

The feature is like *The Joy Luck Club* without the sexy chicks. The natural Pokemon are inclined to fight with the cloned Pokemon, symbolizing the cross-generation cultural gap between foreign born mother and native born daughter. In the end, everyone cries, decides not to fight anymore and has their memories obliterated. This prevents children from leaving the movie with the crazy notion that Pokemon aren't bred to fight each other.

The best part of the movie is when the black *Phantasm* pokeballs chase and steal everyone's Pokemon. This is unfortunate, because the best part is supposed to be the battle between #150 and #151.

In the final fight scene, Mewtwo takes away every Pokemon's special abilities and they slap and gnaw each other into exhaustion. Mewtwo and Mew cover themselves in laser shields and bounce ineffectively against the other. It's pointed out, about 15 gazillion times, in the background music, in the exposition, in English and in Pokemon, that Pokemon are not meant to fight this way. That's right, they're supposed to fight with their magic powers.

In the end, Mewtwo gives a lecture on the importance of not fighting. Before he teleports everyone home, he erases their memories so they don't learn anything. [Obligatory comment about the audience wishing their memories could be wiped too.] Fade to Team Rocket.

The movie is radically different from the cartoon. It lacks wacky escapades, the show's focus on its characters and the insipid love songs over the credits. It has no cheese value after the opening title and no place in the episode continuity. Most important, there is only a split second of hot, pink Jigglypuff. It's not worth the free promotional cards that were already sold out opening night.

*Pokemon: The First movie, is rated G for "GOD, NO!" It stars Team Rocket, so prepare for trouble.*

-Greg Chatham

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