

Gotta Teach 'Em All

Puzzle: Kristy Chang and Vinjai Vale and Arjun Rajan

Solution: Vinjai Vale

Answer: TAPPER

First, solve all the clues. As is usual with crossword clues, the number in parentheses is the word's length. Note that the clues are sorted alphabetically — this implies that they probably need to be reordered at some point, which will come up later.

_____ as a feather (5) [8]	LIGHT
_____ or nothing (6) [3]	DOUBLE
_____ or treat! (5) [11]	TRICK
A sea of blades (5) [2]	GRASS
Bill from the Mario franchise (6) [8]	BULLET
Blinded for a few seconds by this after taking a photograph (5) [3]	FLASH
Bright outside (5) [7]	SUNNY
Cyanide is an example of this (6) [10]	POISON
Don't need luck if you have this (5) [15]	SKILL
Element females have that males do not (4) [10]	IRON
Everything changed when this nation attacked (4) [0]	FIRE
Exeter students are usually deprived of this (5) [9]	SLEEP
Guns, Germs, and _____ (5) [3]	STEEL
Maneuver involving freestyle jumps and somersaults (6) [1]	AERIAL
Not turbulent (4) [2]	CALM
One who is innately talented (7) [0]	NATURAL

President of Devon Corporation in Rustboro (5) [3]	STONE
Represented by X or zero (5) [1]	FALSE
Second place (6) [17]	SILVER
Setting of most of the movie Inception (5) [1]	DREAM
Signified by clapping one's hands overhead when a pulled disc goes out (5) [1]	BRICK
Toxic ooze (6) [8]	SLUDGE
(4) teef s'lamina Na [8]	SWAP
A service _____ in tennis (3) [0]	ACE
Algorithm for comparing primary biological sequence information (5) [5]	BLAST
Between morning and evening (3) [7]	DAY
Blocking move by an offensive player in basketball by standing beside or behind a defender (6) [11]	SCREEN
Destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki (4) [4]	BOMB
Fire, water, earth, _____ (4) [3]	WIND
Game involving series of boxes with physical mechanisms (4) [4]	ROOM
MIT stole Caltech's (6) [5]	CANNON
Not mate, meat, meta, or tame... (4) [2]	TEAM
One who ingests edible material (5) [4]	EATER
Punch thrown with your front hand and delivered straight at your opponent (3) [1]	JAB
Rank in various sports such as squash (4) [6]	SEED
Rebel spaceship X- (4) [1]	WING

Santa gives this to a good child (4) [1]	GIFT
Something your headphone wires always seem to get into (4) [21]	KNOT
Son, we need to _____ (4) [1]	TALK
Time used for eating light snacks or grabbing a drink (5) [7]	BREAK
Twelve on a cube (4) [5]	EDGE
Used by many animals for balance (4) [10]	TAIL
What the villain in Dora does (5) [8]	SWIPE
Yoga and meditation is all about the body and this (4) [1]	MIND

The title and flavortext together clue Technical Machine moves that can be taught in the Diamond and Pearl games of the Pokémon franchise. In particular, words from the left column can be uniquely paired with words from the right to obtain several of these of moves. Following the flavortext, add the bracketed numbers from each clue to get a number for each move. All these numbers are between 1 and 26, which suggests converting them to letters.

TM No.	First word	Second word	Number sum	Letter
16	LIGHT [8]	SCREEN [11]	19	S
32	DOUBLE [3]	TEAM [2]	5	E
92	TRICK [11]	ROOM [4]	15	O
86	GRASS [2]	KNOT [21]	23	W
9	BULLET [8]	SEED [6]	14	N
91	FLASH [3]	CANNON [5]	8	H
11	SUNNY [7]	DAY [7]	14	N
84	POISON [10]	JAB [1]	11	K
48	SKILL [15]	SWAP [8]	23	W

23	IRON [10]	TAIL [10]	20	T
38	FIRE [0]	BLAST [5]	5	E
82	SLEEP [9]	TALK [1]	10	J
47	STEEL [3]	WING [1]	4	D
40	AERIAL [1]	ACE [0]	1	A
4	CALM [2]	MIND [1]	3	C
83	NATURAL [0]	GIFT [1]	1	A
71	STONE [3]	EDGE [5]	8	H
54	FALSE [1]	SWIPE [8]	9	I
62	SILVER [17]	WIND [3]	20	T
85	DREAM [1]	EATER [4]	5	E
31	BRICK [1]	BREAK [7]	8	H
36	SLUDGE [8]	BOMB [4]	12	L

Sorting by TM number yields the following:

TM No.	First word	Second word	Number sum	Letter
4	CALM [2]	MIND [1]	3	C
9	BULLET [8]	SEED [6]	14	N
11	SUNNY [7]	DAY [7]	14	N
16	LIGHT [8]	SCREEN [6]	19	S
23	IRON [10]	TAIL [10]	20	T
31	BRICK [1]	BREAK [7]	8	H
32	DOUBLE [3]	TEAM [2]	5	E
36	SLUDGE [8]	BOMB [4]	12	L
38	FIRE [0]	BLAST [5]	5	E
40	AERIAL [1]	ACE [0]	1	A
47	STEEL [3]	WING [1]	4	D
48	SKILL [15]	SWAP [8]	23	W

54	FALSE [1]	SWIPE [8]	9	I
62	SILVER [17]	WIND [3]	20	T
71	STONE [3]	EDGE [5]	8	H
82	SLEEP [9]	TALK [1]	10	J
83	NATURAL [0]	GIFT [1]	1	A
84	POISON [10]	JAB [1]	11	K
85	DREAM [1]	EATER [4]	5	E
86	GRASS [2]	KNOT [21]	23	W
91	FLASH [3]	CANNON [5]	8	H
92	TRICK [11]	ROOM [4]	15	O

This gives the phrase CNN'S THE LEAD WITH JAKE WHO, cluing **TAPPER**, which is the answer.