and basically to figure out if we could learn the whole process! It’s been successful so far! Arc 0 consists of 5 episodes, and builds the initial world that our heroes start off in. There’s also a promo, which was released a few days earlier, but it’s basically an ad for the podcast. You can check it out if you like, it’s only 49 seconds, but it talks about the type of adventure that this entire journey is! By the way, I should probably talk about what this whole... thing is.

This is a Pokemon Mystery Dungeon TTRPG Actual Play podcast! Pokemon, to summarize really quickly, is a series of role-playing games focuses on different characters traveling across a region, kinda like a country, as they try to accomplish whatever goal they have. The most popular version of the games, and the type that you’re probably most familiar with, are where Trainers train Pokemon as they eventually aim to be the champion of the region. These are your Pokemon Red, Blue, Yellow, Gold, Silver, and so on. The most recent games, as of this recording, were Pokemon Sword and Shield, released in November 2019.

The Pokemon franchise has created a number of spin-off games that take the normal Pokemon formula and twist it in an interesting new way. Pokemon Mystery Dungeon has you become a Pokemon, and tracks your adventure as a single Pokemon. The games show off a world of Pokemon and only Pokemon, who’ve built communities and thriving towns of their own. The TTRPG system that we use in the story is actually made by yours truly, and we’ve been improving the system throughout the adventure, which you might notice once you start listening to the episodes. Our adventure takes place in a completely different Mystery Dungeon world... so why don’t we start with that? What you’ll hear next is the first “world-building” information I provided my players.

[INSERT WORLD BUILDING STUFF]

We introduce our two characters, Ralph the Machop and Kyle the Treecko, as school kids finishing their last days of class. The following day is the guild tryouts, where Pokemon across the city show off their skills to potentially be recruited by some of the major guilds in the region. Guilds are organizations designed to improve their communities, whether by working to keep crime low, or helping fellow Pokemon with specific tasks. Our two classmates soon decide to go to guild tryouts the next day, despite some initial hesitation from the mild-mannered Kyle.

Ralph, being a confident young child, feels much more confident about the entire event. Ralph's always very eager to do new things, and believes in himself and his mother's "sayings": quotes that she has that always seem to relate to something. It's just Ralph and his mother at their house, and they have a tight bond. Kyle lives with his older sister, a Grovyle, and both his parents, who are Sceptile. Kyle's much more of a softer kid, enjoying sketches and art, as well as being as invisible as possible.

When they reach the guild tryouts early the next morning, they notice that this isn't going to be as easy as they thought, with evolved and higher level Pokemon than our level 5 heroes. They also meet their rivals, Kirk the Sizzlipede, rival of Kyle, and HD the Duskull, rival of Ralph. After an early encounter, our heroes sign up for the guild tryouts, and the story officially begins!

[TRANSITION TO EP 1]

Our heroes begin the tryouts with a number of different events, including a quiz, and exploration of the Tiny Forest, a Mystery Dungeon. Mystery Dungeons, by the way, are special areas that constantly seem to change paths, with wild Pokemon that need to be calmed down via battle. While exploring the Tiny Forest for a special item, our heroes fight off a Shuppet and a Skarmory, with a LOT of difficulty on the latter fight. They are successful in their mission, however, and enjoy lunch, but get some bad news: their rivals are stuck in the forest! They've been kidnapped!

[TRANSITION TO EP 2]

Our heroes hear the professionals come in, but as they head into the forest, Ms. Quagmire the Quagsire, as the Pokemon running the guild tryout, has an interesting proposition. If guild members wanted to go into the forest themselves, they could receive bonus points! It's bonus points, so our heroes head into the forest to search for Kirk and HD. They head deep into the forest to a clearing, and meet Team Rocking Rampage, a villainous team consisting of Ignis the Rolycoly, Metamorph the Roggenrola, and Sedi the Geodude. Our heroes fight and win against them, and save Kirk and HD. After exiting the forest, it's time for the final challenge of the guild tryouts: the battle section. This is split into a team and individual battle section. First, the team battle. Team Treechop (our heroes) face off against the Defensive Masters, consisting of a Kakuna and Metapod. After some early troubles, the battle is successful for our heroes, and they heal up for the individual battles.

[TRANSITION TO EP 3]

The individual battles are randomly generated, and we see who our heroes are facing. Kyle will face HD, while Ralph will face a Butterfree. First up, Kyle vs HD. The battle is a long and even one, but HD gets the final blow, and he wins the battle through alternative tactics, such as using moves like Disable, preventing Kyle from using Absorb for a significant period of time. Kyle ends his final challenge with a loss, and loses all of the confidence that he built up over the course of the day. Later on, Ralph faces a Butterfree named Monarch who's already a well-established rescue team member, and fights valiantly, but loses as well. He's disappointed, but ultimately confident that he did enough to prove his worth. Both of our heroes take their first loss of the campaign, and deal with the result in different ways. While Ralph is able to keep his head high, Kyle is still somewhat sad about how his day ended. However, as Ralph heads home, he gets the odd feeling that someone is watching him, though he's not sure who.

[TRANSITION TO EP 4]

Kyle and Ralph both head home, and go to bed after a long day. The next morning, both Ralph and Kyle receive a letter from Ms. Quagmire with more information about each of the major guilds in the Alchas Region (that's the region that they live, like the Kanto region). Later that day, as Kyle is sketching something outside, he feels as though he's being watched. As he tries not to show any emotion, he hears something drop behind him. A shiny badge, with his name on it, and the name "Recruits of the Lost", a mysterious guild that no one knows anything about, beyond that bad things usually happen when that name shows up. Kyle meets up with Ralph to discuss the new knowledge, but doesn't get much of anything, and eventually heads to bed. That night, Kyle has a weird dream of himself walking down an endless hallway. The farther he goes, the greener everything becomes. When he reaches the end of the hallway, he turns to see an unknown Pokemon, who says, "Join us". Then, he wakes up.

The next morning, both Ralph and Kyle get an incredibly large packet in the mail. It's the results of the tryouts, and it looks as though they've been accepted by every guild! Though Kyle still has doubts about the entire event. As Ralph walks later that day, he finds a piece of paper falling from the sky saying "Touch the Badge", and heads to Kyle's house. It looks as though the "Recruits" group has asked for both Ralph and Kyle, and this confuses our heroes even more. They plan to meet the following day to have some time to think.

That night, Ralph has a weird dream of himself walking down an endless hallway. The farther he goes, the more orange everything becomes. When he reaches the end of the hallway, he turns to see an unknown Pokemon, who says, "Join us". Then, he wakes up.

Later the next day, Ralph and Kyle meet up at the school to discuss the guild, but notice Ms. Quagmire and another Pokemon in the distance. They sneak up behind them, and overhear a conversation regarding saving the world, and how they could be the key pieces. Ralph takes the initiative and demands to know how to join the Recruits of the Lost, dragging Kyle into this

chaotic situation. After some back and forth battle of wits, they officially join the Recruits of the Lost... which ends the first arc!

Thanks for listening to the summary episode! The music throughout this episode was created either by GlitchxCity, TableTop Audio, or myself. You can find links to GlitchxCity and TableTop Audio in the description of the episode. While you're down there, follow the podcast and myself on Twitter and join our Discord! We're building an amazing community that's constantly growing, and you could meet a bunch of awesome people, including the members of the show! Our biggest and most rewarding link, however, is our Patreon, which contains a plethora of benefits that you can take full advantage of! For as little as \$1 a month, you have the power to grow Not A Scratch to higher and higher levels! There are a number of rewards for joining our Patreon at different tiers, including early access to episodes, special newsletters, the ability to have your own oneshot, and more! If you're financially able and willing, we'd be extremely thankful for any support! Thank you again for checking out this summary episode! I've been your PM/DM/GM Anirudh himself, and until next time... take care!