Story & Art by

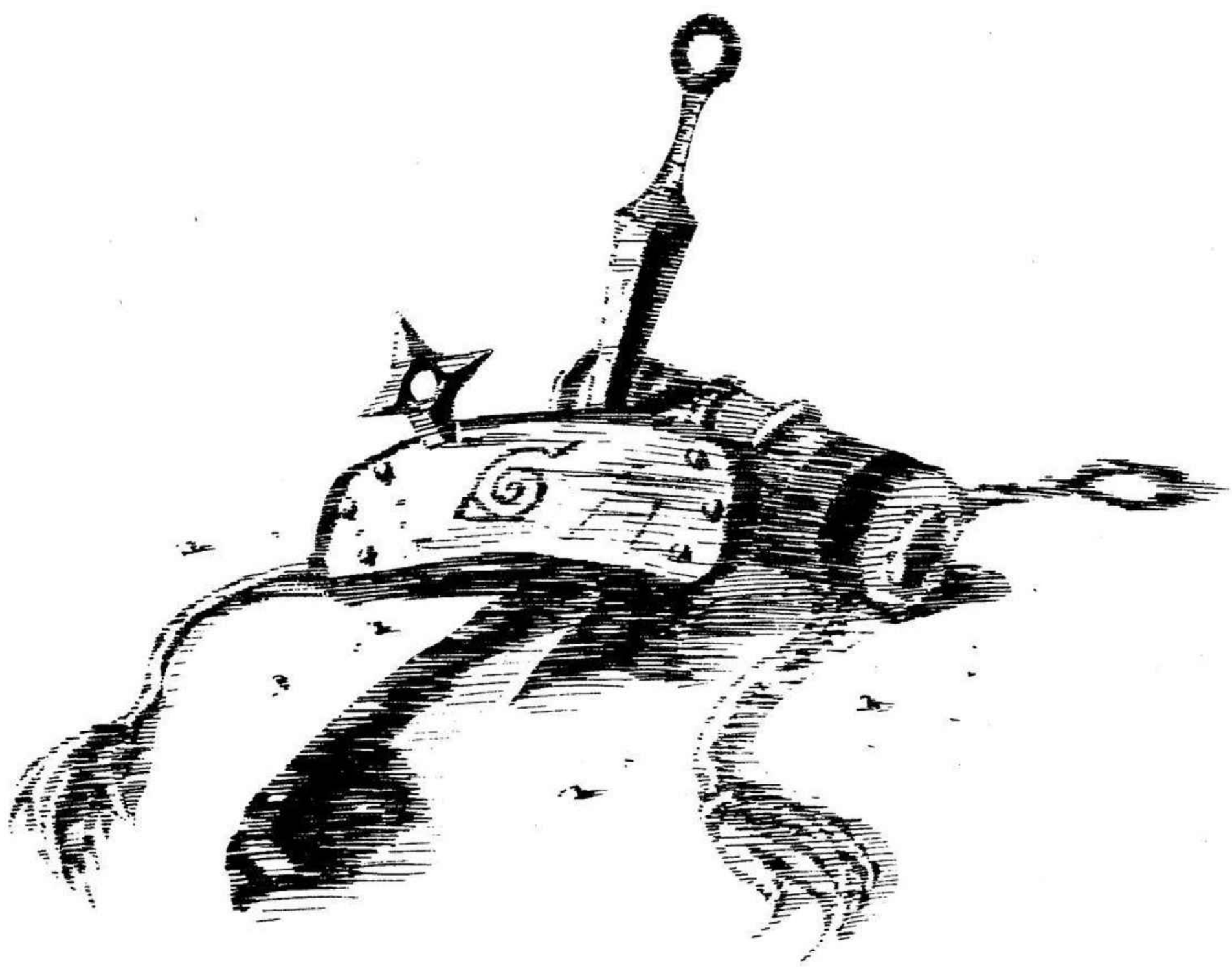
Masashi Kishimoto volume

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

NARUTO

VOL. 1

THE TESTS OF THE NINJA



STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

NARUTO

VOL. 1

THE TESTS OF THE NINJA

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ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE LIVED A FOX SPIRIT WITH NINE TAILS. AND HE WAS SO POWERFUL THAT WHENEVER HE SHOOK THOSE TAILS, LANDSLIDES AND TSUNAMIS WOULD RESULT.

THE SUFFERING PEOPLE GATHERED THE GREAT SHINOBI CLANS TO FIGHT THIS MENACE. FINALLY, RISKING HIS LIFE, ONE NINJA WAS ABLE TO IMPRISON ITS SOUL..

HAVING DEFEATED THE DEMON, THE BRAVE SHINOBI DIED.

THAT SHINOBI WAS THE FOURTH HOKAGE, THE FIRE SHADOW, CHAMPION OF THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES...

1: Uzumaki Naruto!

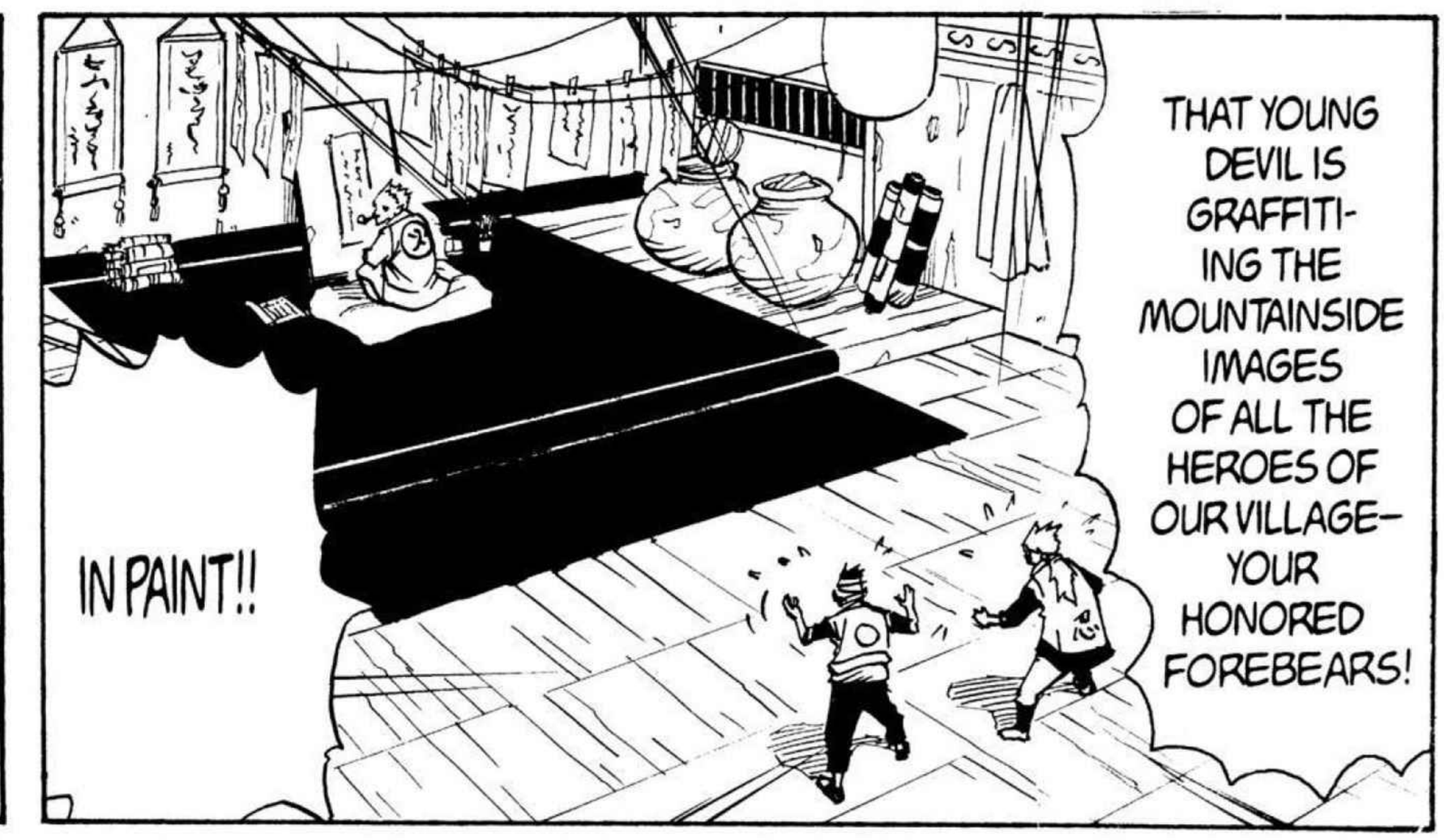
NARUTO

火

HA HA HA HA HA!

YES? WHAT IS IT? SOME NEW OUTRAGE BY NARUTO, I PRESUME?
LORD HOKAGE!!!

FLUMP
HMF.


IN PAINT!!
THAT YOUNG DEVIL IS GRAFFITI-ING THE MOUNTAINSIDE IMAGES OF ALL THE HEROES OF OUR VILLAGE— YOUR HONORED FOREBEARS!

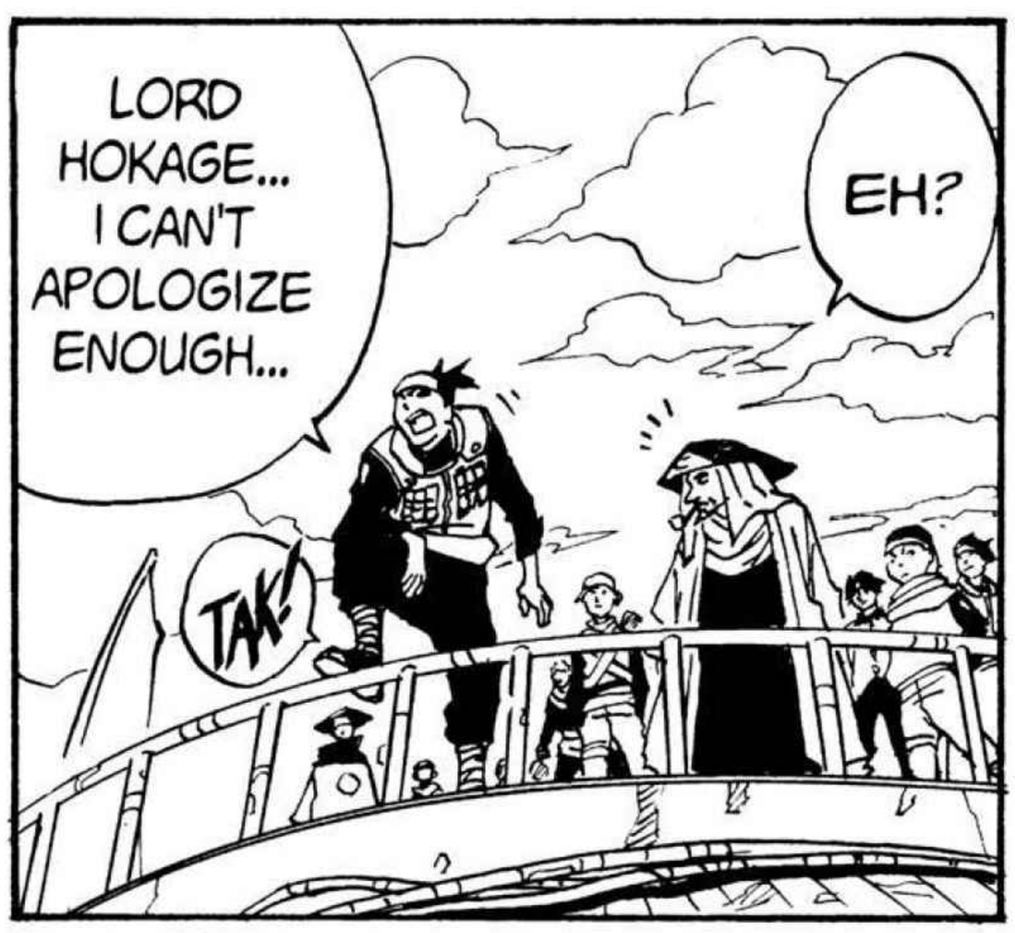
SWISH
SWISH
LOOK AT 'IM...
YOU ARE DEAD WHEN THEY CATCH YOU! YOU KNOW THAT?
WE'RE SICK OF IT! GROW THE HECK UP!
ENOUGH WITH THE STUPID PRANKS!

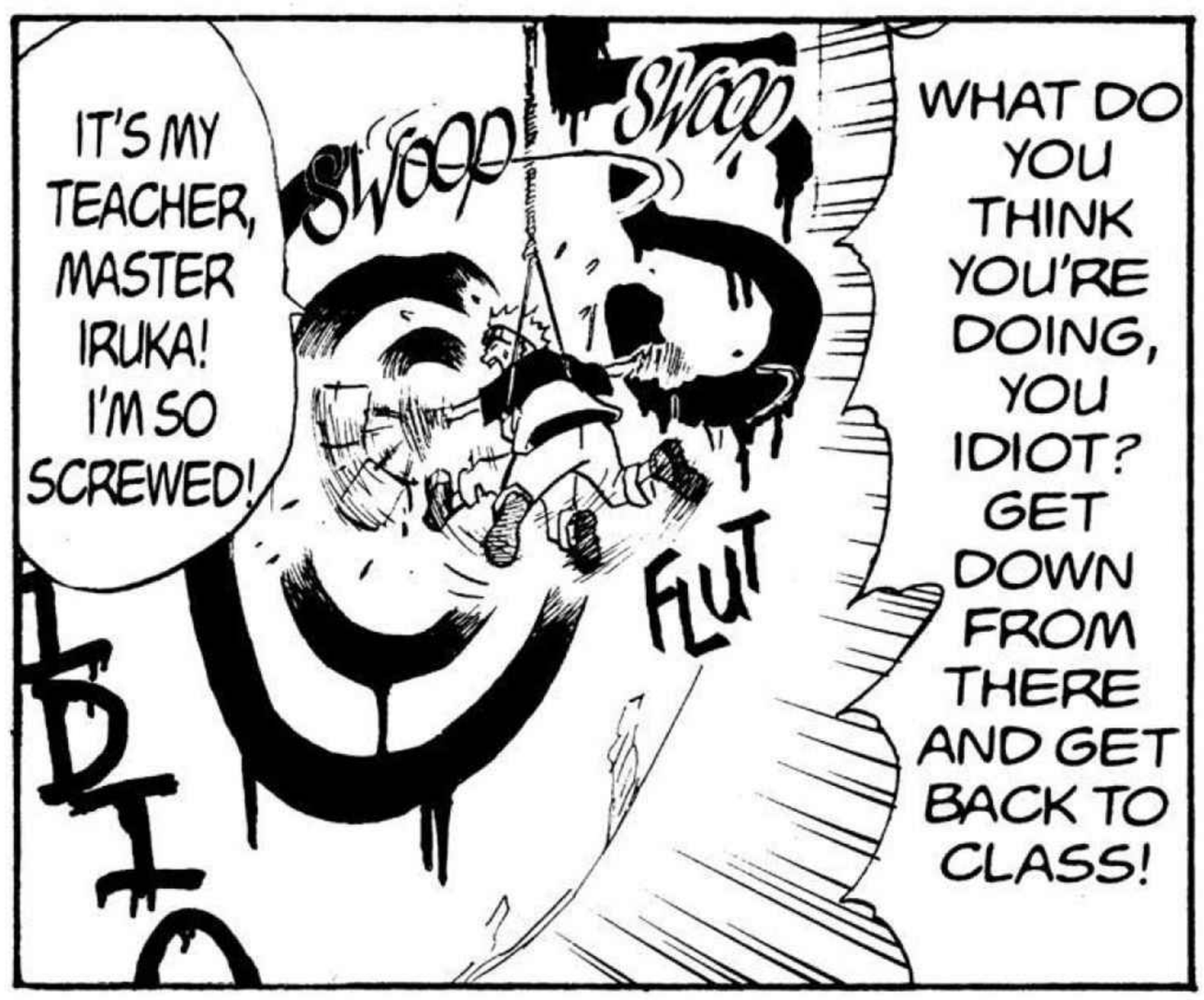
SWOOD

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DO SOMETHING THIS LOW!

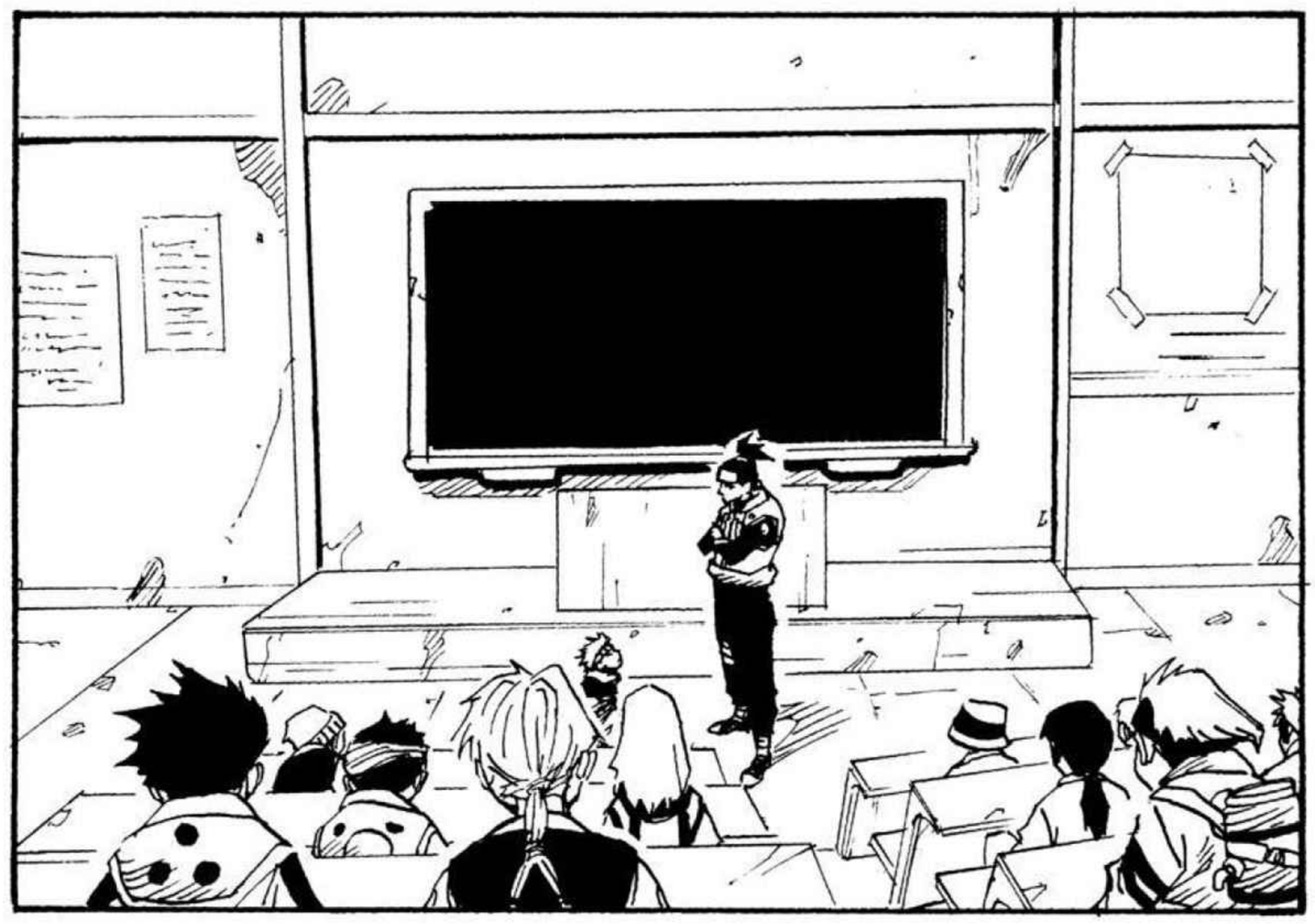
LOOOOSERS!! WANNA-BE'S!

I RULE, AND YOU DROOL!

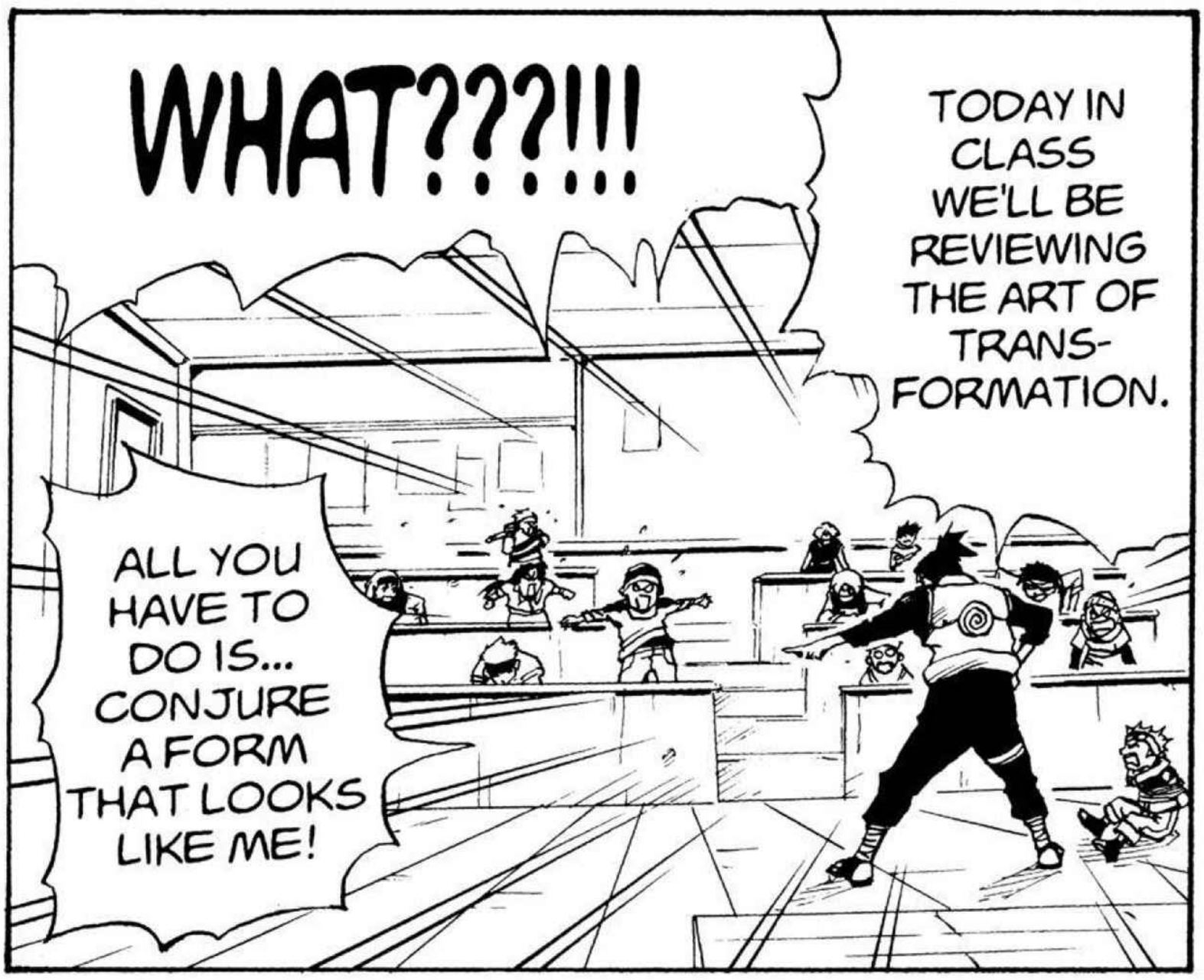




KKKK
HRRN



SO YOU CHOSE NOW FOR YOUR STUPID TRICKS? YOU MORON!
TOMORROW ALL YOUR CLASSMATES WILL PASS THE FINAL AND GRADUATE FROM THE NINJA ACADEMY, BUT THE LAST TWO TIMES THIS DAY CAME AROUND, YOU FLUNKED EVERY COURSE YOU'D TAKEN IN THE SECRET ARTS.


WHAT???!!!
TODAY IN CLASS WE'LL BE REVIEWING THE ART OF TRANS-FORMATION.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS... CONJURE A FORM THAT LOOKS LIKE ME!

SIR, YES, SIR!

RRRR

RIGHT. WELL DONE.
ONG / SEE YA!
NEXT UP, UZUMAKI.

ONG!

CHANGE!!!
ONNNNG

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!

THIS SUCKS!

BUT, HERE GOES NOTHING...
PO

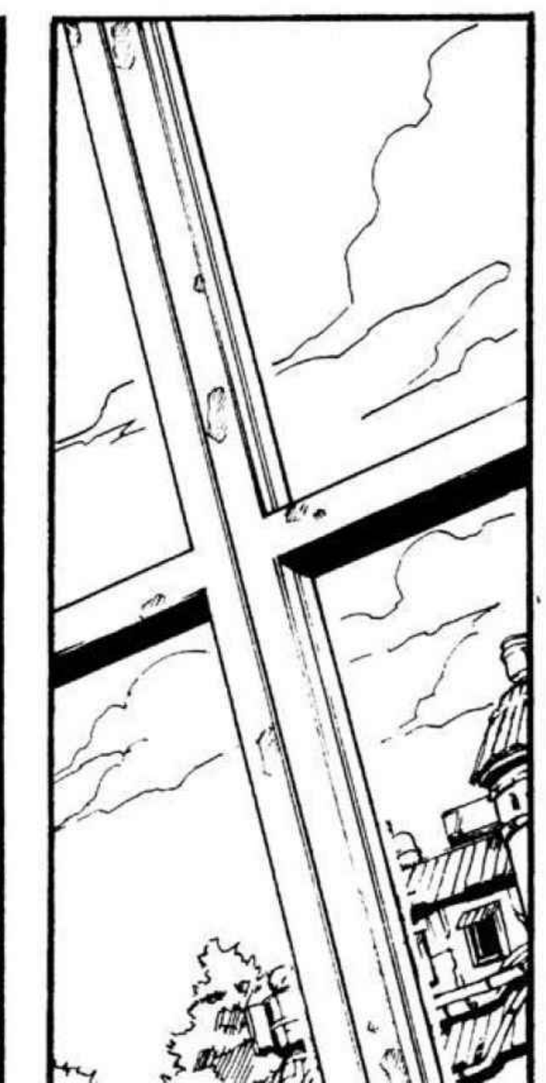
READ THIS WAY

GAAAH!!

I CALL THIS ONE THE NINJA CENTER-FOLD!
ONG!
HA HA HA HA!!

ONNG
MMWA
gigggle

YOU WASTE ALL OF YOUR TIME AND TALENT INVENTING THESE STUPID TRICKS!!
PPP!
HOW BIG A FOOL ARE YOU?



CRAP.

DOUBLE CRAP.

HAH!

SKUF SKUF

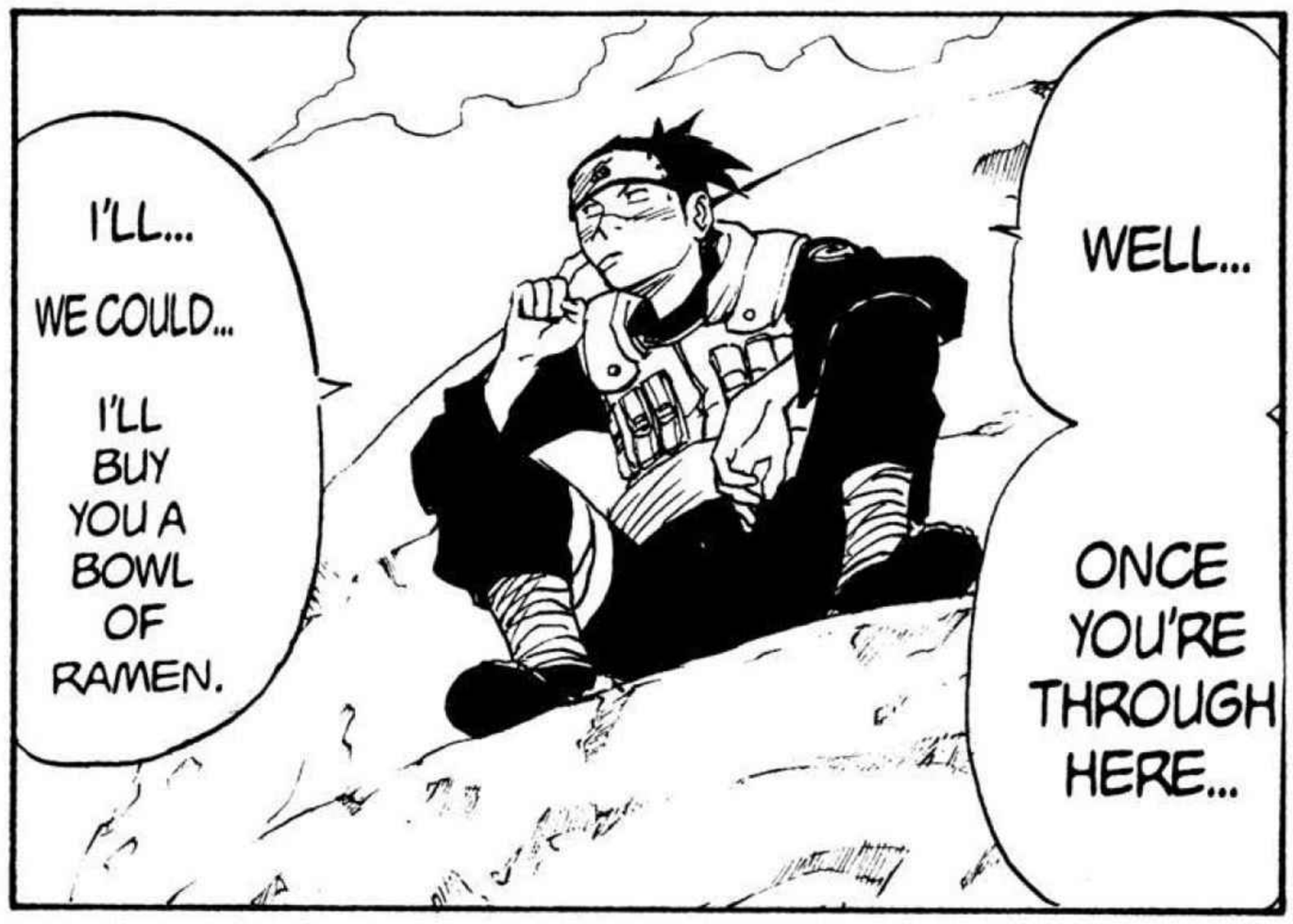
YOU DON'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL EVERY DROP OF PAINT IS GONE!

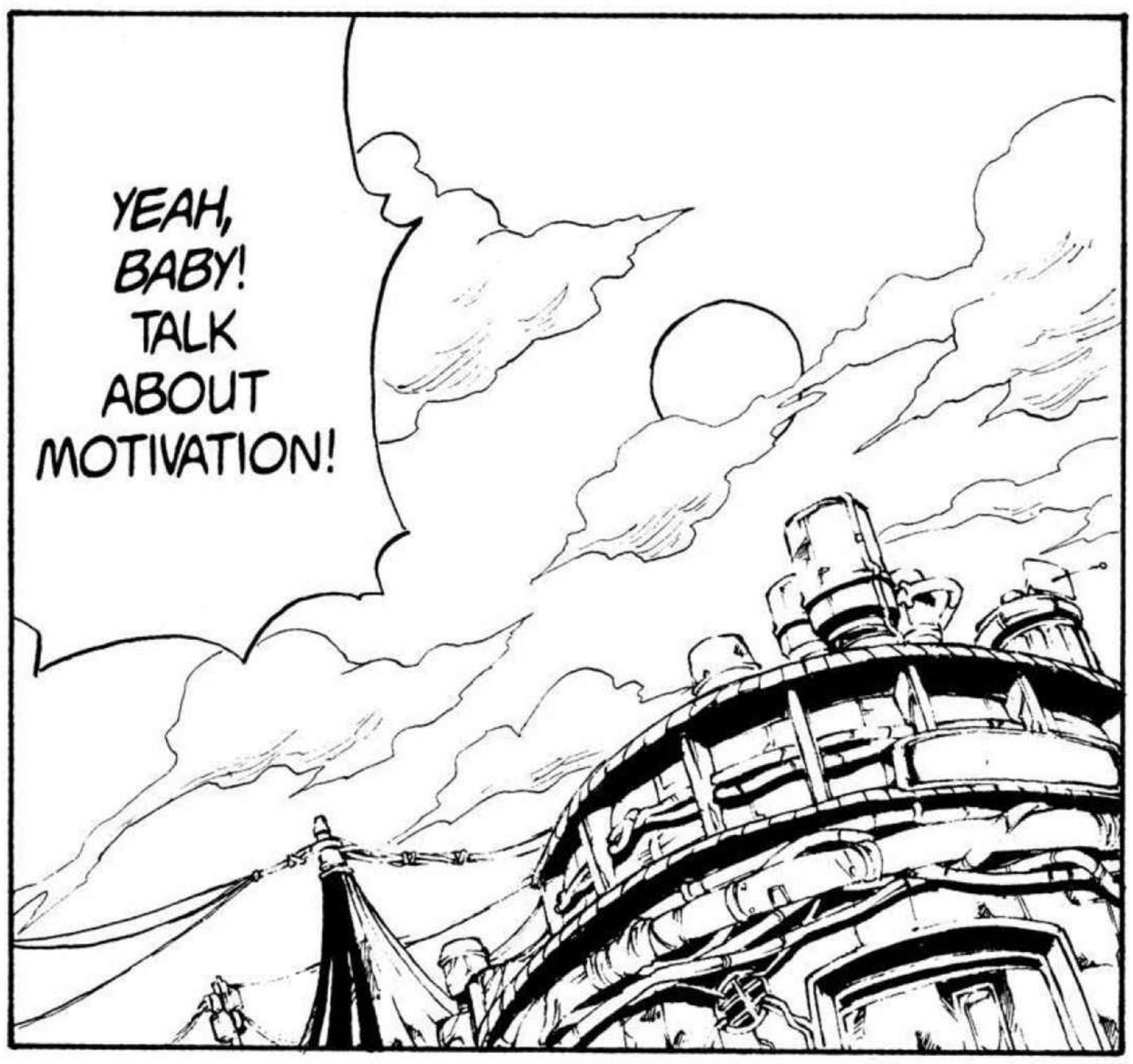
SO? IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYONE WAITING AT HOME FOR ME.

NARUTO...

Hff Hff

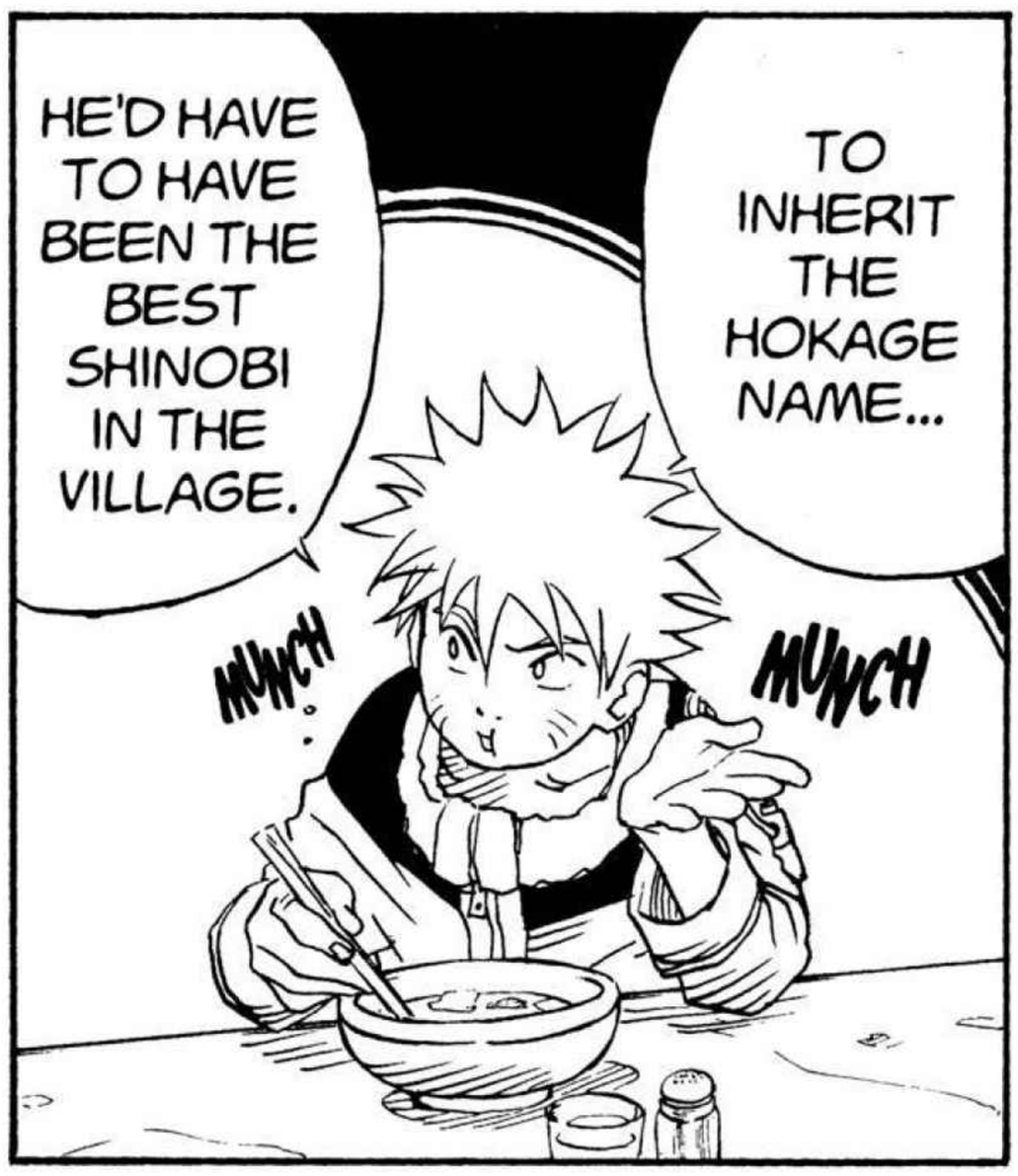
NOW WHAT?

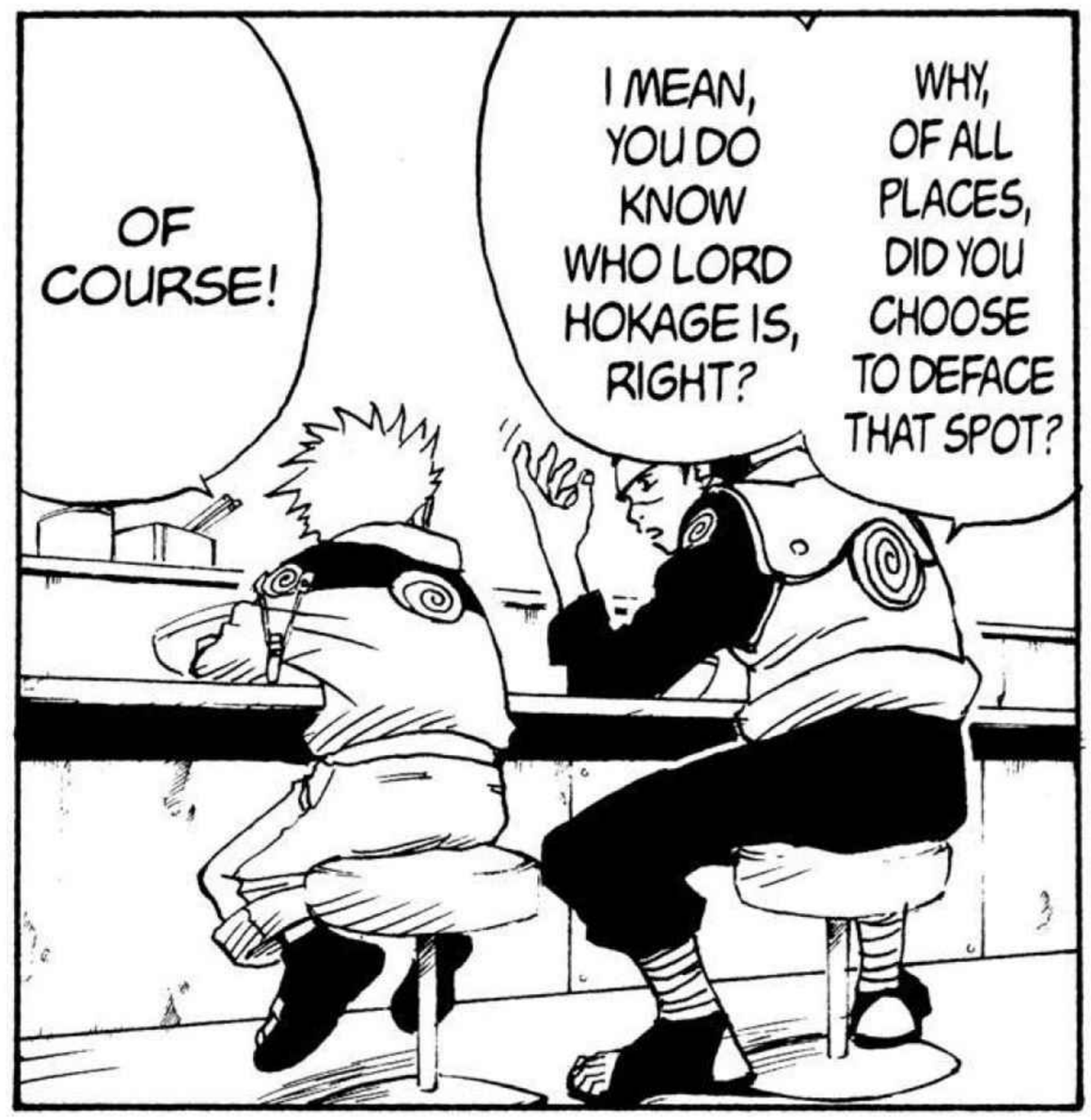

WELL...
ONCE YOU'RE THROUGH HERE...
I'LL... WE COULD... I'LL BUY YOU A BOWL OF RAMEN.

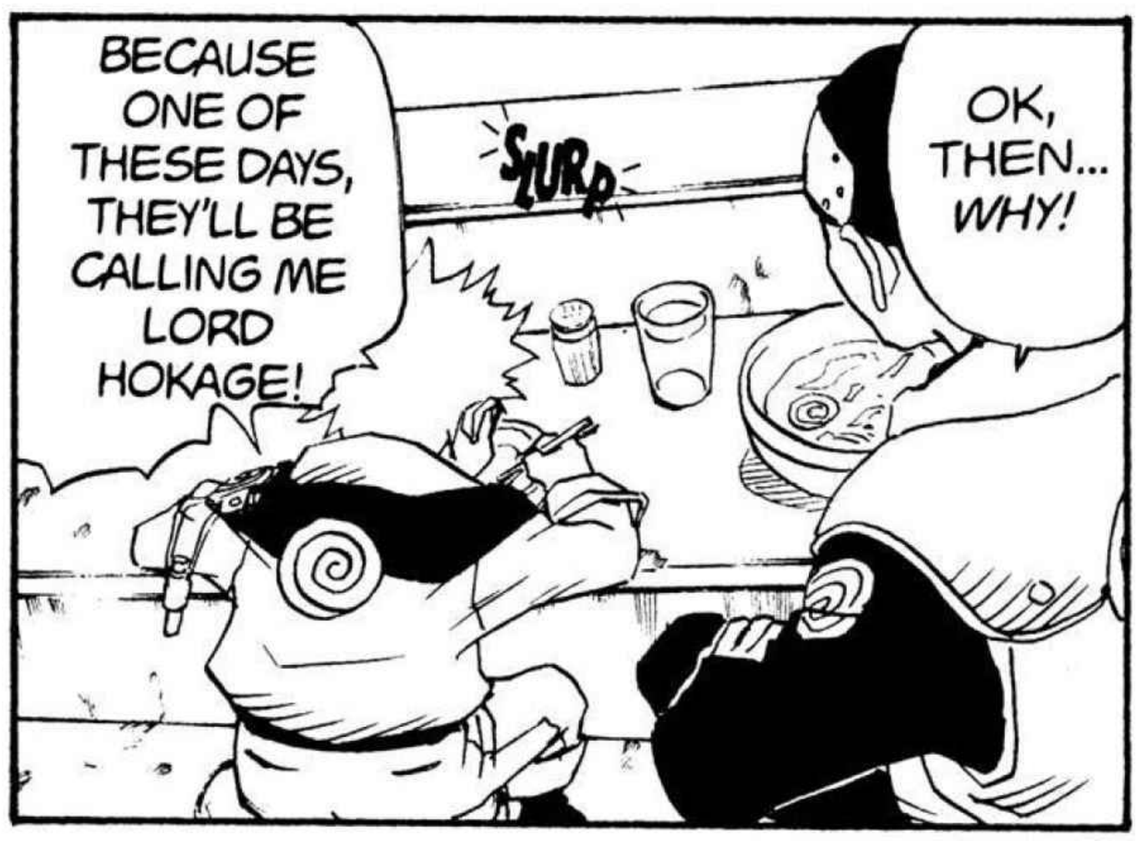

YEAH, BABY! TALK ABOUT MOTIVATION!

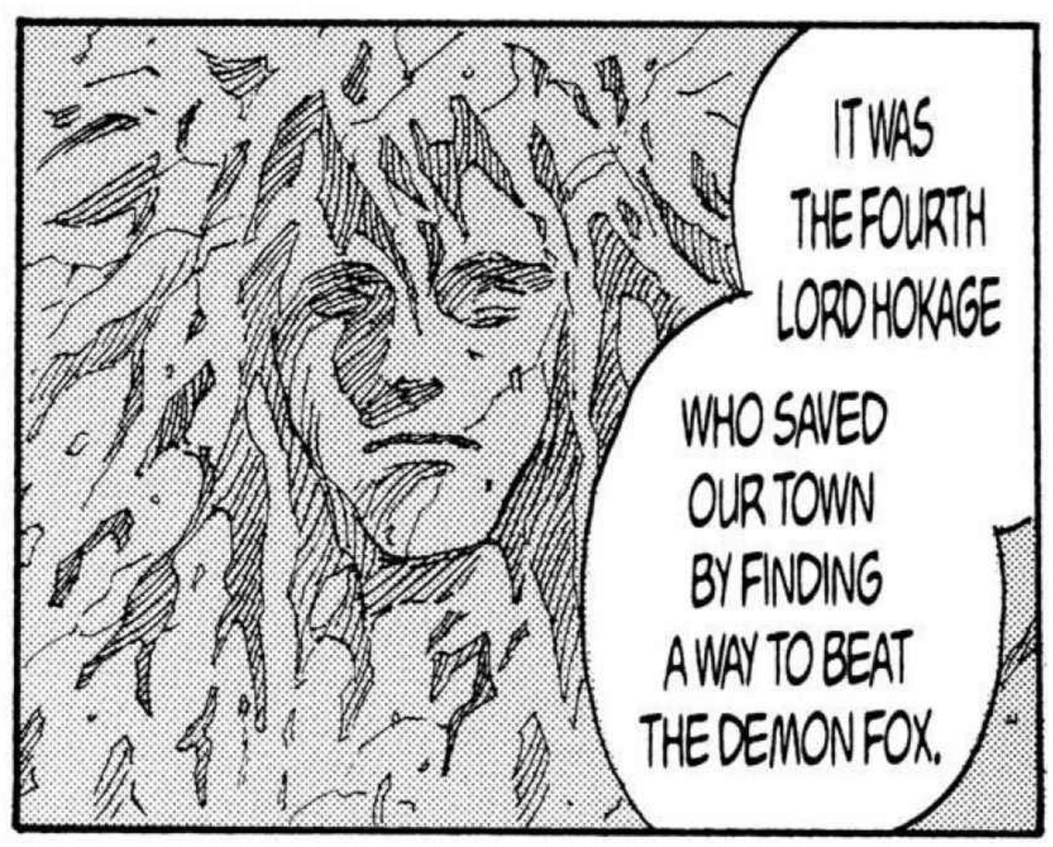
HMMMM?
SLUURRP

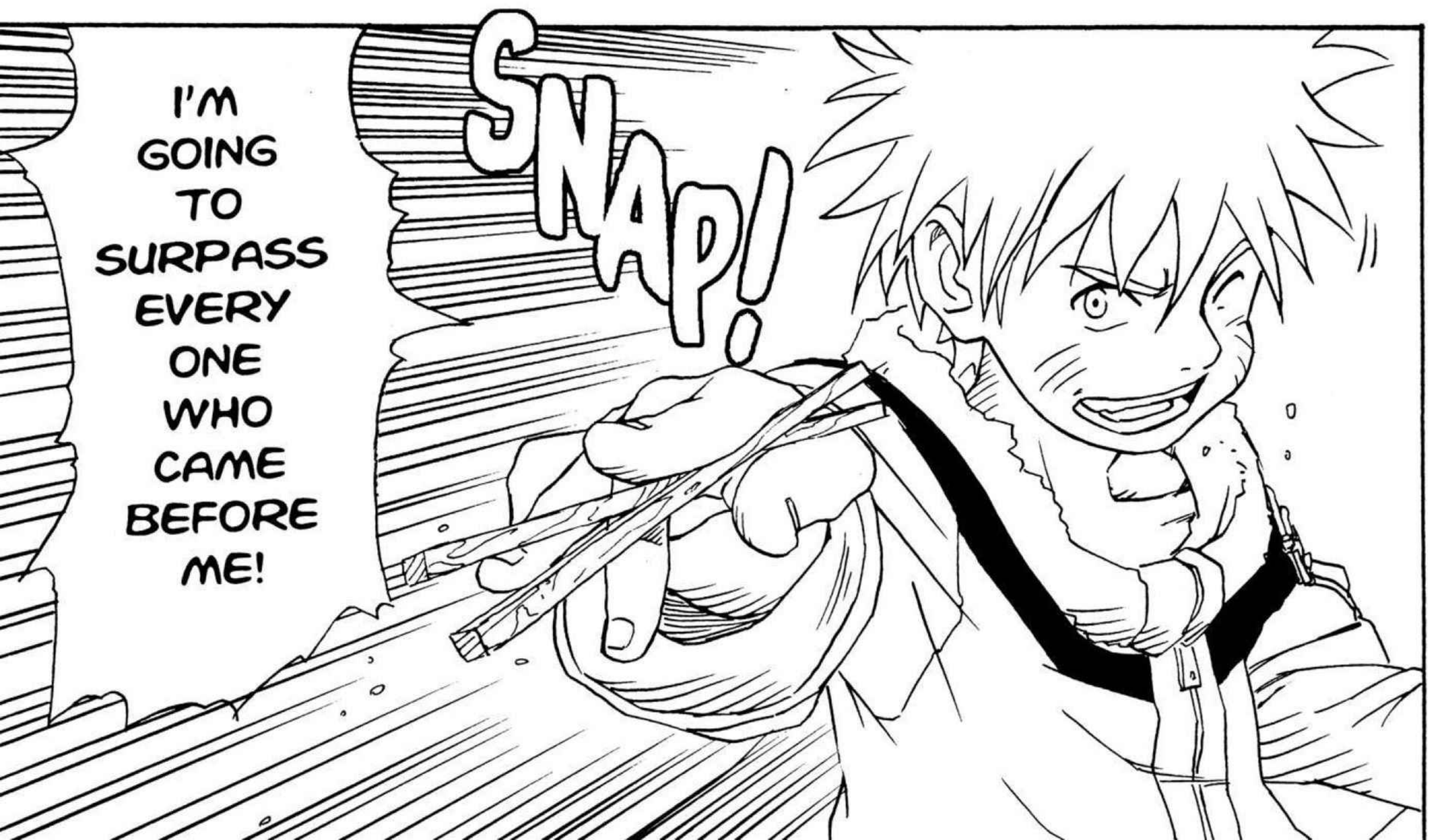
酒酒酒
一楽
ラーメン
NARUTO...


HE'D HAVE TO HAVE BEEN THE BEST SHINOBI IN THE VILLAGE.
TO INHERIT THE HOKAGE NAME...
MUNCH
MUNCH


OF COURSE!
I MEAN, YOU DO KNOW WHO LORD HOKAGE IS, RIGHT?
WHY, OF ALL PLACES, DID YOU CHOOSE TO DEFACE THAT SPOT?

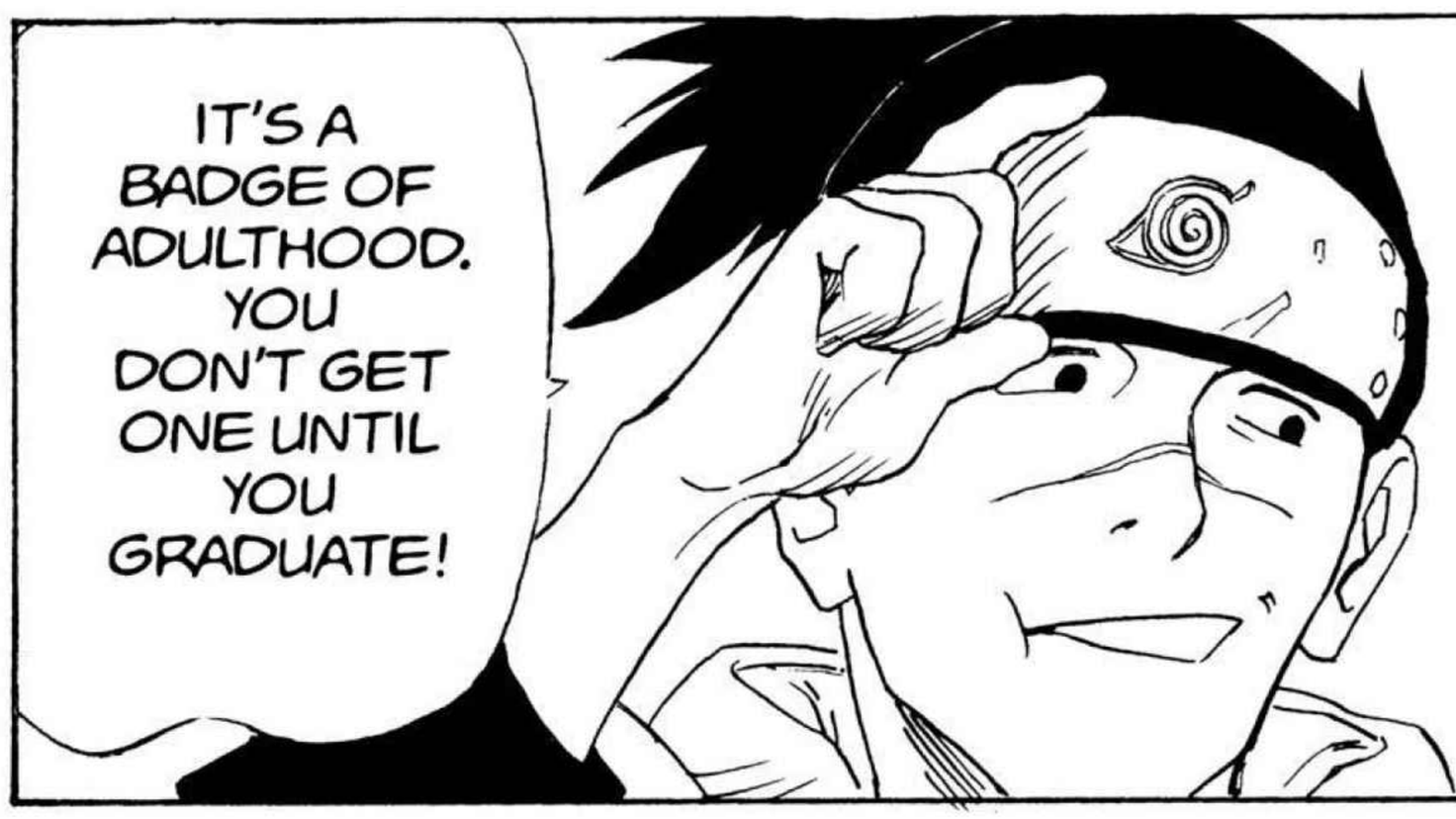

BECAUSE ONE OF THESE DAYS, THEY'LL BE CALLING ME LORD HOKAGE!
SLURP
OK, THEN... WHY!


IT WAS THE FOURTH LORD HOKAGE WHO SAVED OUR TOWN BY FINDING A WAY TO BEAT THE DEMON FOX.

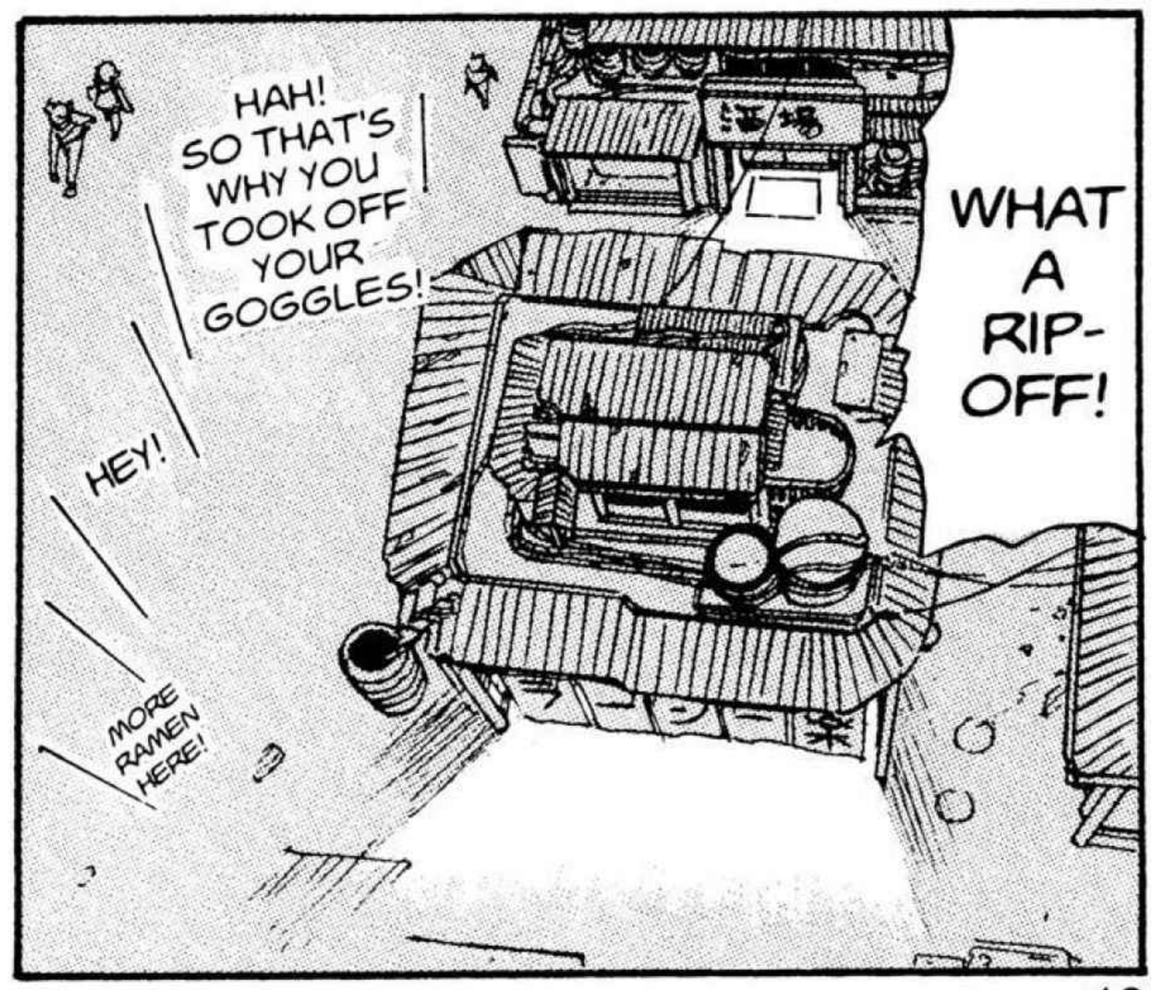

I'M GOING TO SURPASS EVERY ONE WHO CAME BEFORE ME!
SNAP!

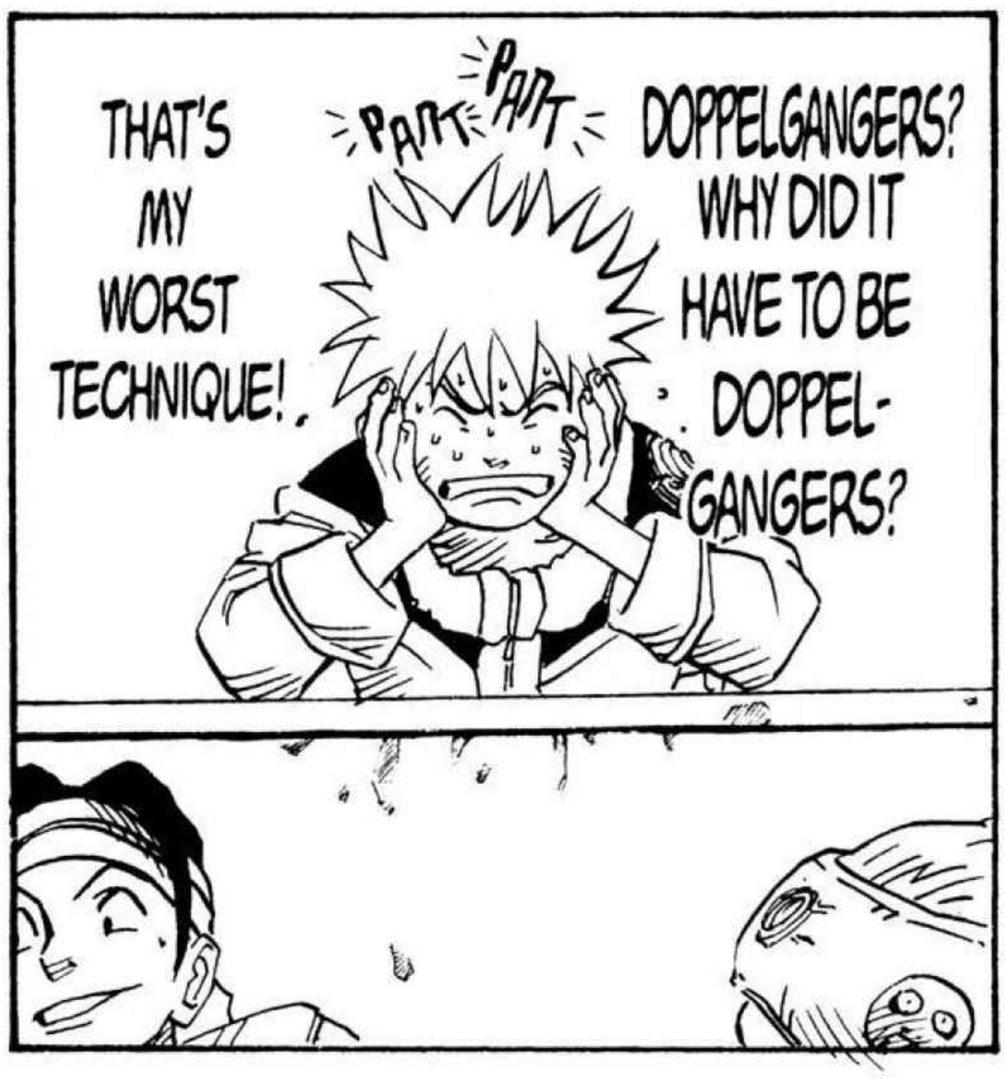
ANOTHER BOWL OF RAMEN?
.....BY THE WAY ....MASTER, I NEED A FAVOR...
UHHH... YOUR HEADBAND. THAT LEAF YOU'RE WEARING... PRETTY PLEASE?! ♡

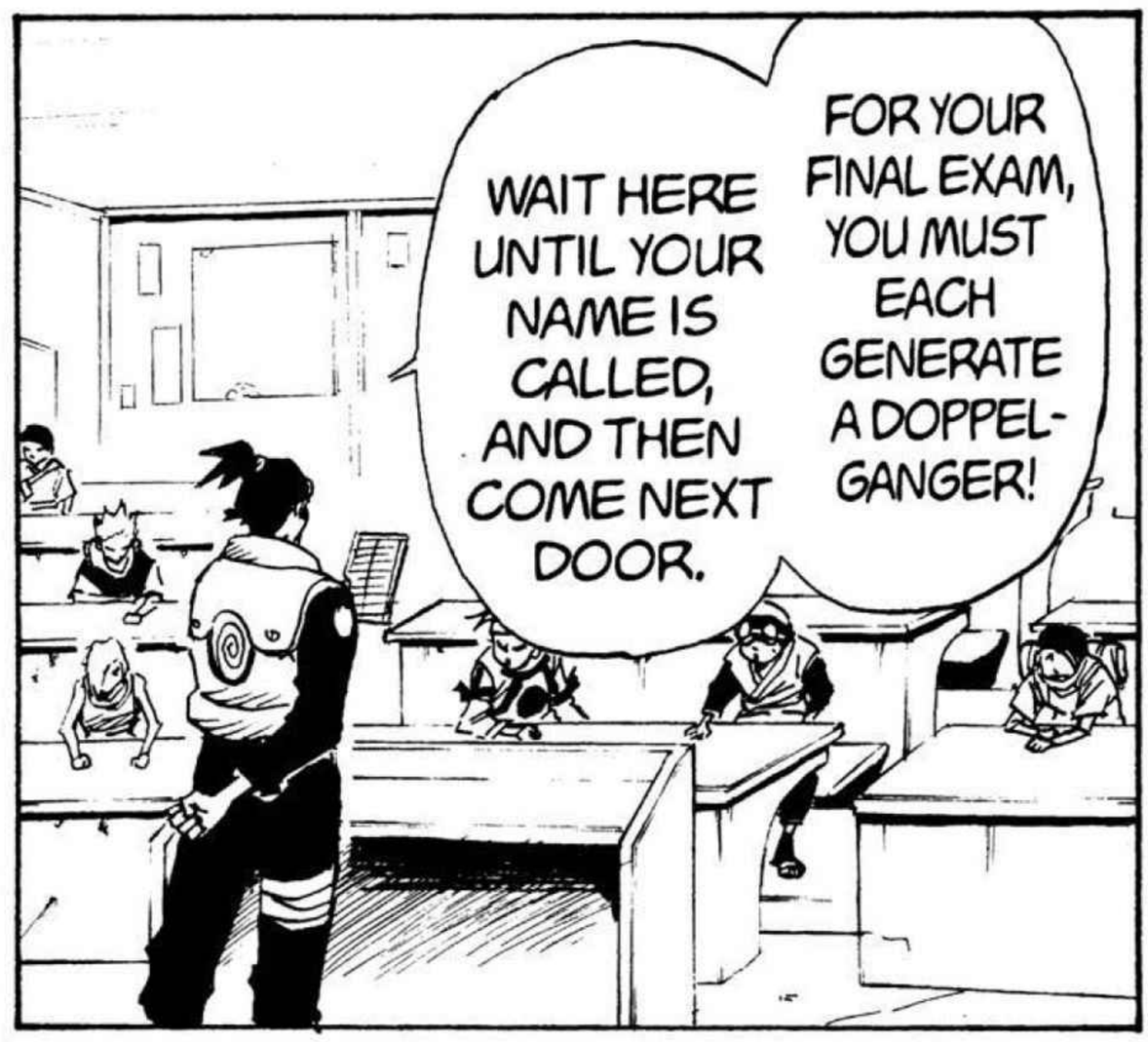
AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, EVERYONE IN TOWN WILL HAVE TO GIVE ME SOME RESPECT AT LAST!

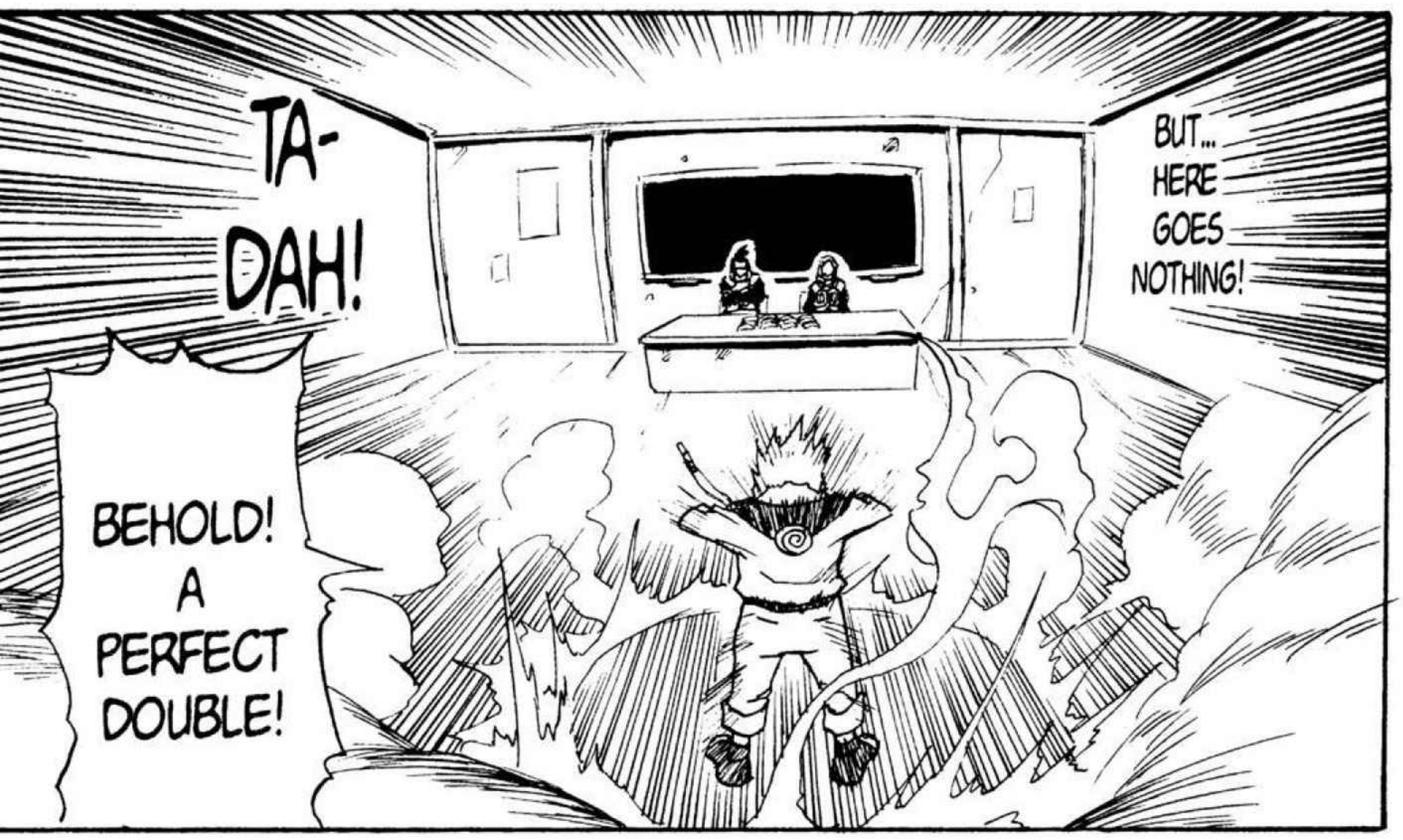

IT'S A BADGE OF ADULTHOOD. YOU DON'T GET ONE UNTIL YOU GRADUATE!
MY... THIS? NO. NOT YET. NO WAY.

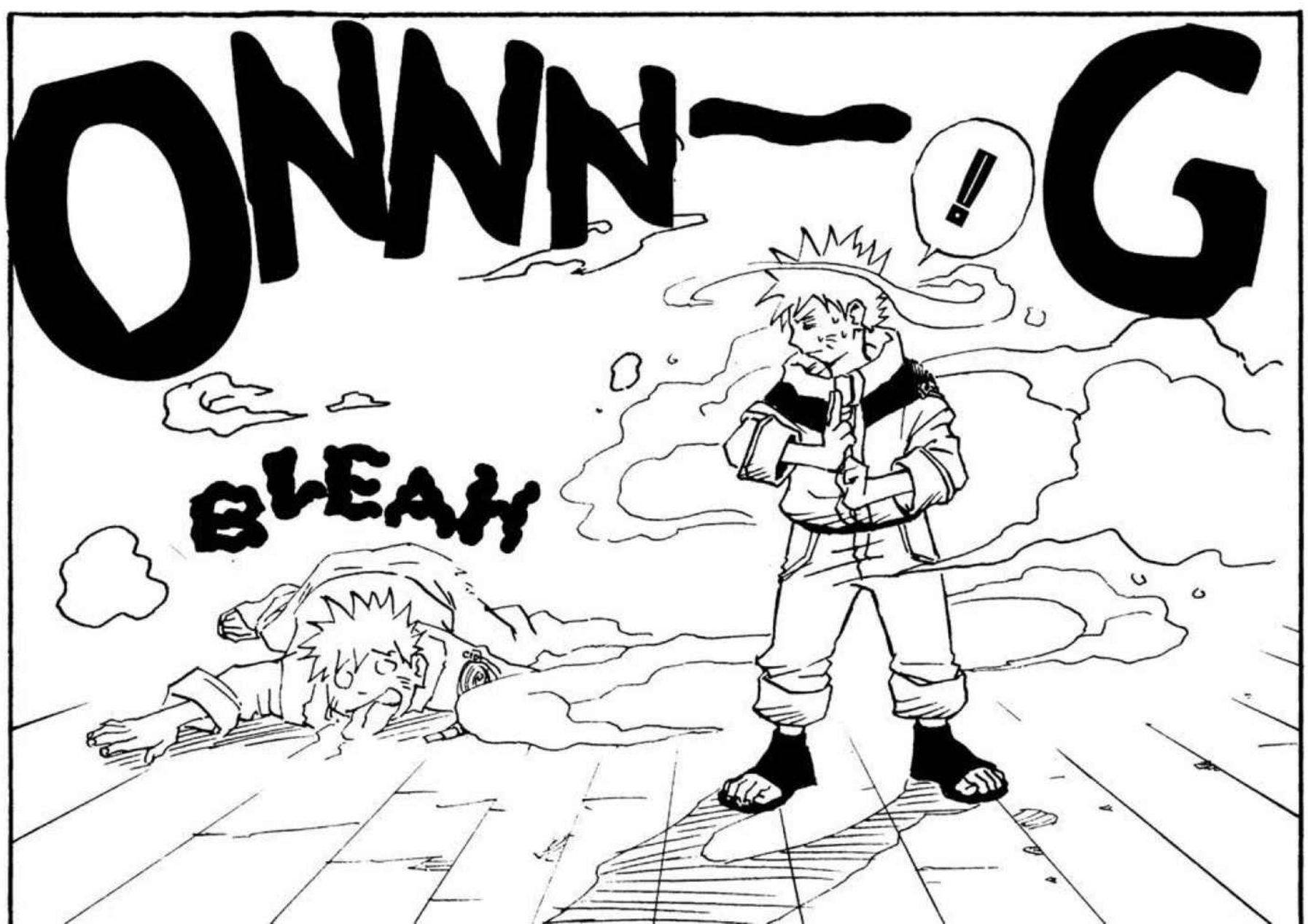
lub-DUB lub-DUB


HAH! SO THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK OFF YOUR GOGGLES!
WHAT A RIP-OFF!
HEY!
MORE RAMEN HERE!


THAT'S MY WORST TECHNIQUE!
PAFF PAFF
DOPPELGANGERS? WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE DOPPEL-GANGERS?

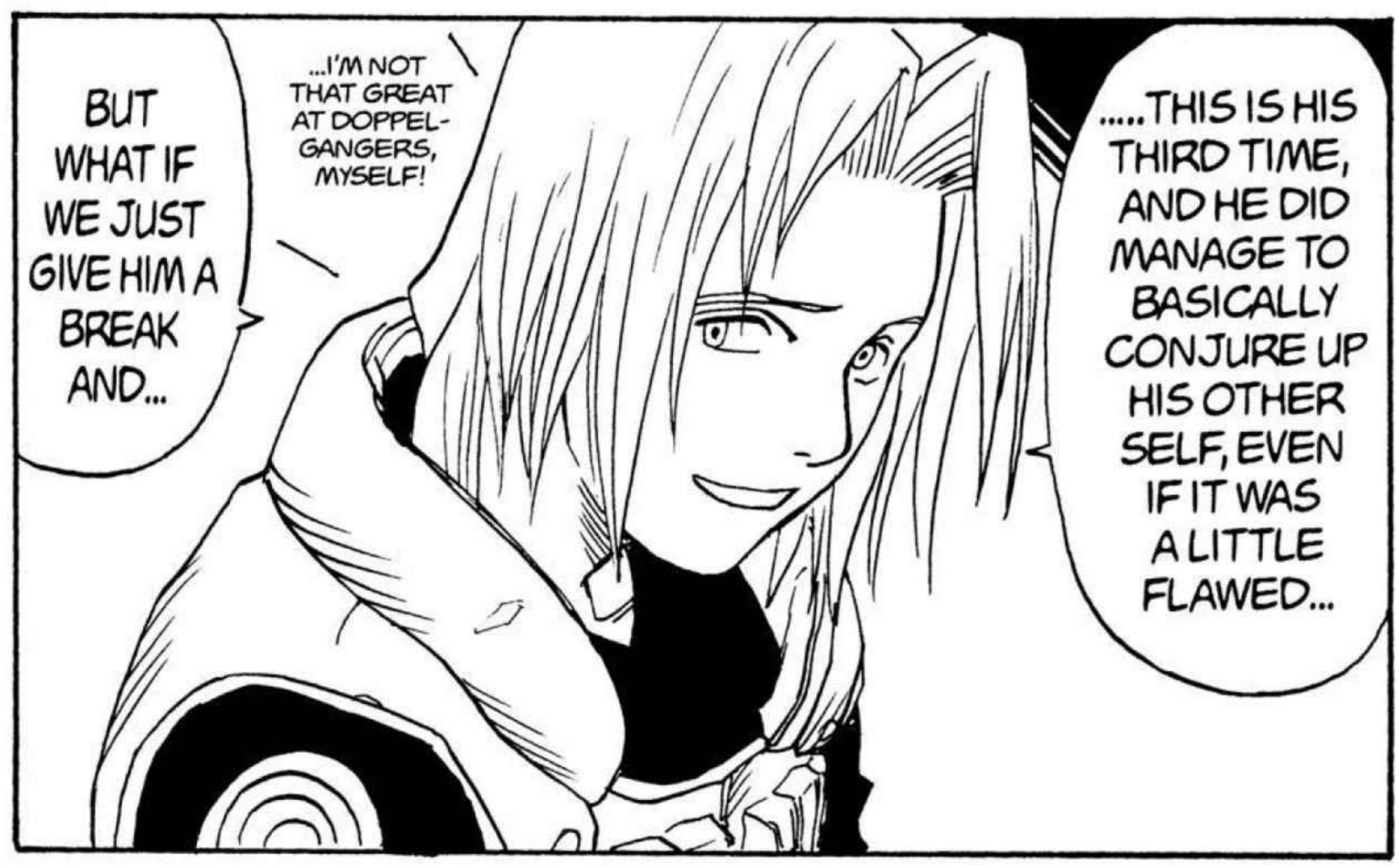

WAIT HERE UNTIL YOUR NAME IS CALLED, AND THEN COME NEXT DOOR.
FOR YOUR FINAL EXAM, YOU MUST EACH GENERATE A DOPPEL-GANGER!

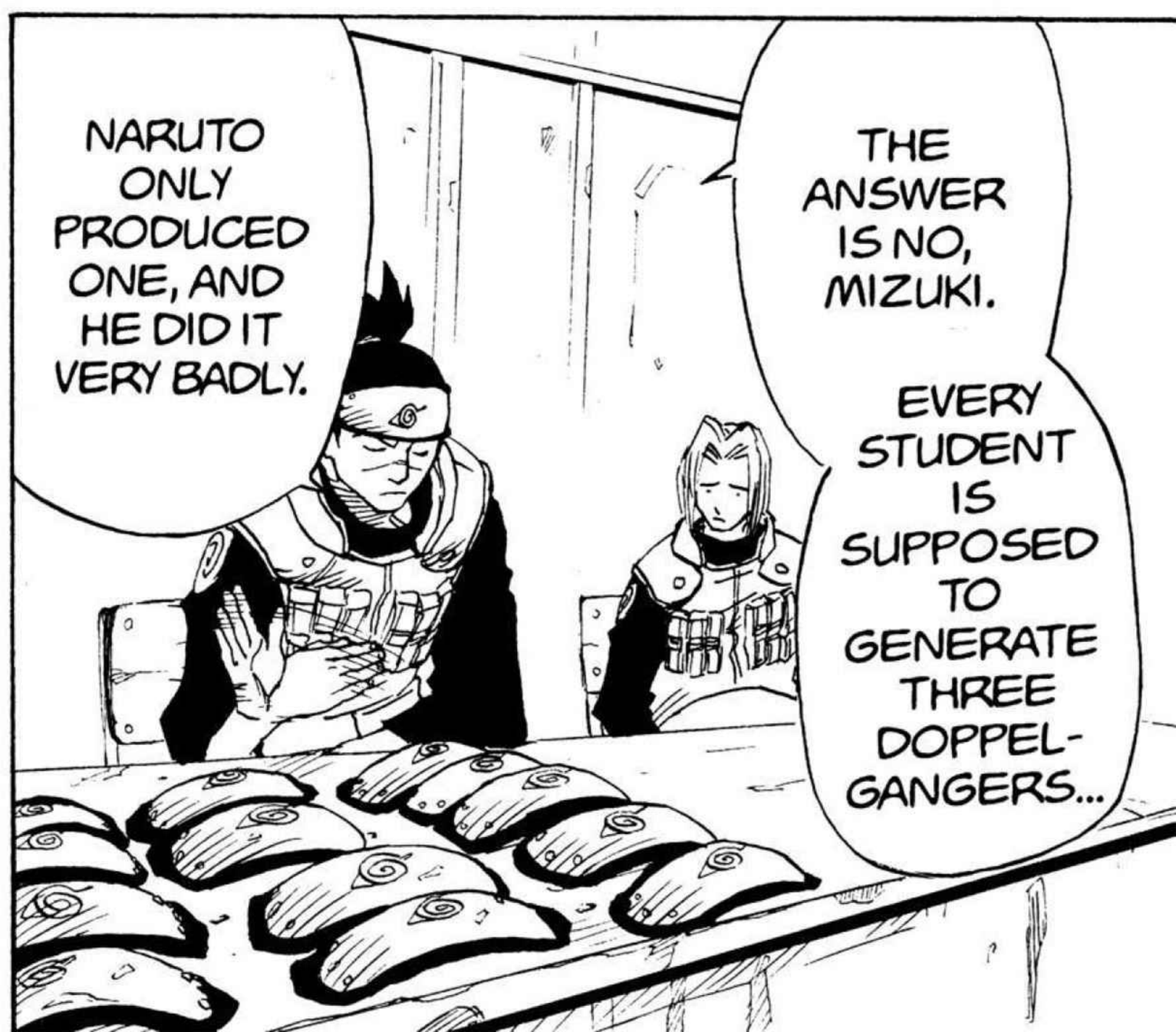

TA-DAH!
BEHOLD! A PERFECT DOUBLE!
BUT... HERE GOES NOTHING!

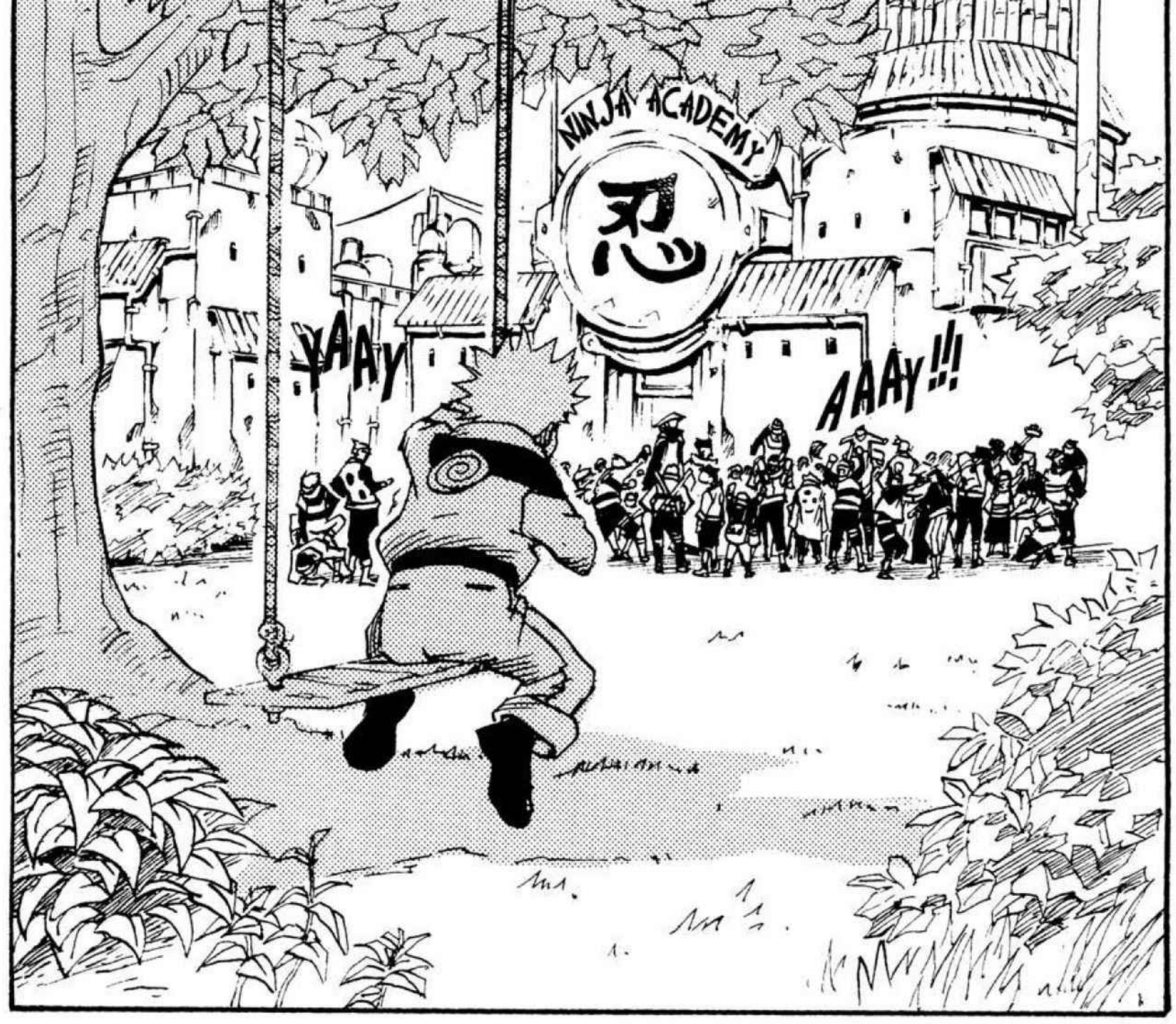

ONNN-G
!
BLEAH

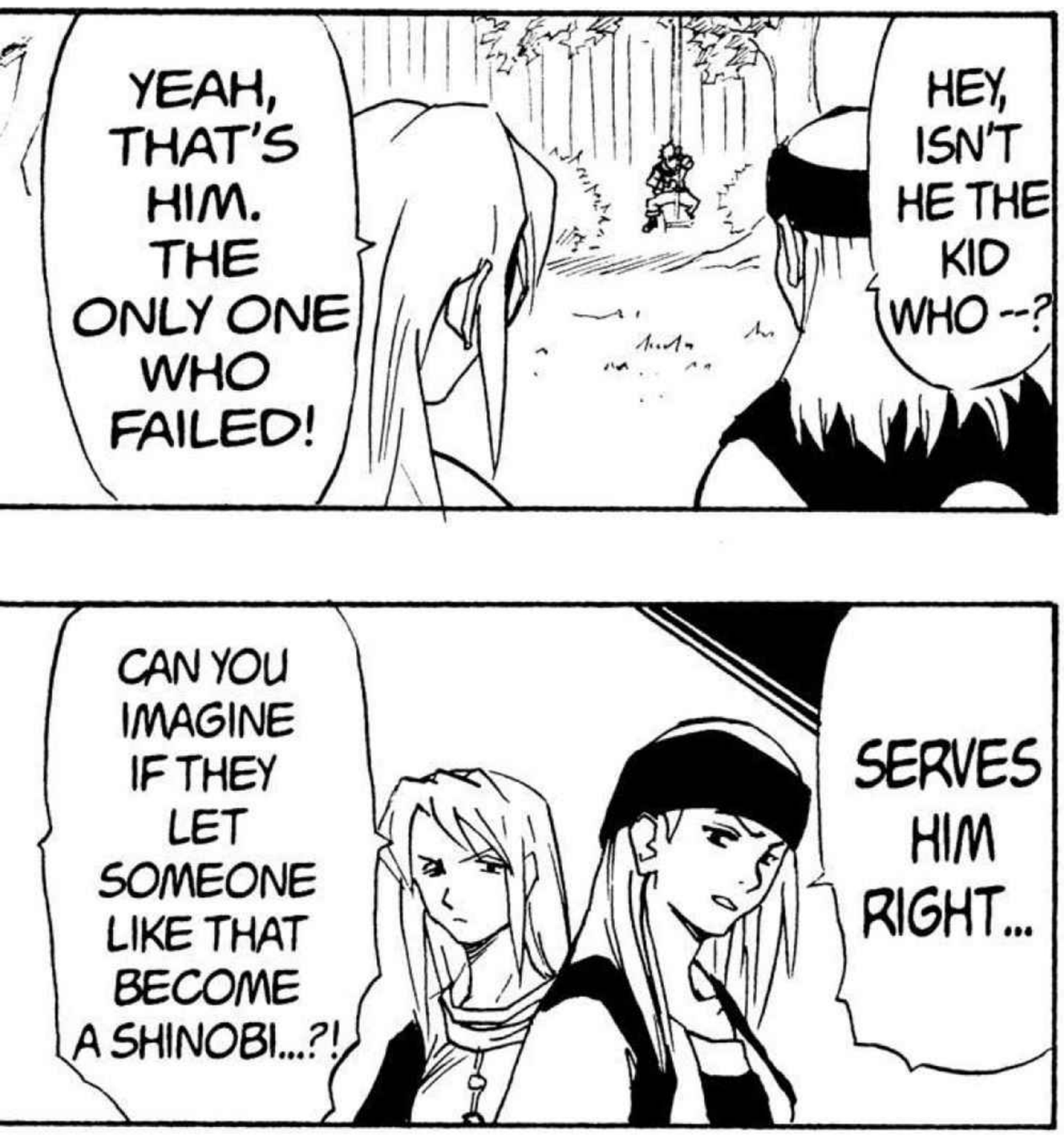
MASTER IRUKA...

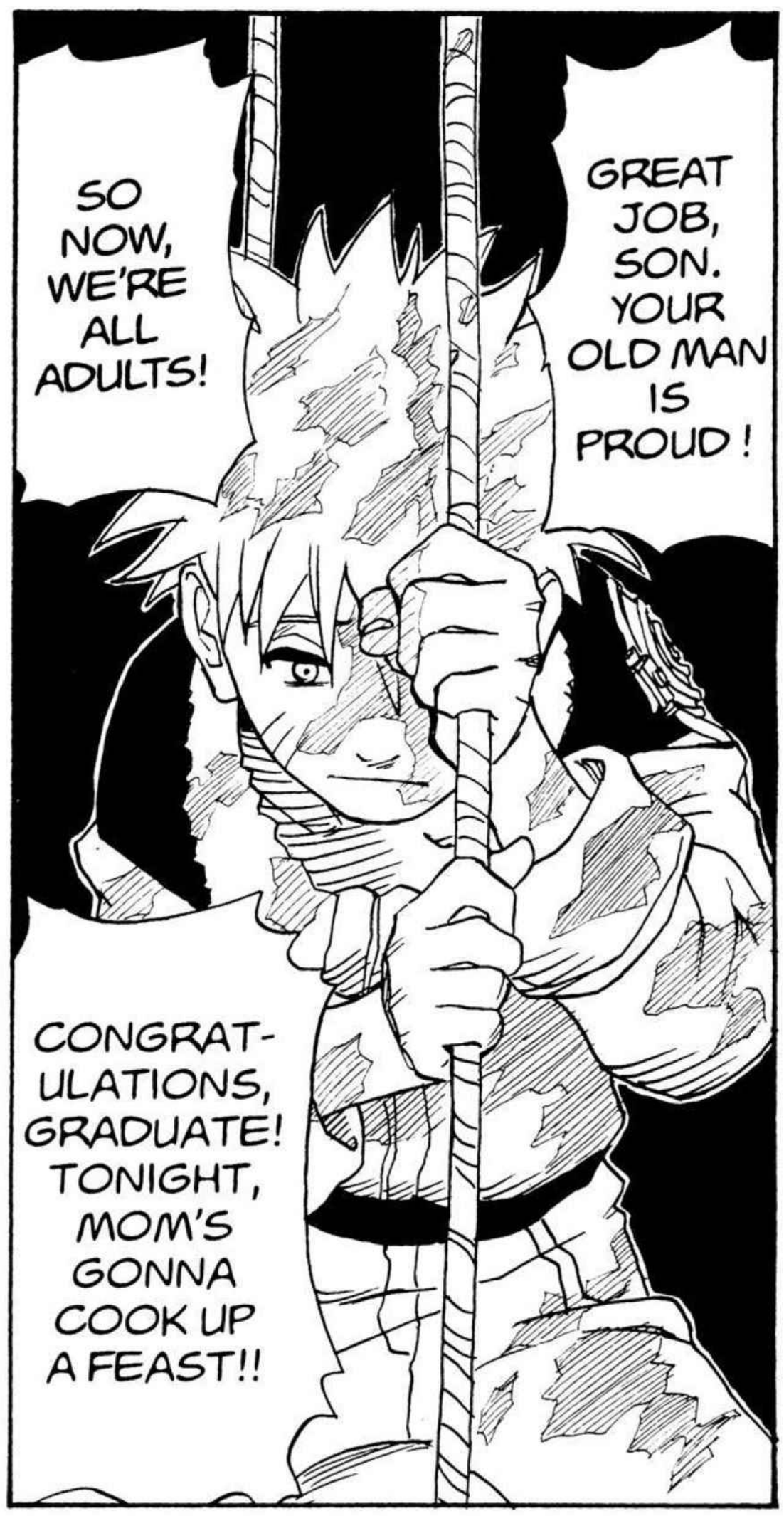
YOU FAIL!!!

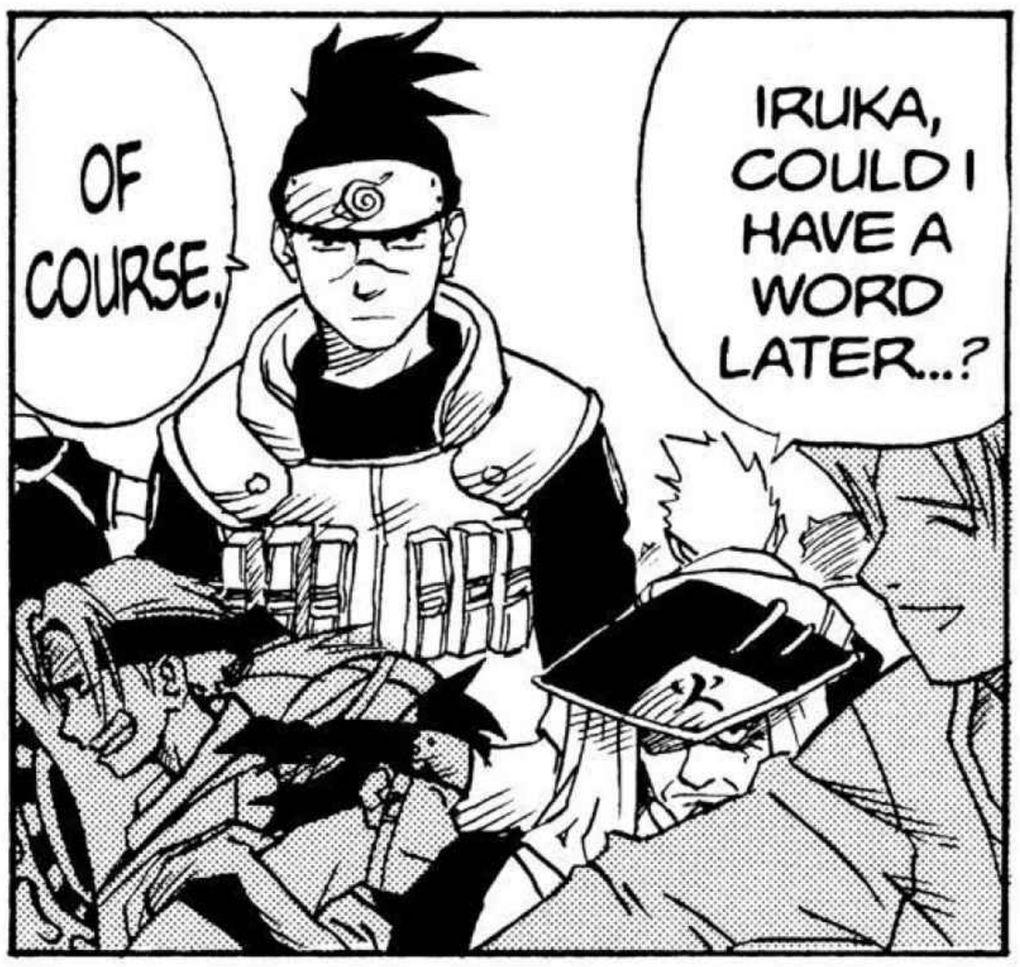


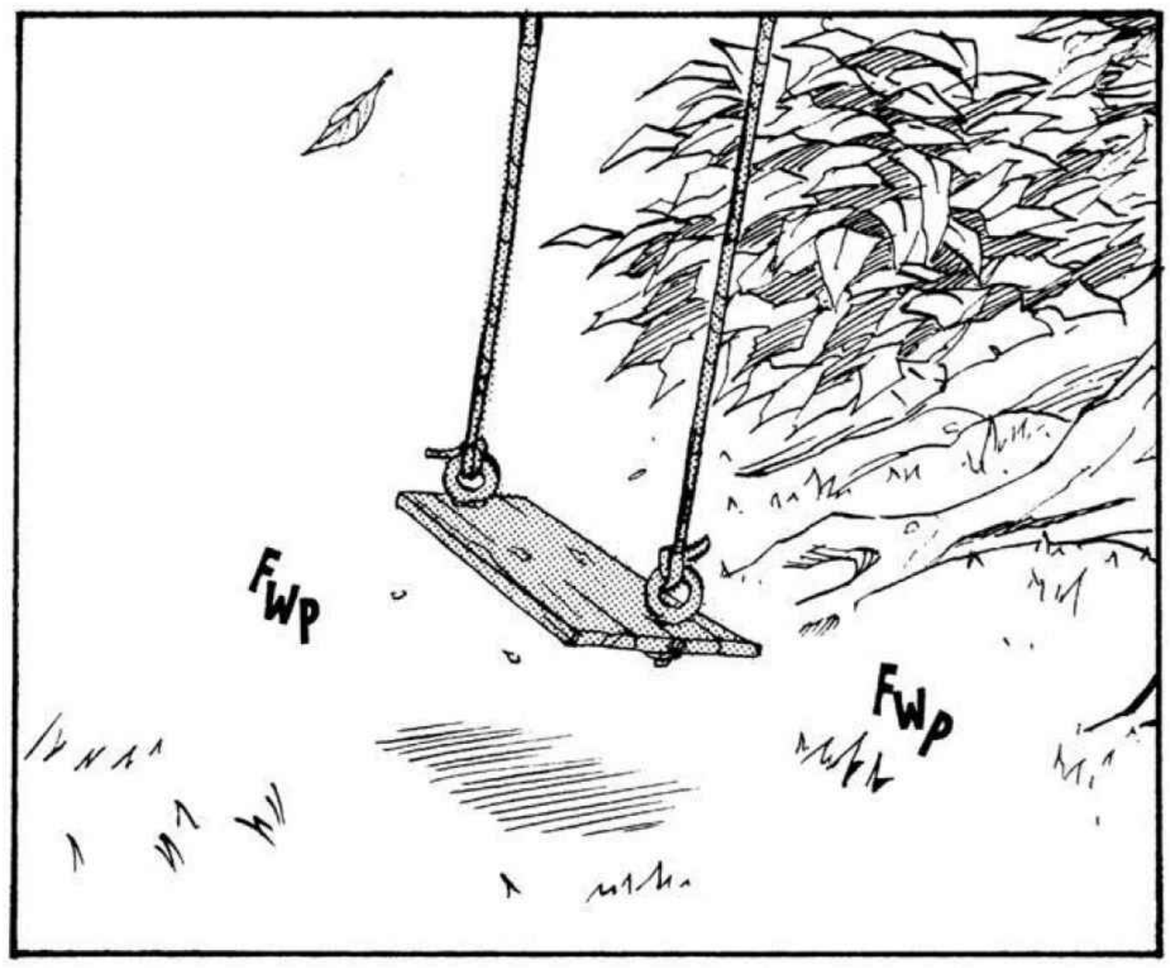


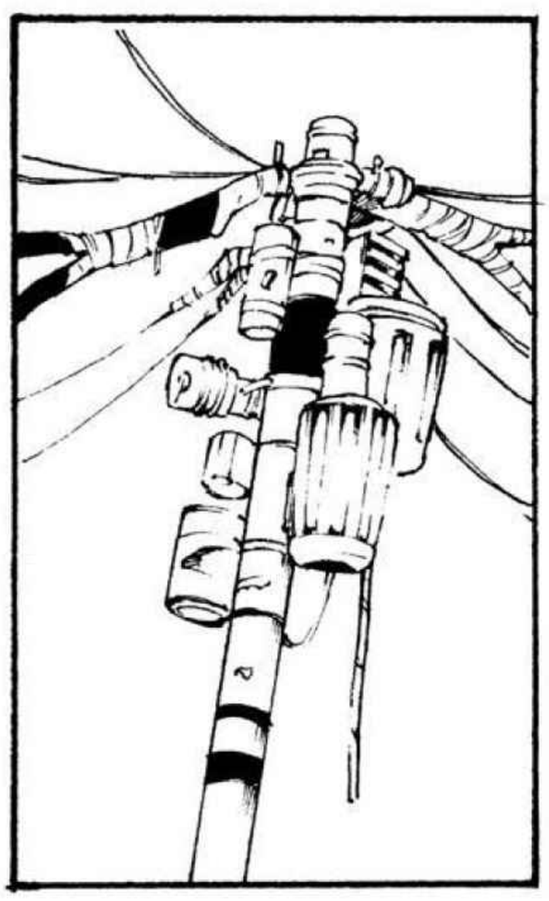

NINJA ACADEMY
忍
AAAY
AAAY!!!


YEAH, THAT'S HIM. THE ONLY ONE WHO FAILED!
HEY, ISN'T HE THE KID WHO --?
CAN YOU IMAGINE IF THEY LET SOMEONE LIKE THAT BECOME A SHINOBI...?!
SERVES HIM RIGHT...
SHF
DON'T EVEN GO THERE.
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT WHAT HE IS...

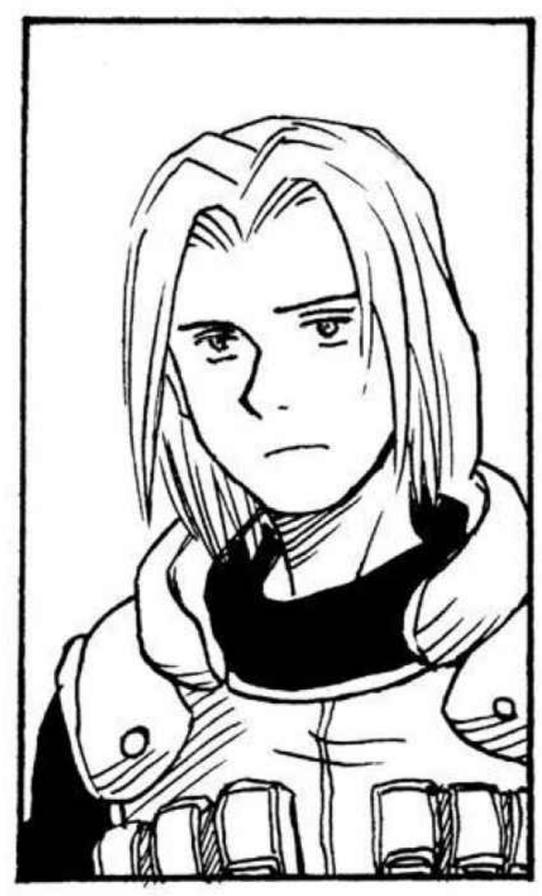

SO NOW, WE'RE ALL ADULTS!
GREAT JOB, SON. YOUR OLD MAN IS PROUD!
CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE! TONIGHT, MOM'S GONNA COOK UP A FEAST!!


OF COURSE.
IRUKA, COULD I HAVE A WORD LATER...?


FWP
FWP



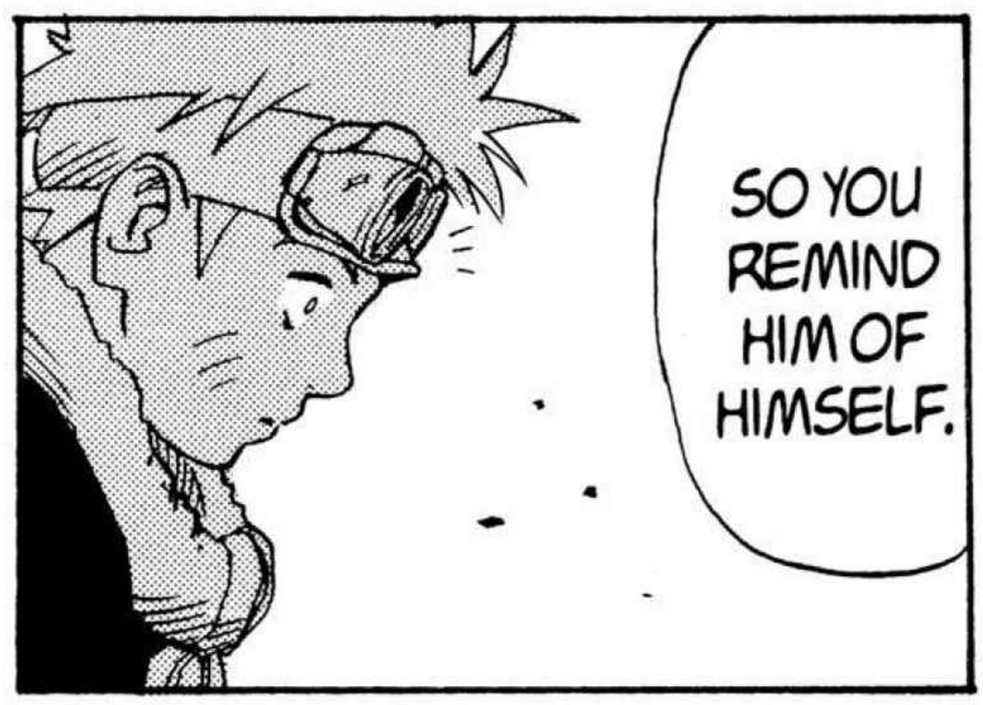
MASTER MIZUKI...!!
NARUTO.

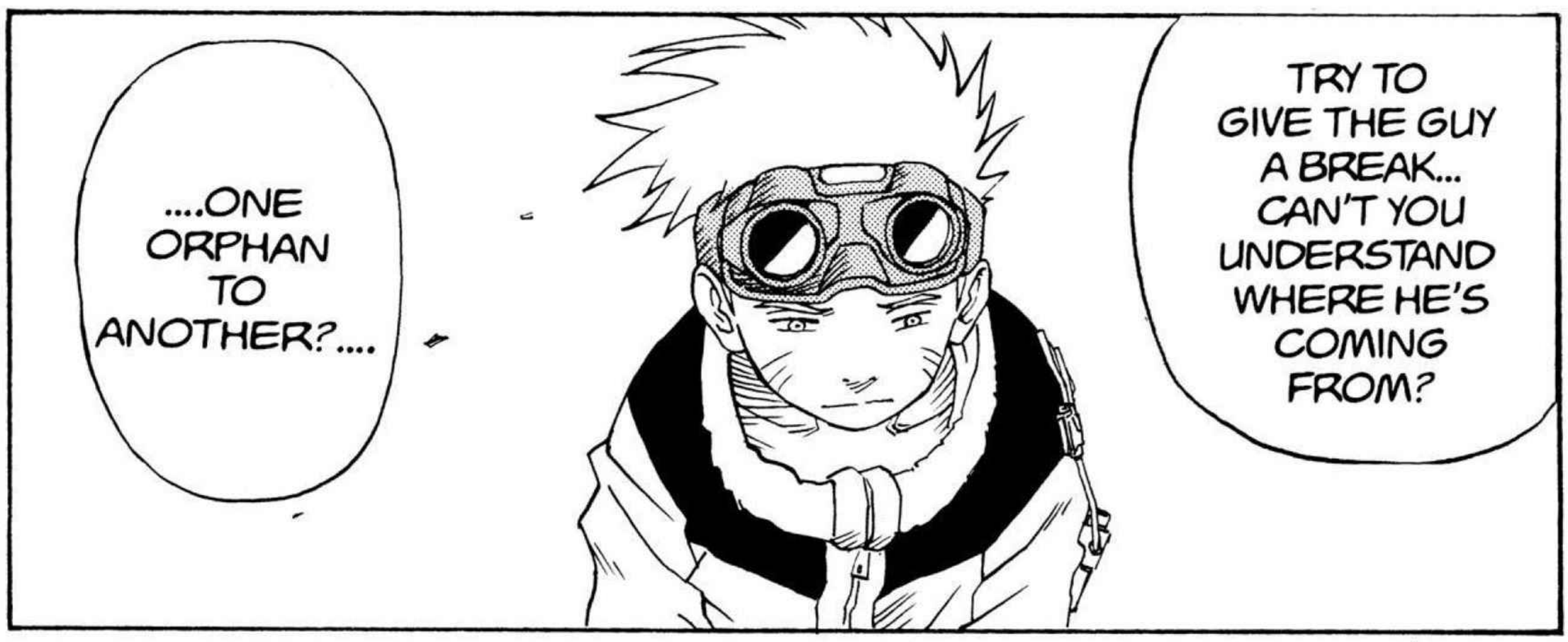


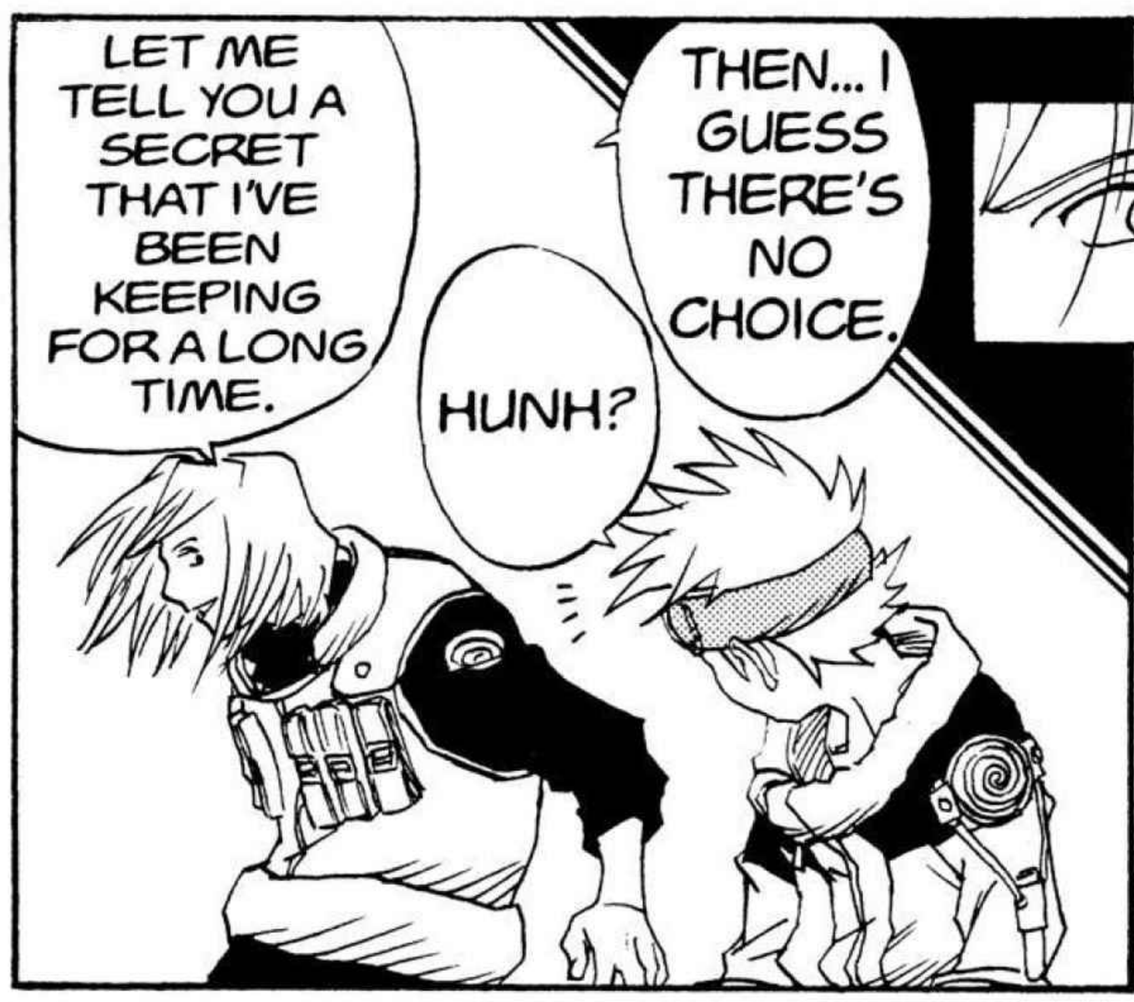
SO EVERYTHING HE'S ACCOMPLISHED HE DID BY HIMSELF, WITH A LOT OF HARD WORK AND DISCIPLINE.
MASTER IRUKA IS A REALLY SERIOUS GUY... HIS PARENTS DIED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG..
SO...? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

READ
THIS
WAY

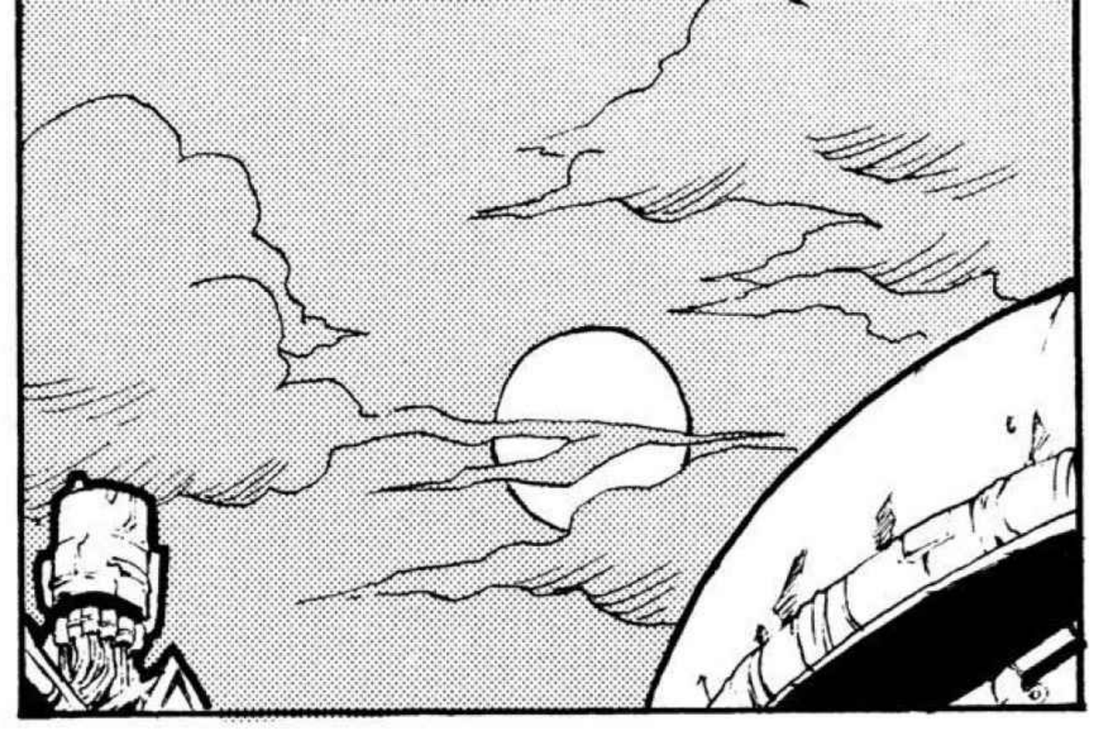
HE THINKS HE'S HELPING YOU TO GROW STRONG.

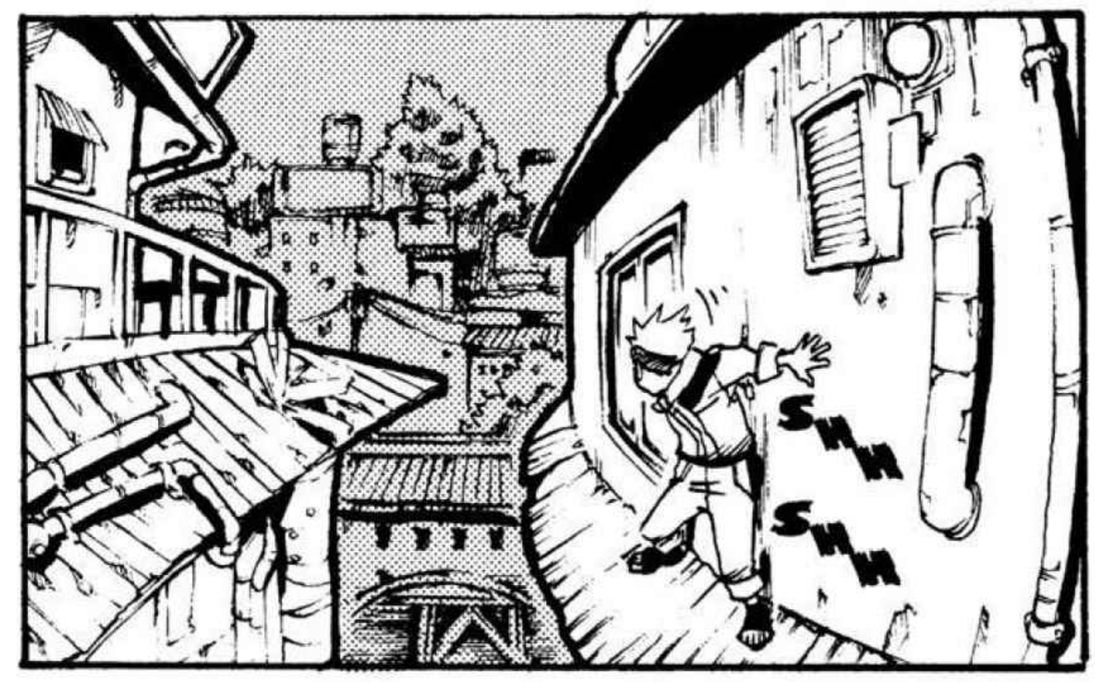

SO YOU REMIND HIM OF HIMSELF.


....ONE ORPHAN TO ANOTHER?....
TRY TO GIVE THE GUY A BREAK... CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE HE'S COMING FROM?


LET ME TELL YOU A SECRET THAT I'VE BEEN KEEPING FOR A LONG TIME.
HUNH?
THEN... I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE.

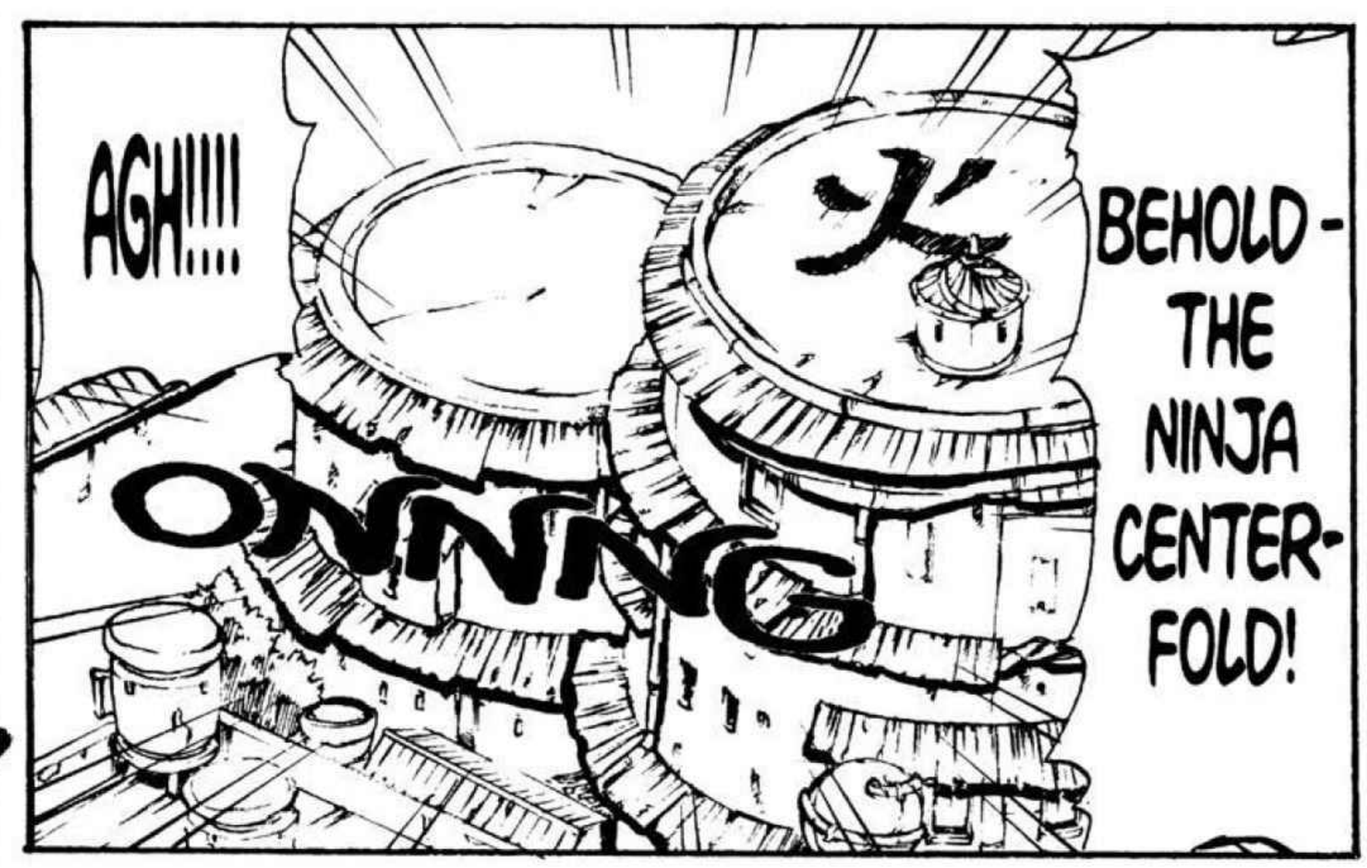
.....
BUT... I REALLY WANTED TO GRADUATE.




SHH
SHH

READ THIS WAY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!?
!
YIPE!

BLIT
GAAAAAHH

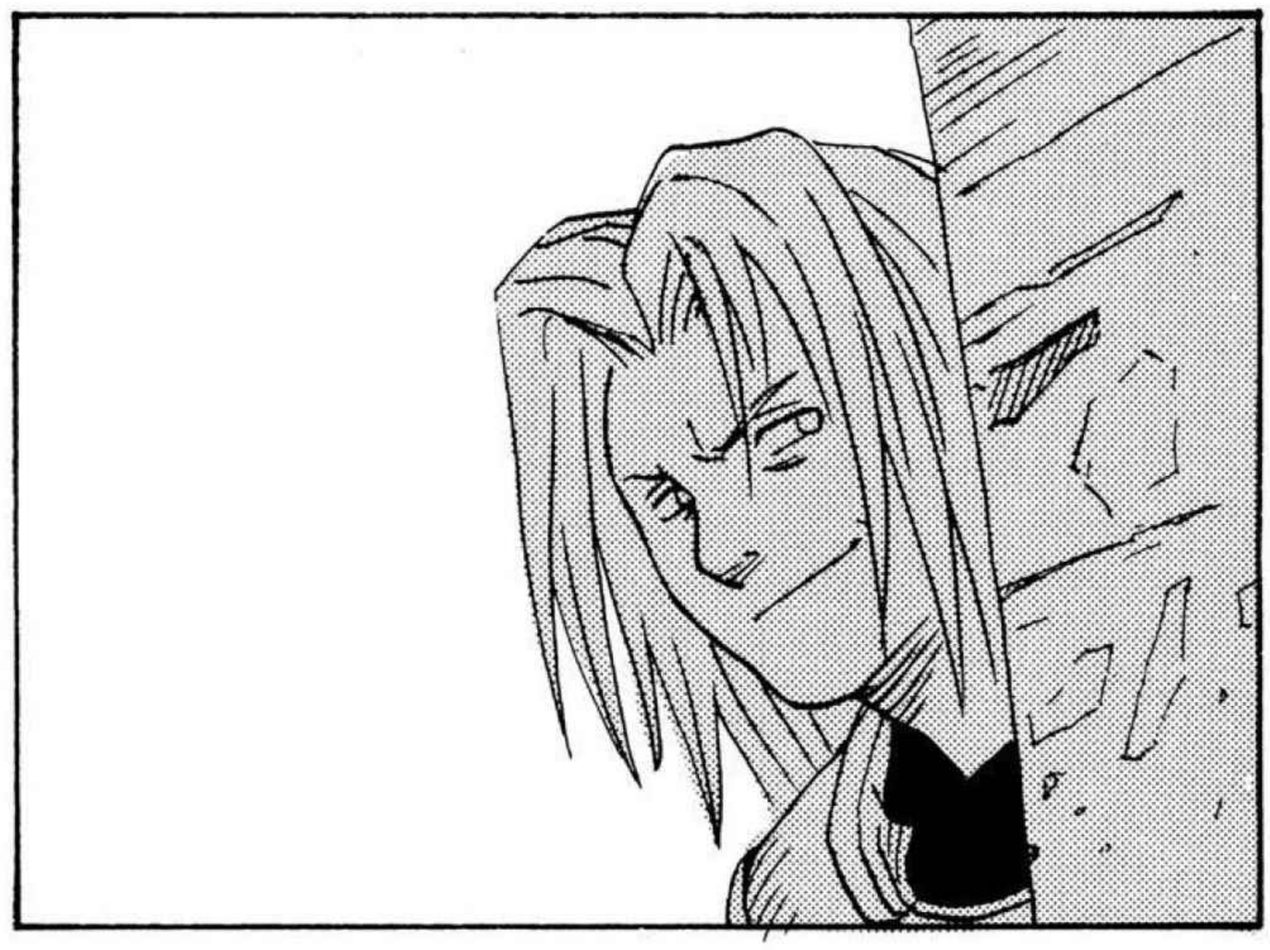

AGH!!!!
ONNNG
BEHOLD - THE NINJA CENTER-FOLD!

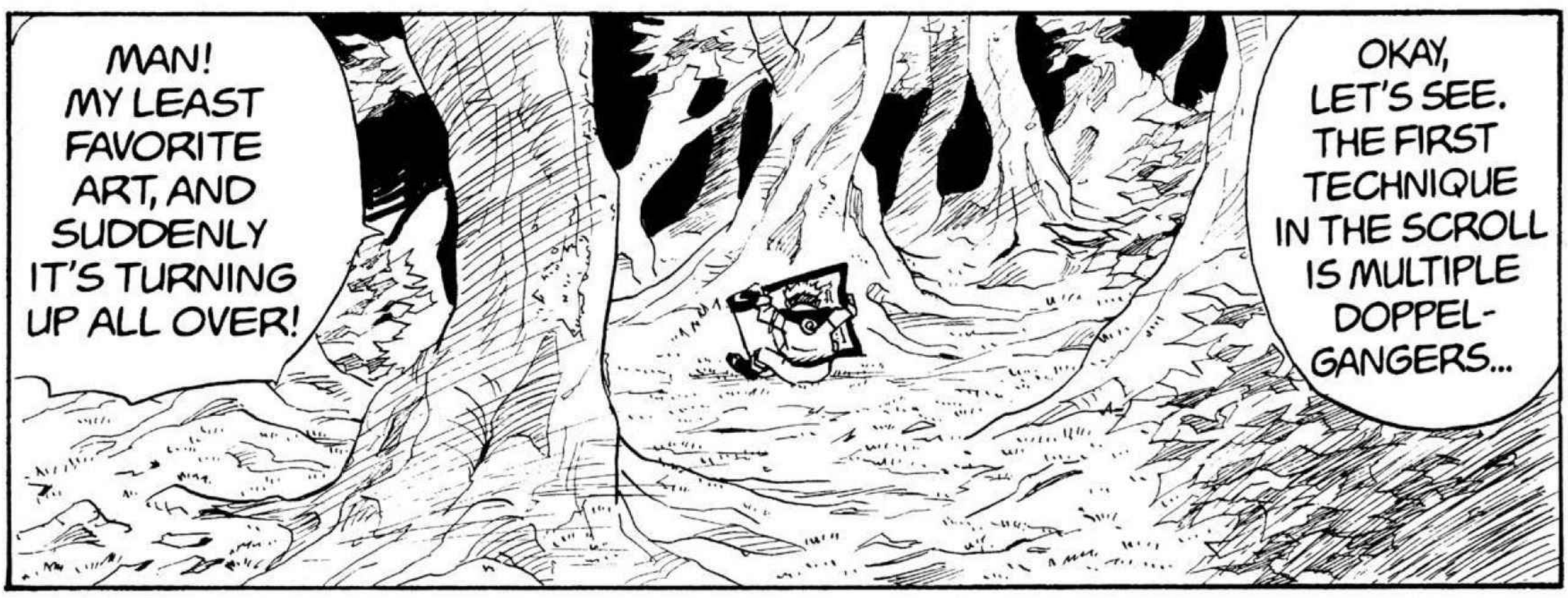
HOP!
TAK

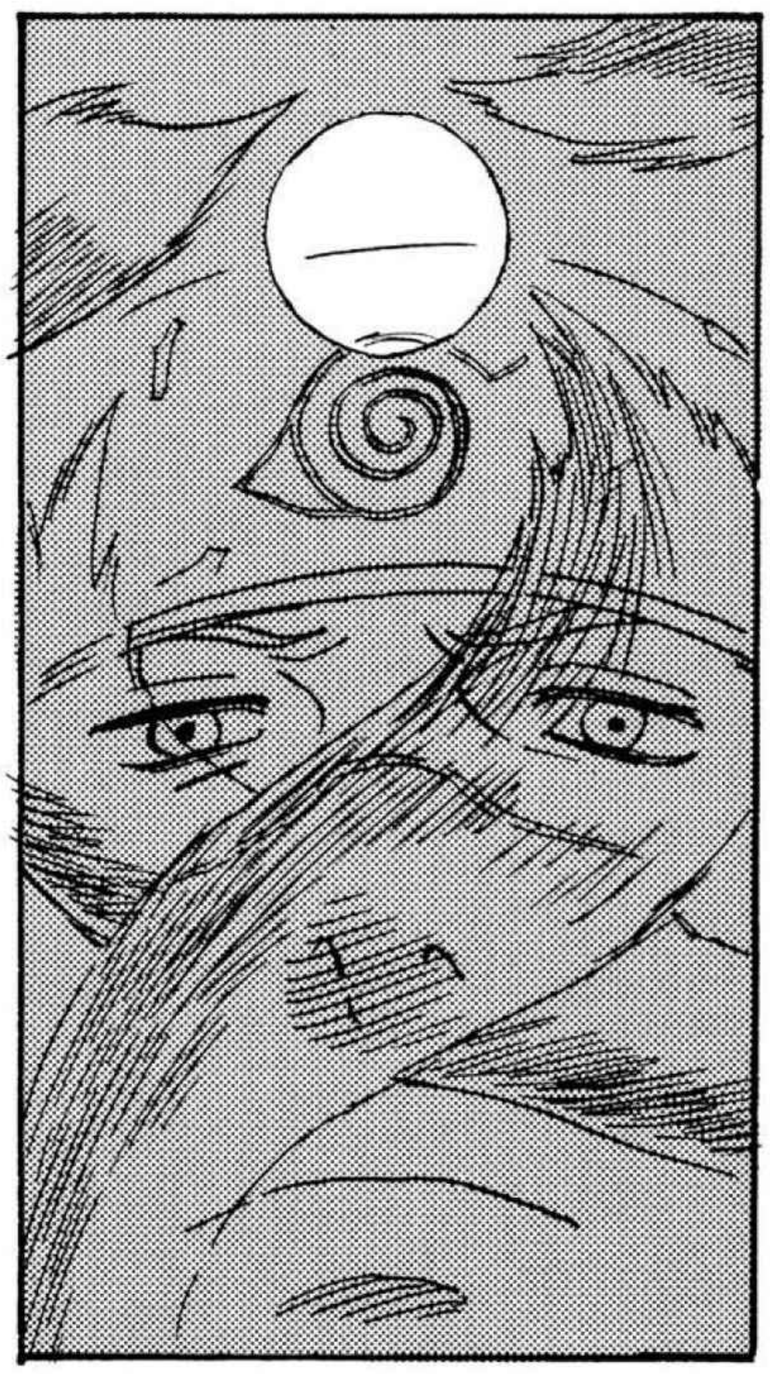
SHHHF

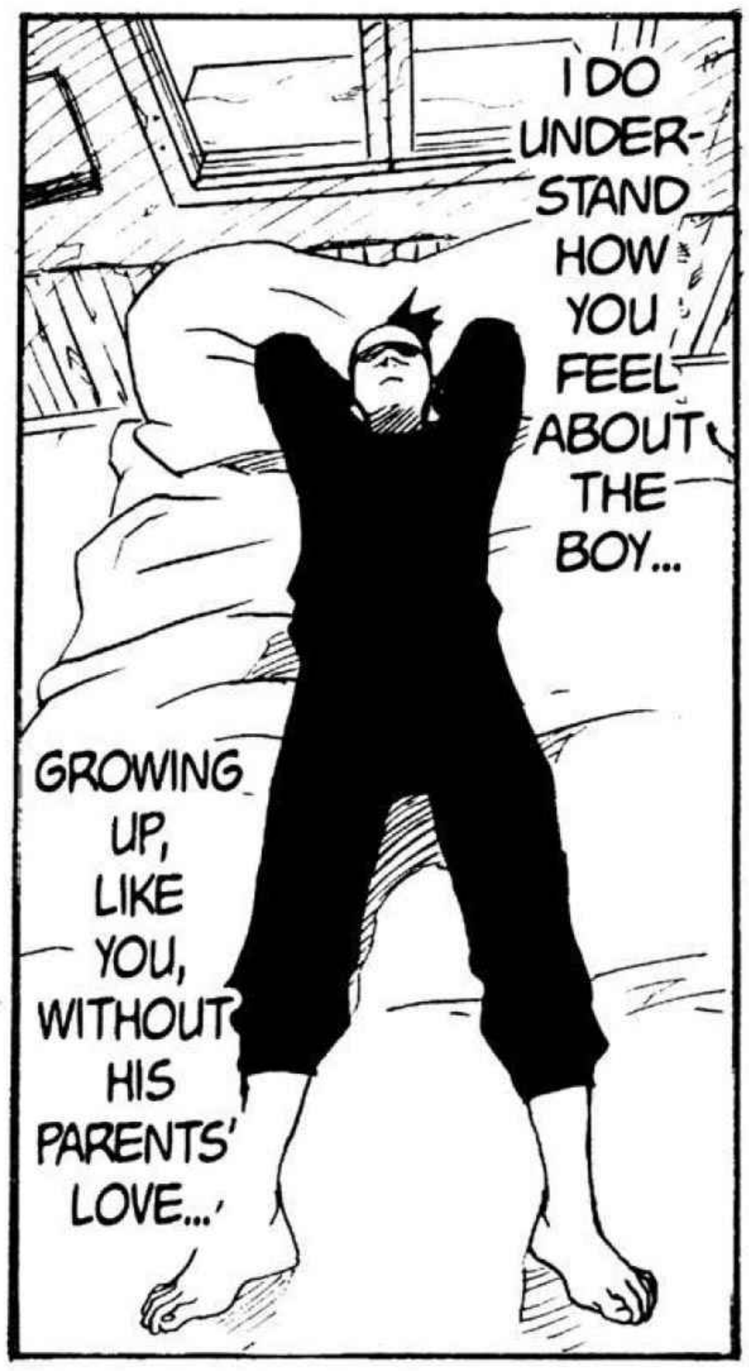
GOTCHA!
!

FWOOSH



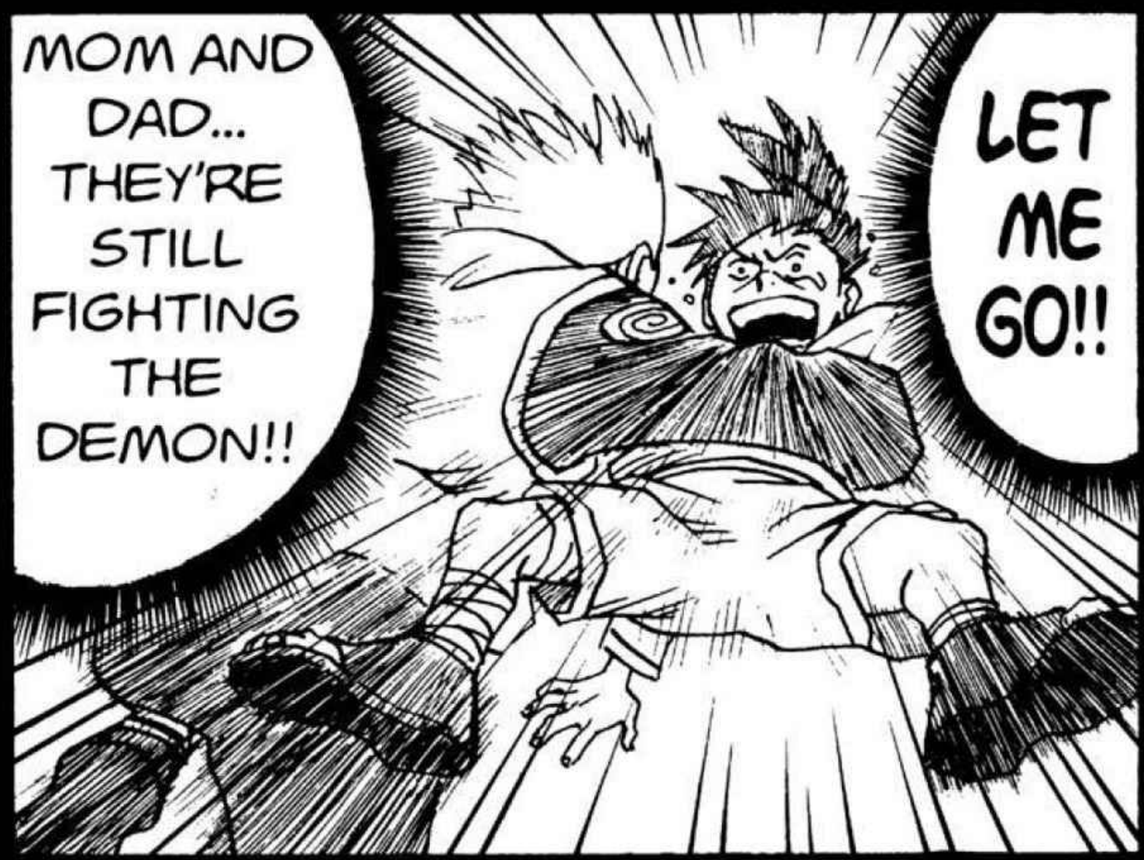

MAN! MY LEAST FAVORITE ART, AND SUDDENLY IT'S TURNING UP ALL OVER!
OKAY, LET'S SEE. THE FIRST TECHNIQUE IN THE SCROLL IS MULTIPLE DOPPEL-GANGERS...



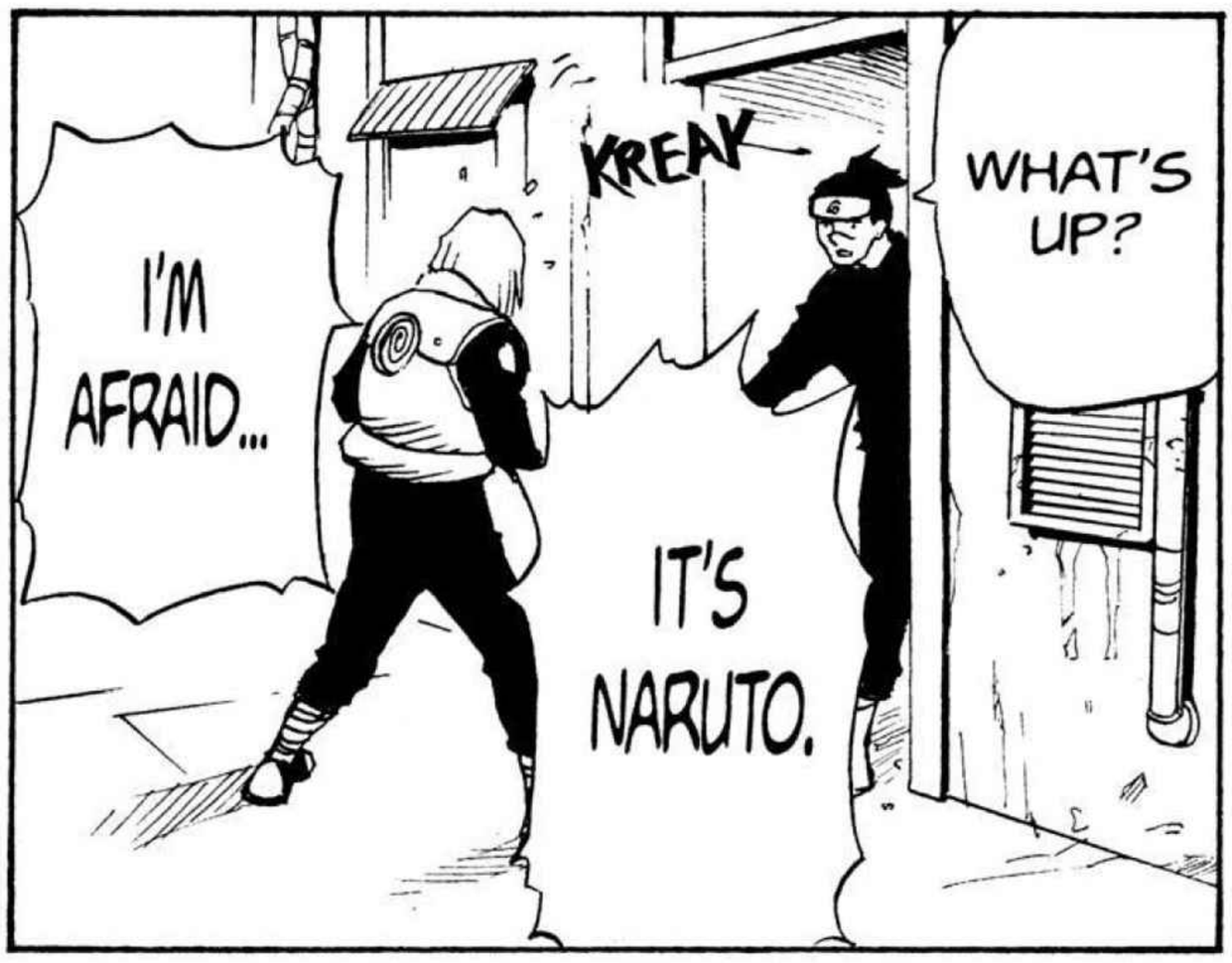

I DO UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE BOY...
GROWING UP, LIKE YOU, WITHOUT HIS PARENTS' LOVE...'

IRUKA...
YES, LORD HOKAGE?

AHUUGH--!

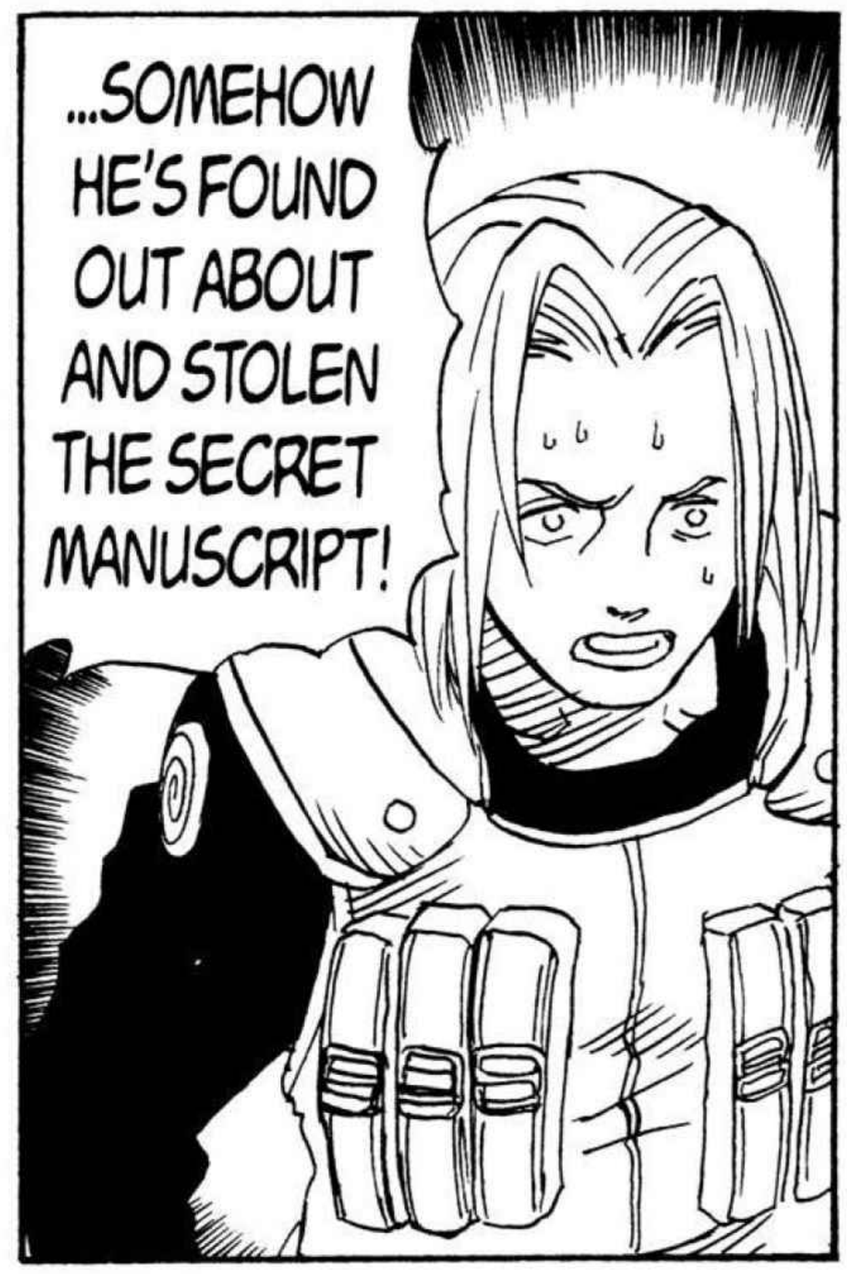

MOM AND DAD... THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING THE DEMON!!
LET ME GO!!

WE'VE GOT TO HOLD ON UNTIL LORD HOKAGE GETS HERE!


I'M AFRAID...
KREAK
IT'S NARUTO.
WHAT'S UP?

NOK NOK
SNRRK

LORD HOKAGE!!
THIS TIME HE'S GONE TOO FAR!!
RIGHT!
YEAH!

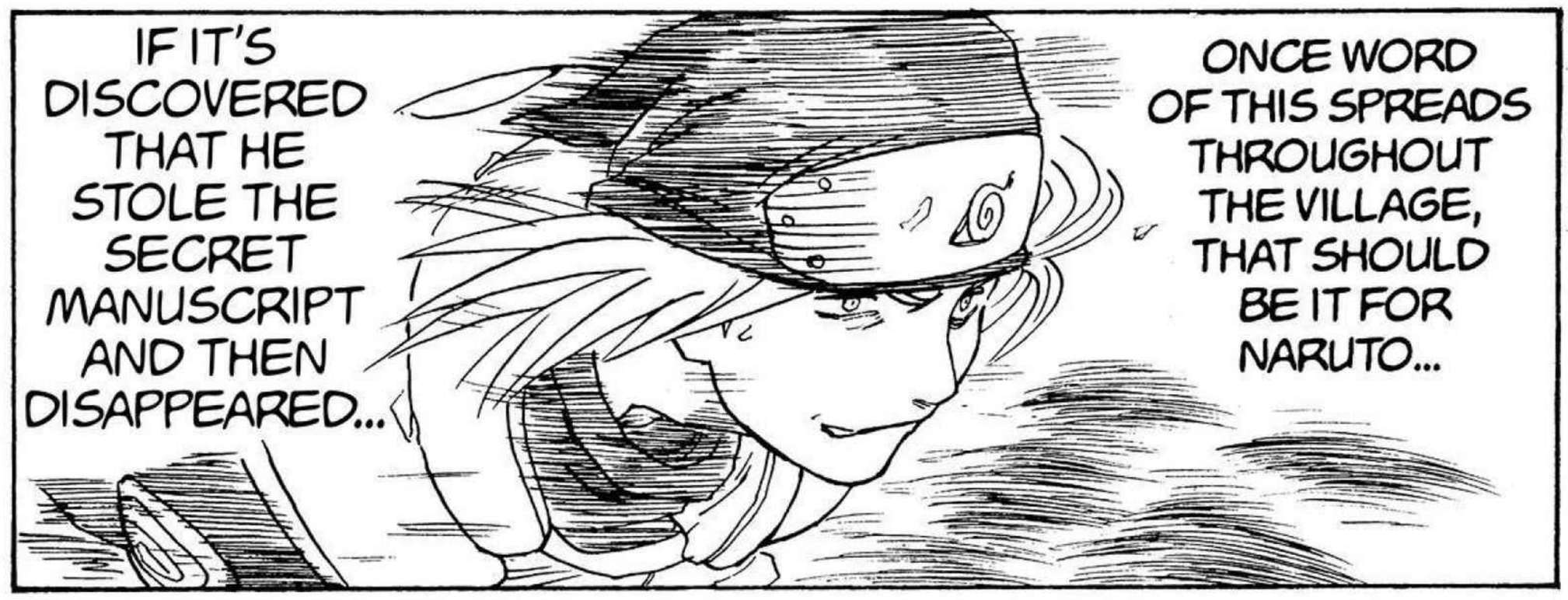

...SOMEHOW HE'S FOUND OUT ABOUT AND STOLEN THE SECRET MANUSCRIPT!

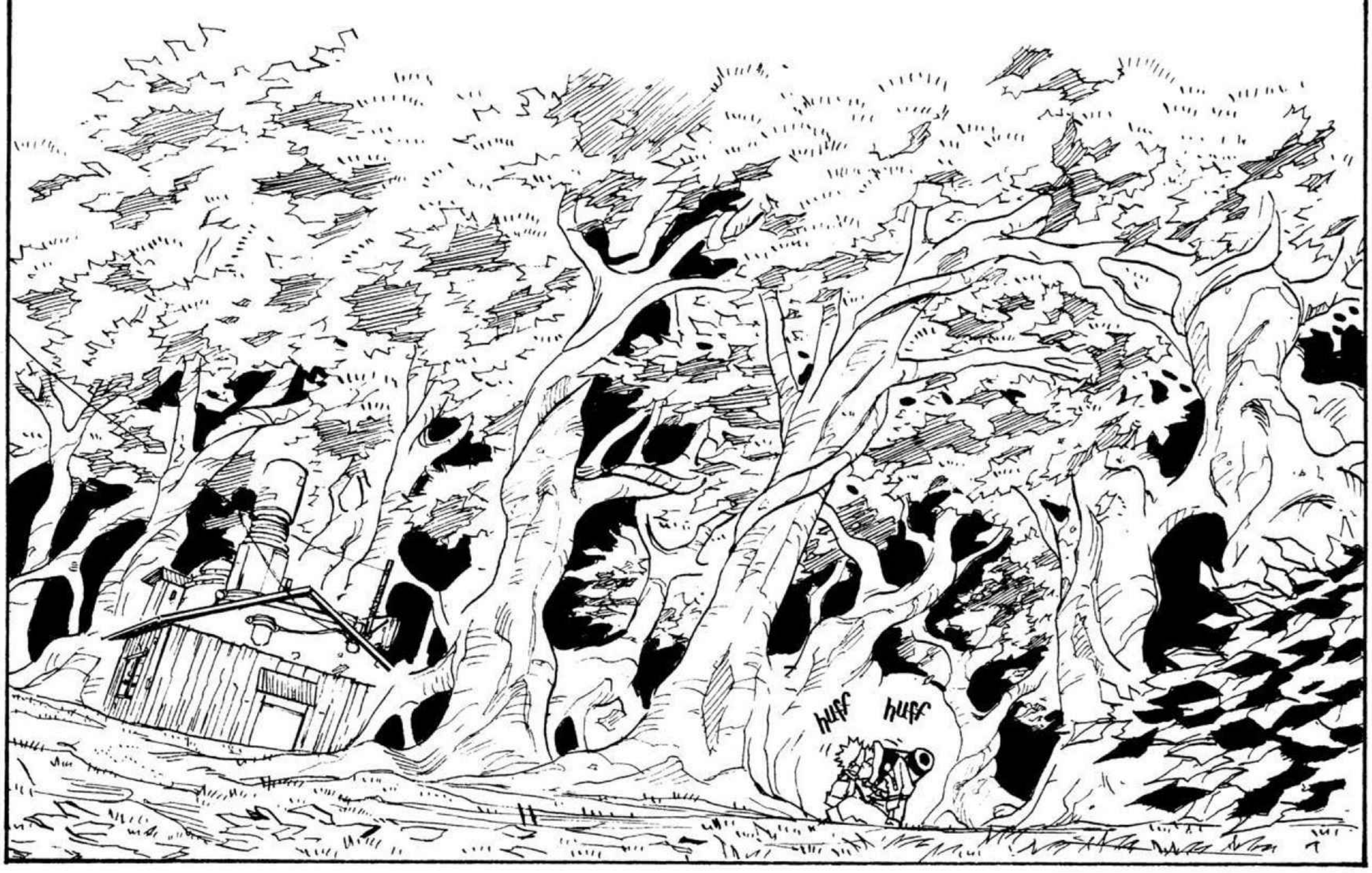
IF MISUSED, IN THE WRONG HANDS, IT COULD BE DEADLY!
THE SCROLL HE HAS TAKEN IS SO DANGEROUS THAT THE VERY FIRST HOKAGE SEALED IT AWAY!

HAAH!!!!
SHA
SHA
SHA

READ THIS WAY
IT WAS TAKEN HALF A DAY AGO.
WE HAVE TO FIND HIM!

huff
huff
huff
huff
huff
...!
I'LL TRY THE FOREST FIRST!


IF IT'S DISCOVERED THAT HE STOLE THE SECRET MANUSCRIPT AND THEN DISAPPEARED...
ONCE WORD OF THIS SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE, THAT SHOULD BE IT FOR NARUTO...

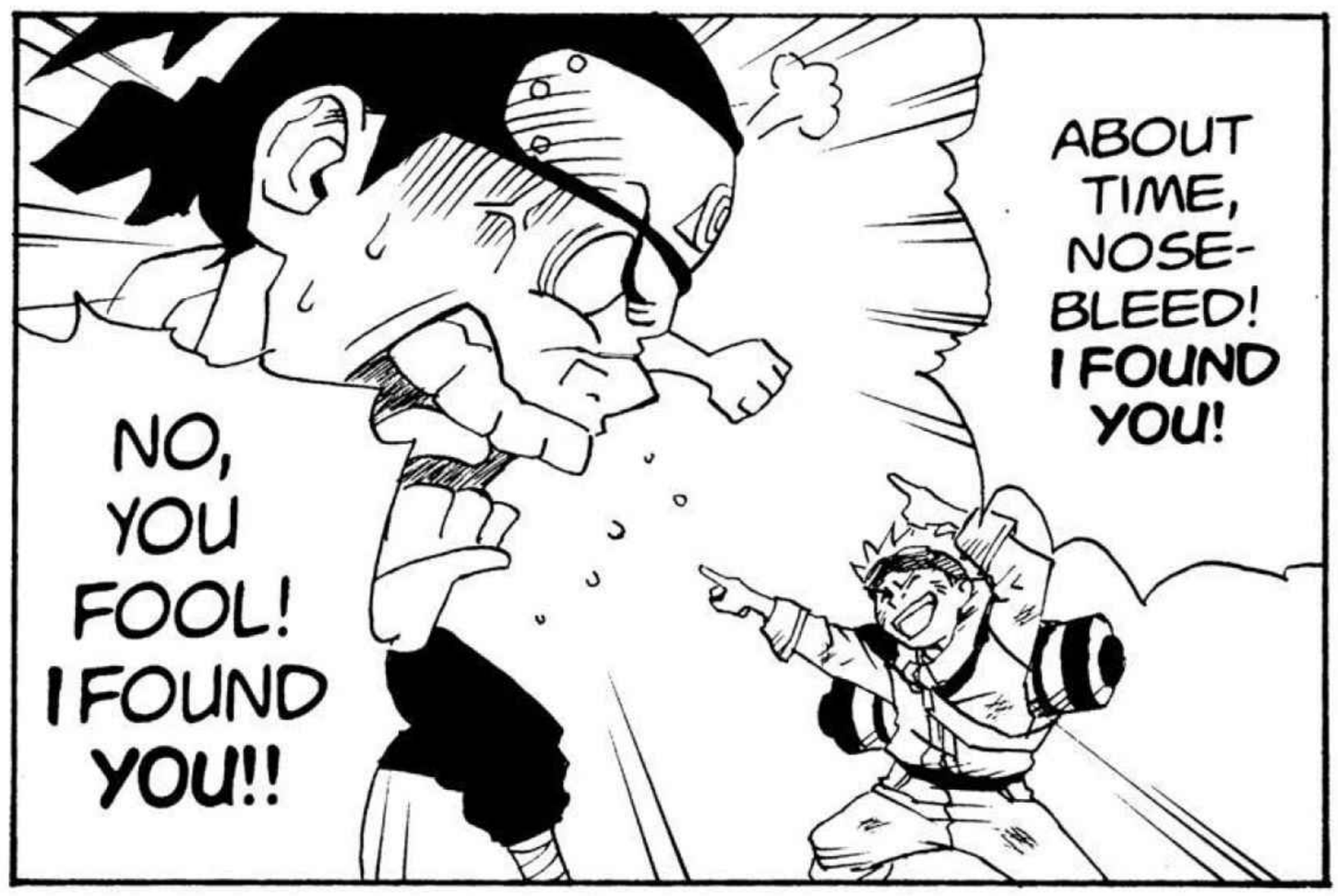

huff
huff

GOTCHA!

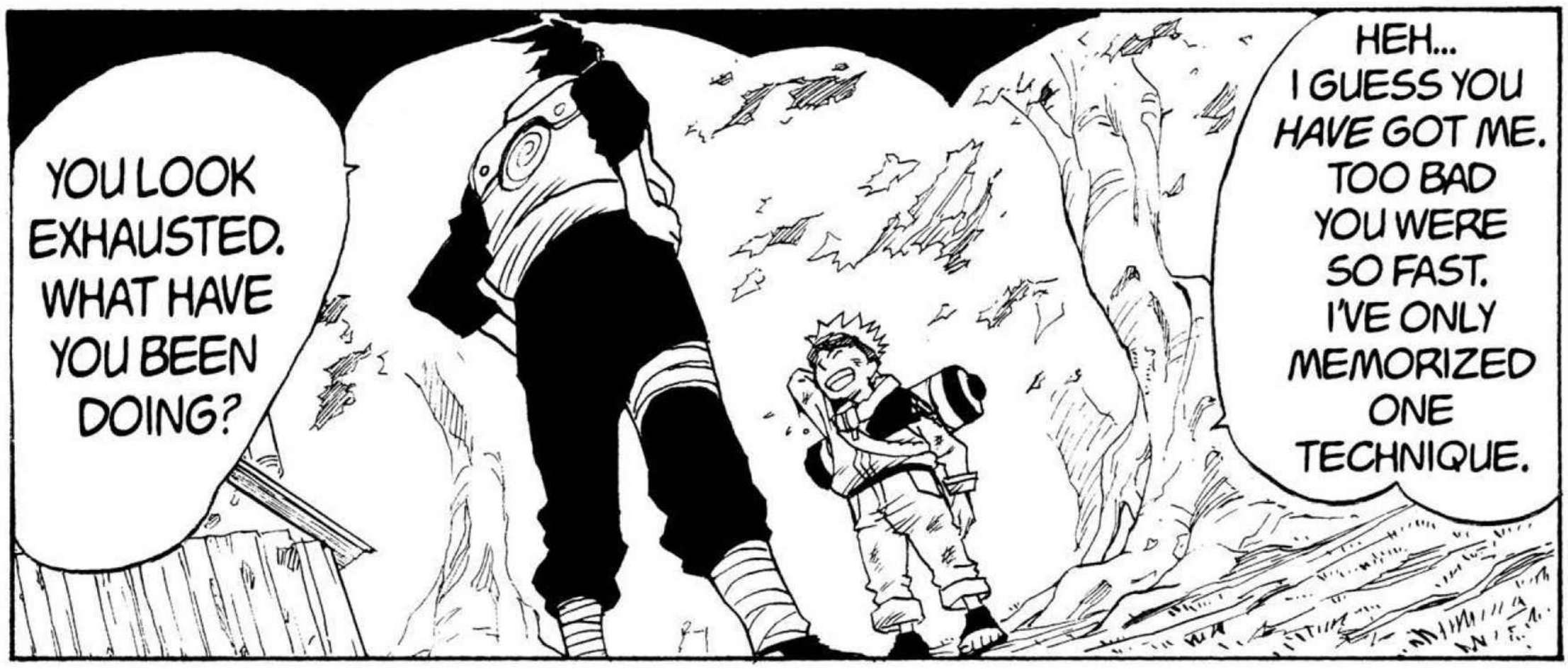
FLOP

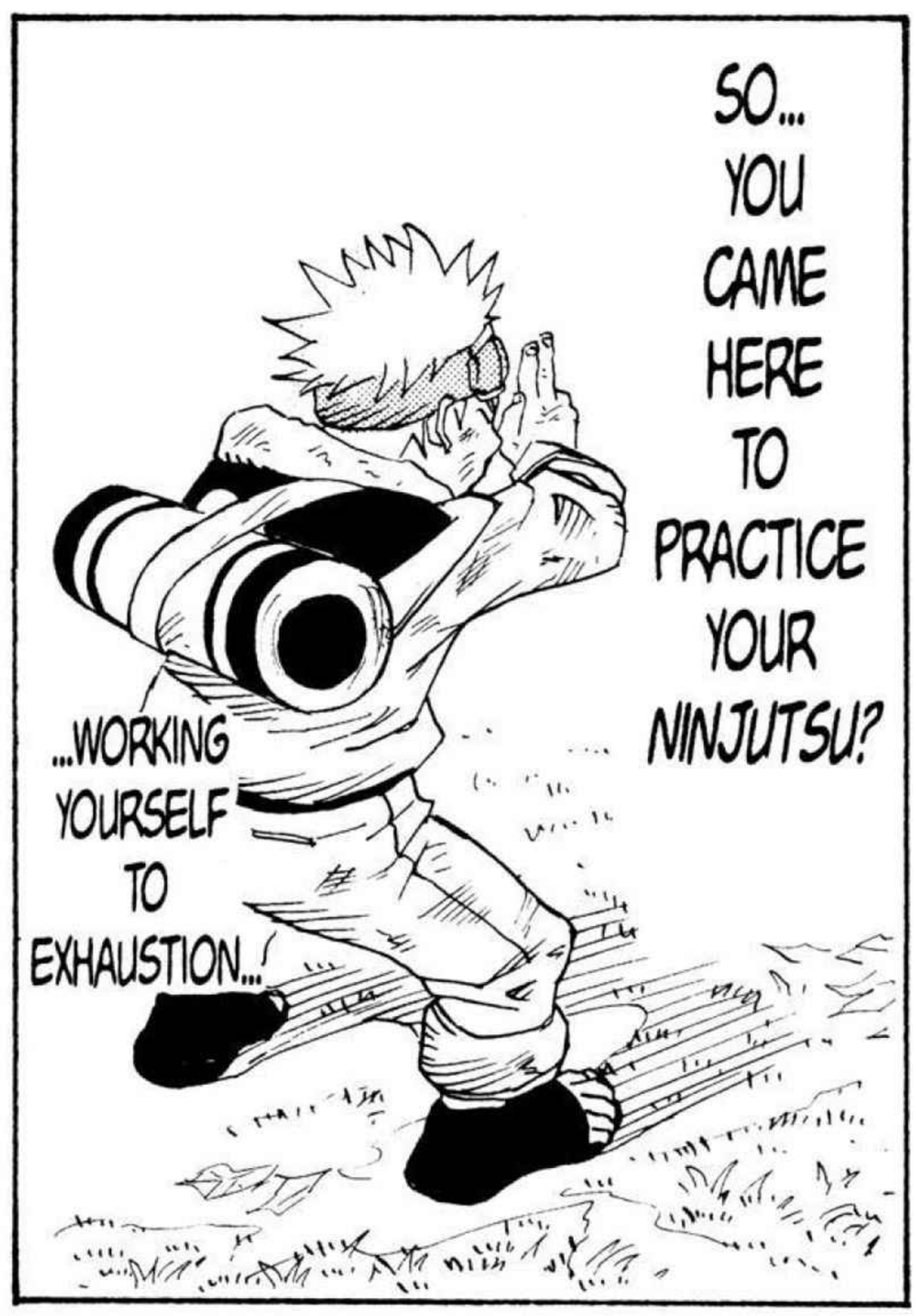
Puff
Puff
Puff

!

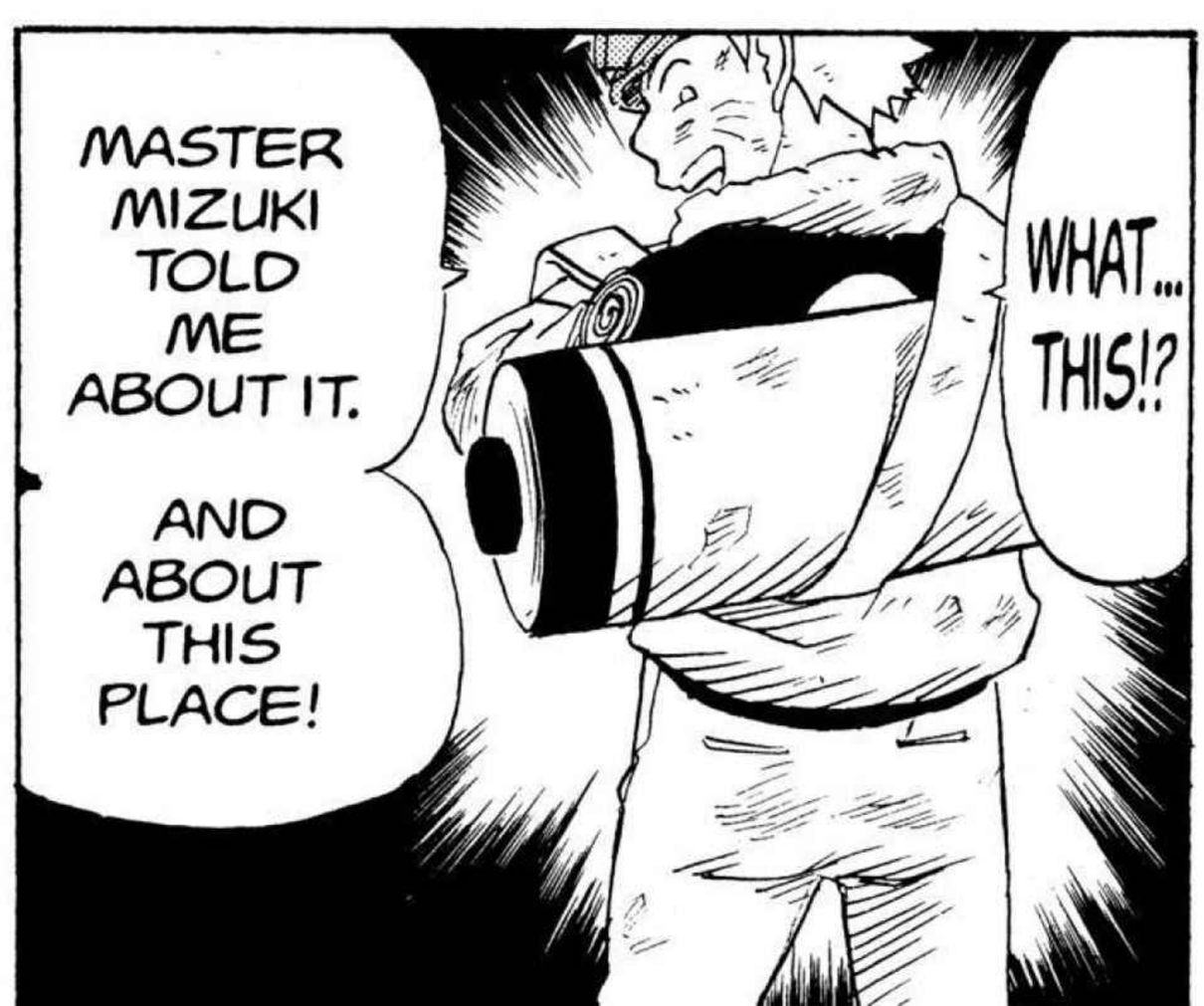

NO, YOU FOOL! I FOUND YOU!!
ABOUT TIME, NOSE-BLEED! I FOUND YOU!

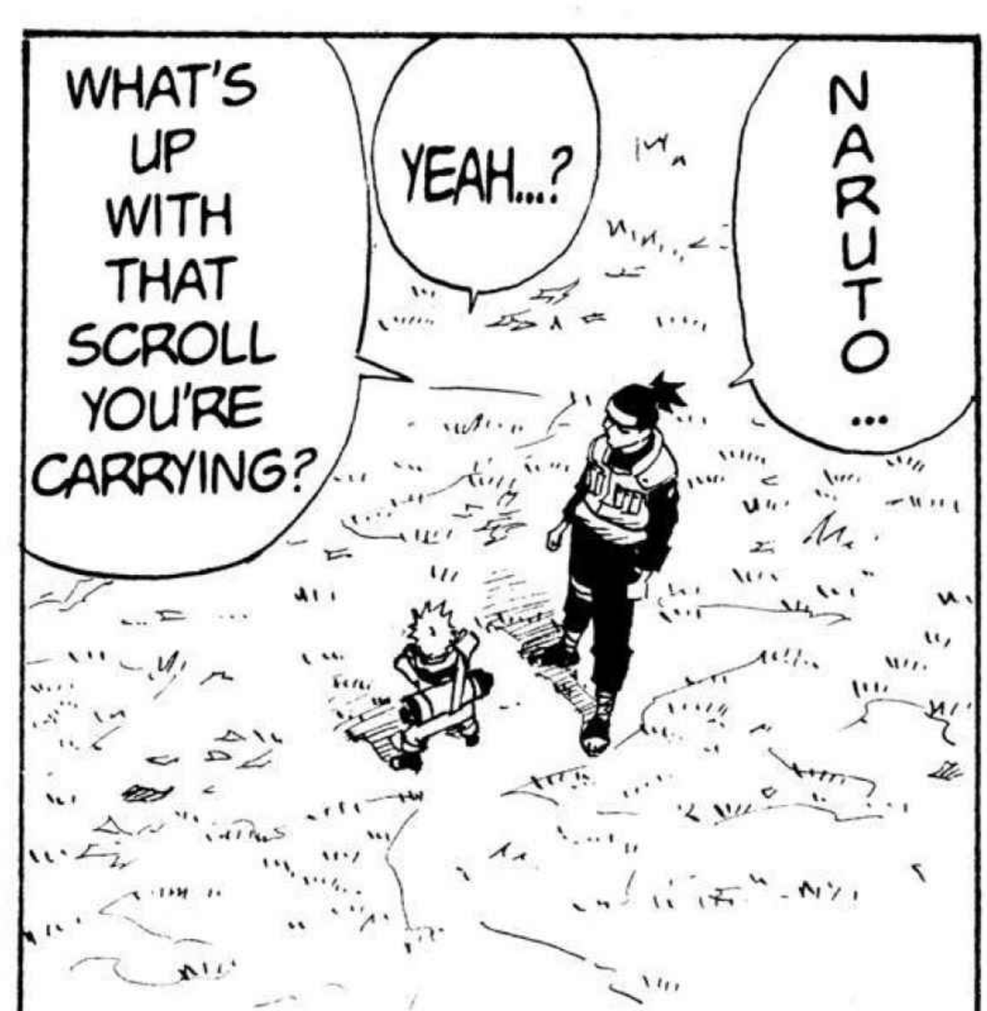
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

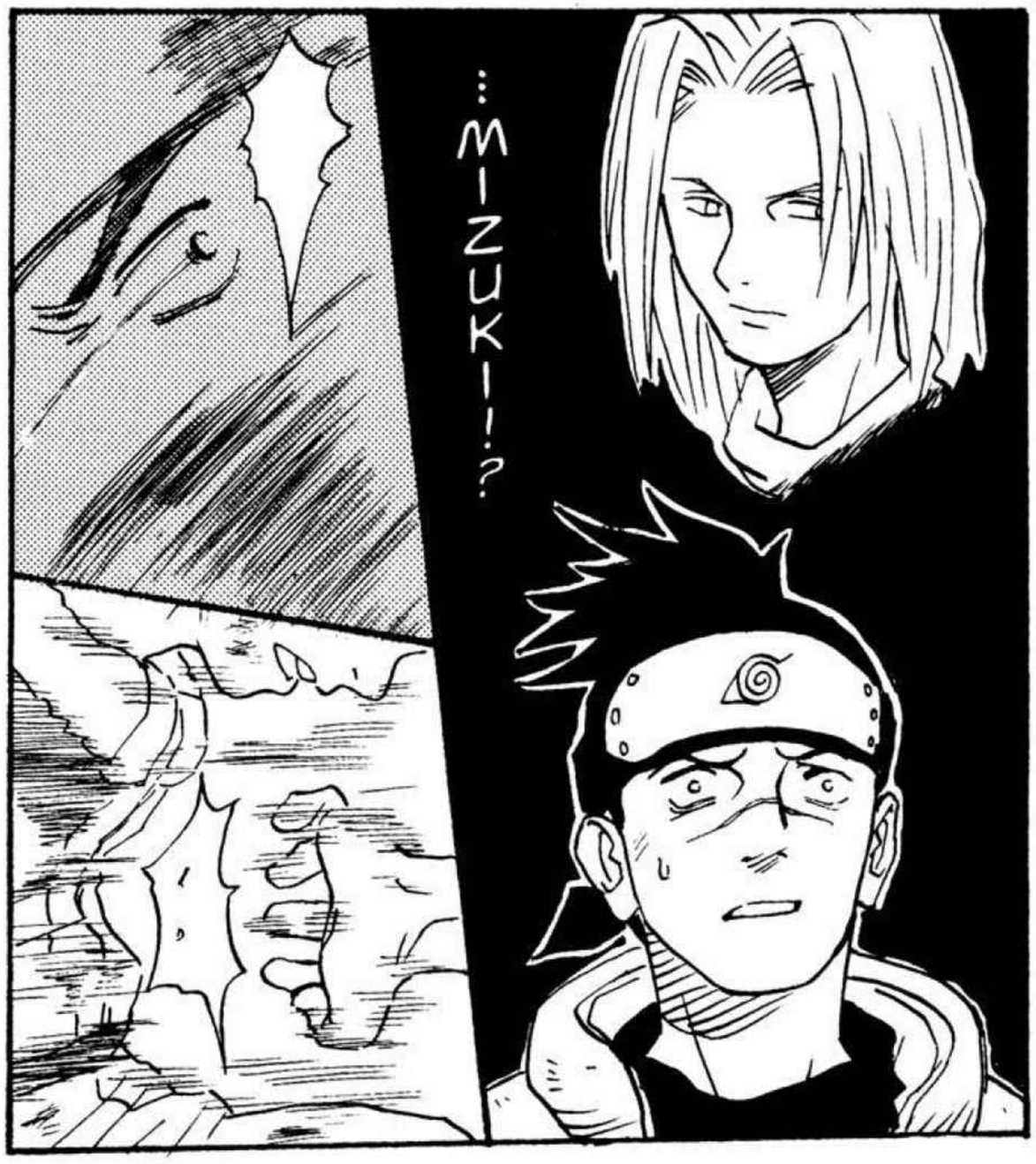

YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
HEH... I GUESS YOU HAVE GOT ME. TOO BAD YOU WERE SO FAST. I'VE ONLY MEMORIZED ONE TECHNIQUE.


SO... YOU CAME HERE TO PRACTICE YOUR NINJUTSU?
...WORKING YOURSELF TO EXHAUSTION...!

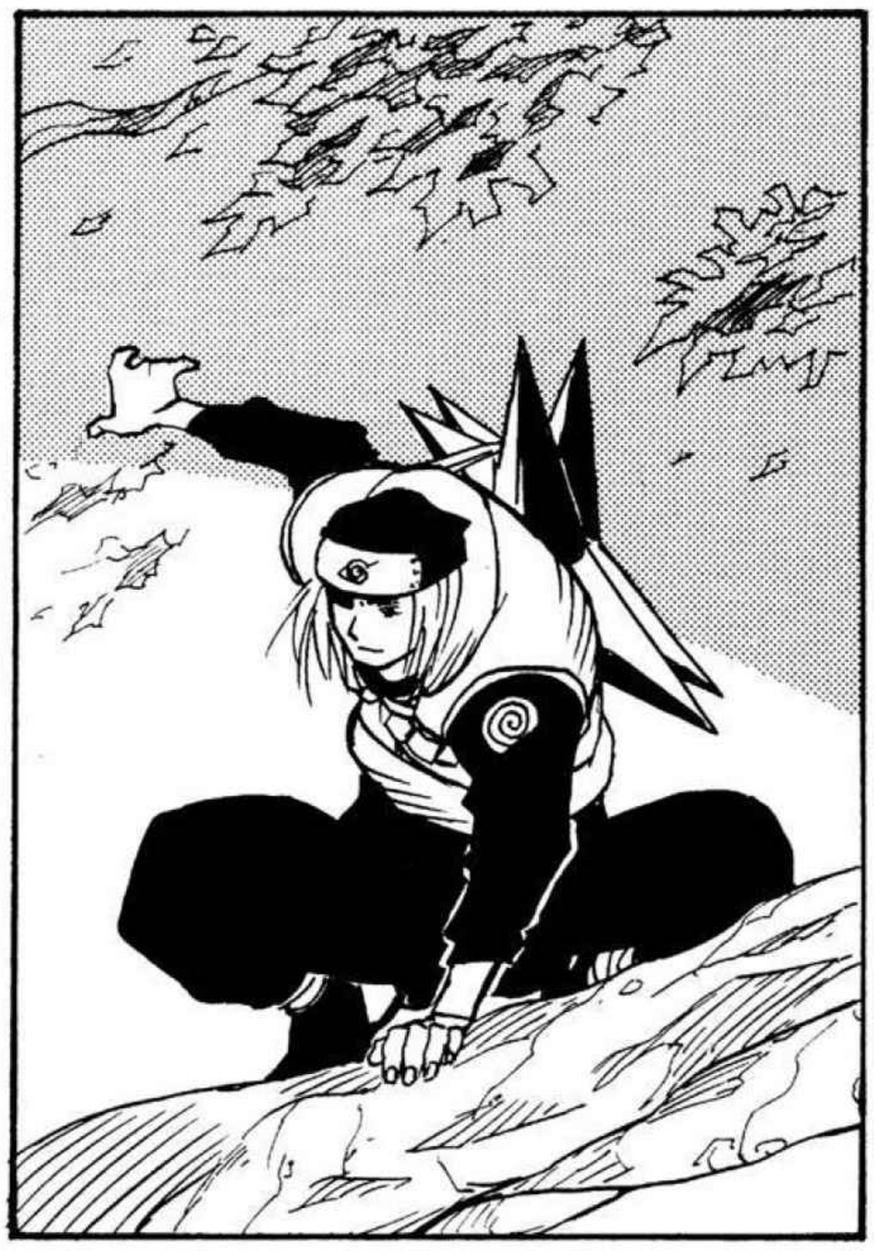
IF I SHOW I'VE MASTERED THESE TECHNIQUES, YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME GRADUATE!
WAIT'LL I SHOW YOU. I NEVER DREAMED... SOME OF THE SHINOBI ARTS ARE SO AMAZING!!!


MASTER MIZUKI TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
AND ABOUT THIS PLACE!
WHAT... THIS!?

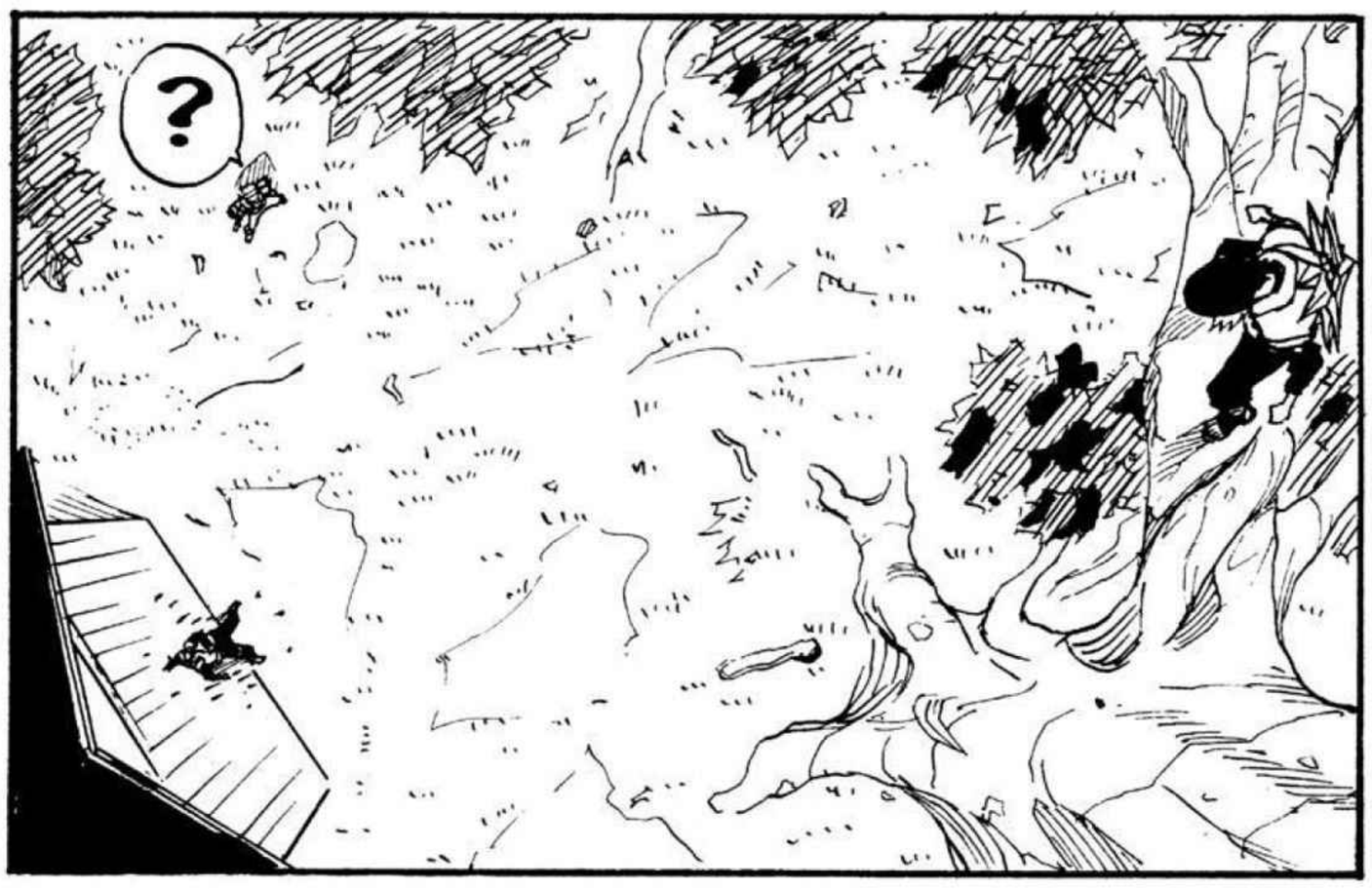

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT SCROLL YOU'RE CARRYING?
YEAH...?
NARUTO...



SHHOOOO
SHHOOOO
SHHOOOO



I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU FIGURED OUT WHERE TO GO.
THUNK
THUNK
NOW I UNDER-STAND!!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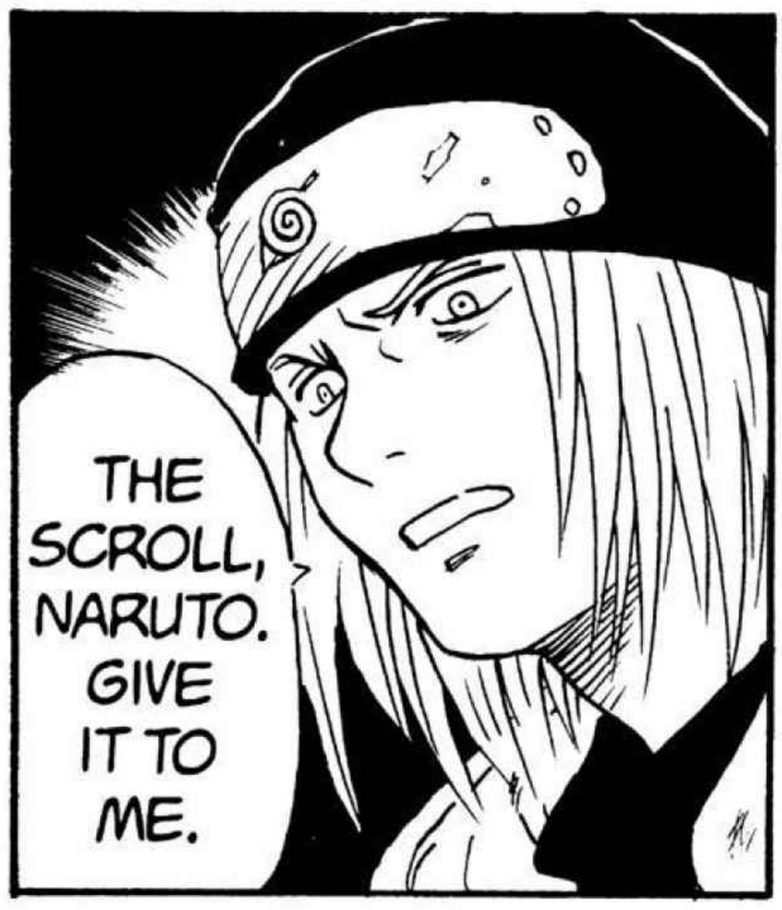
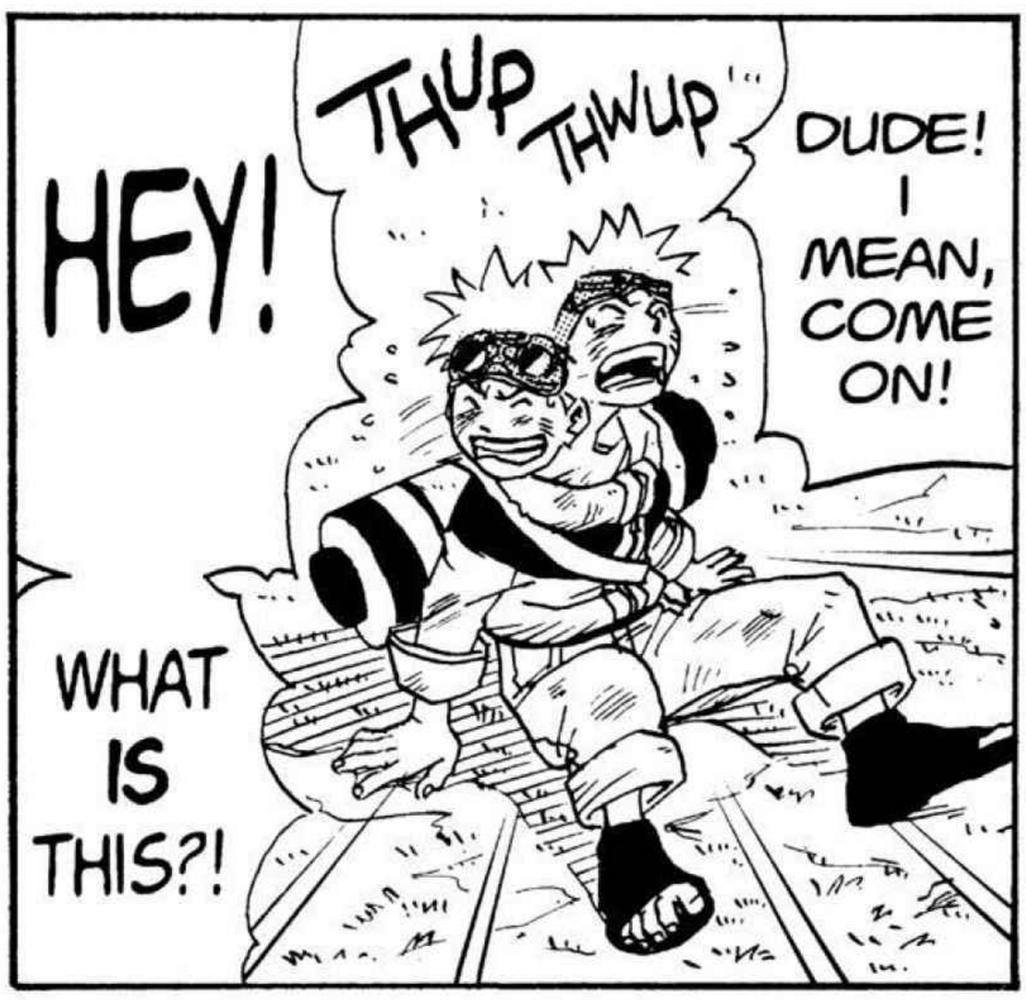
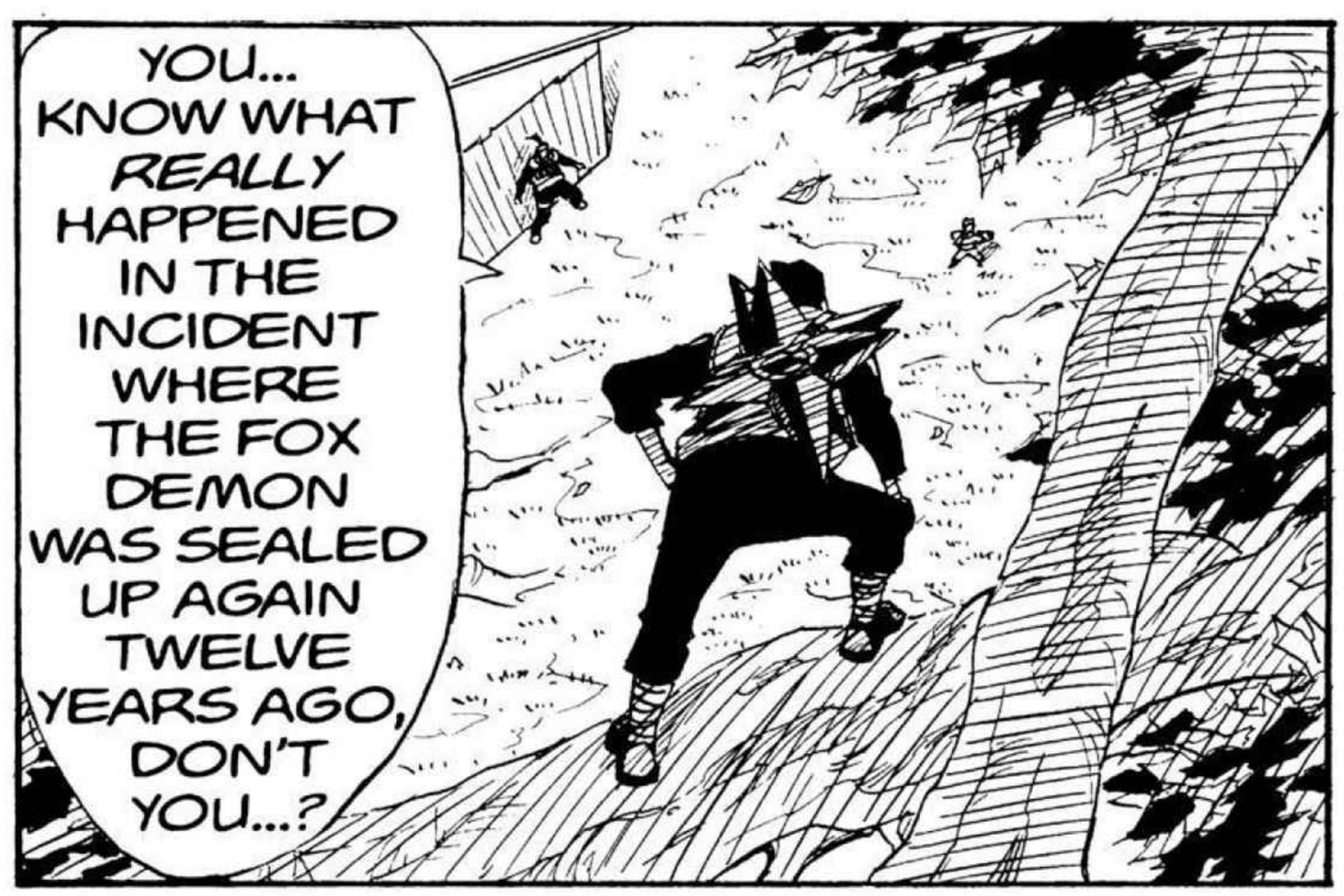

THE SCROLL, NARUTO. GIVE IT TO ME.

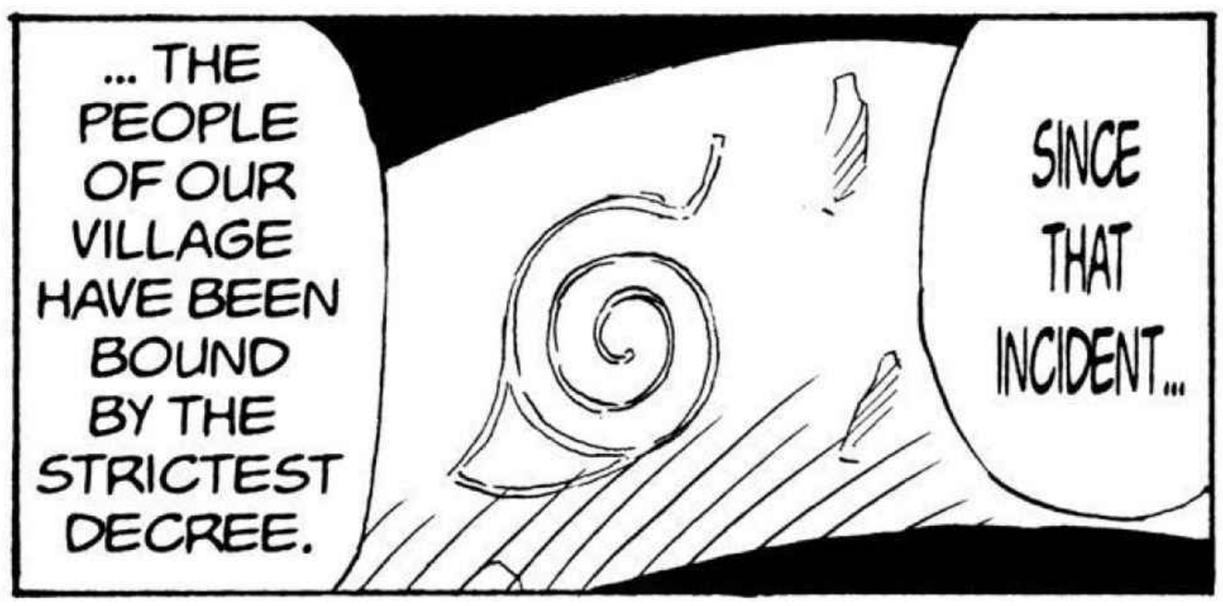

HEY!
THUP THWUP
DUDE! I MEAN, COME ON!
WHAT IS THIS?!

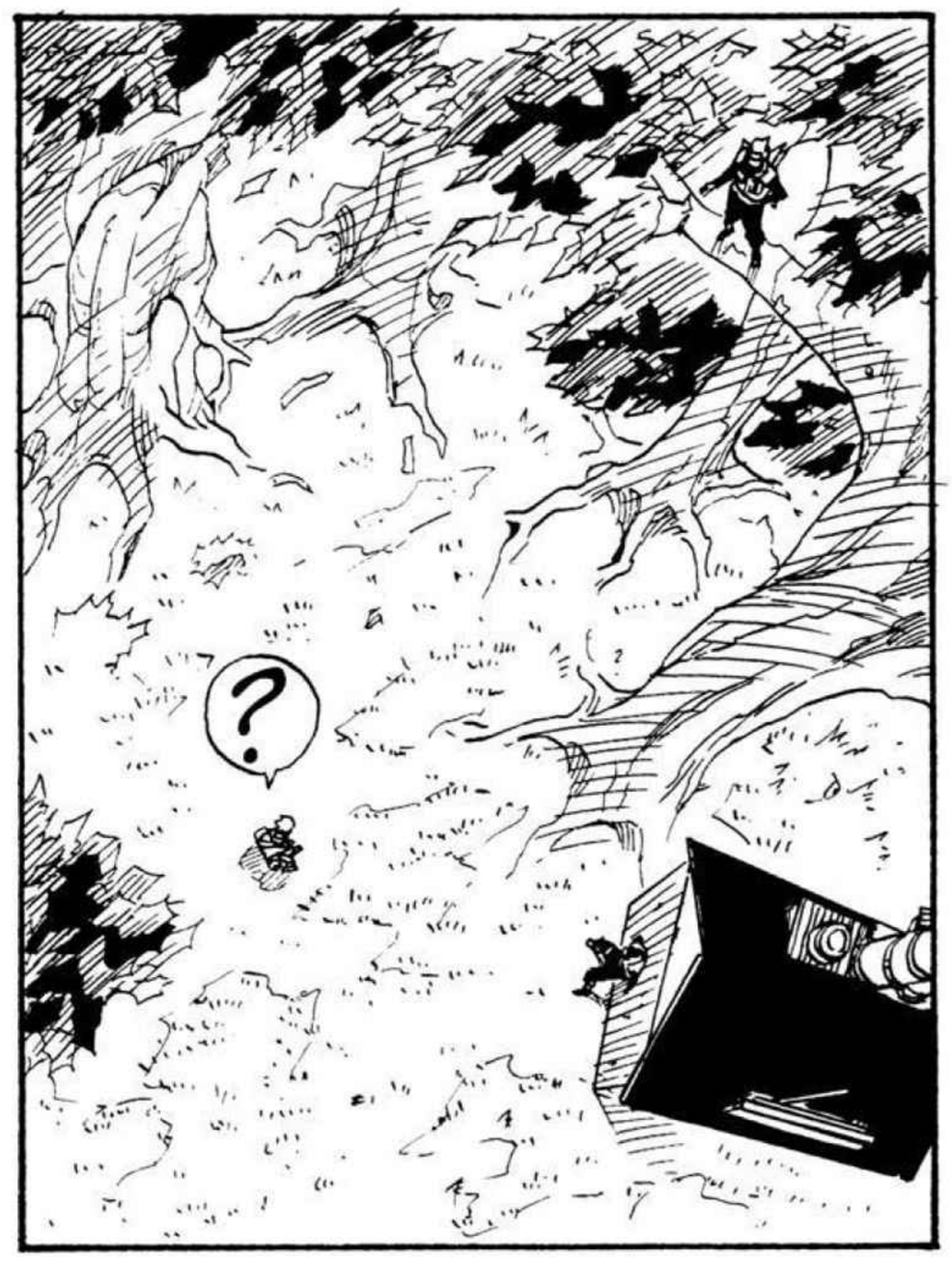
DON'T LET HIM HAVE IT, NARUTO! PROTECT THAT SCROLL WITH YOUR LIFE!
THUK

MIZUKI USED YOU BECAUSE HE WANTS IT FOR HIMSELF!!

IT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE - IT HOLDS THE RECORD OF A COMPLETELY FORBIDDEN NINJA ART!




... THE PEOPLE OF OUR VILLAGE HAVE BEEN BOUND BY THE STRICTEST DECREE.
SINCE THAT INCIDENT...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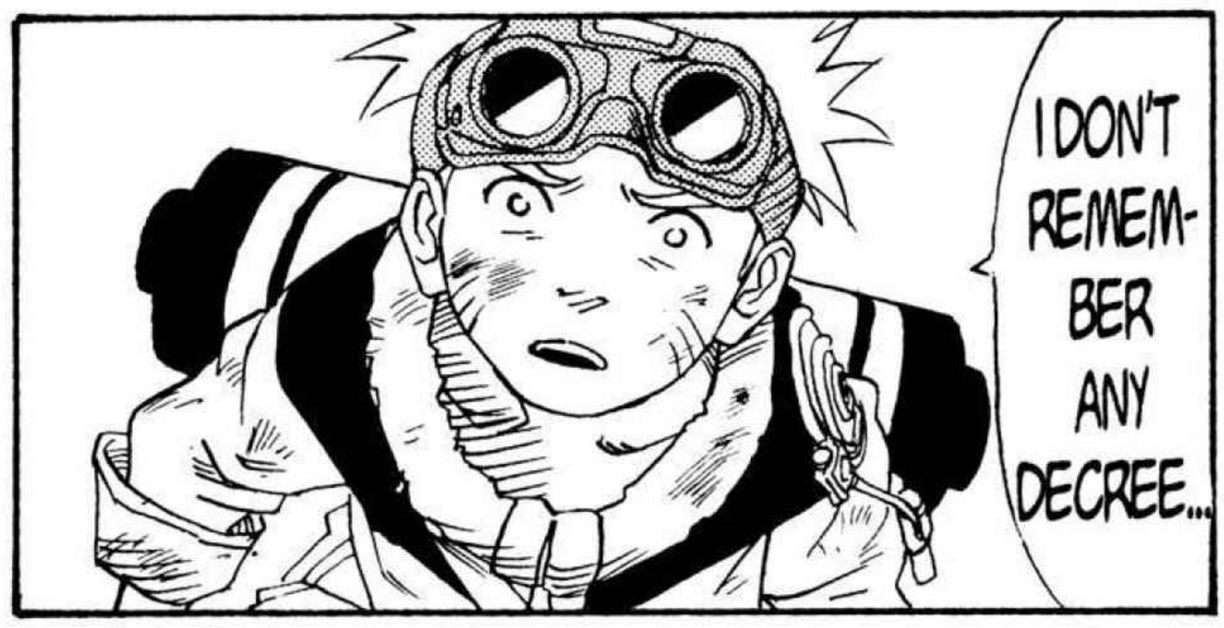
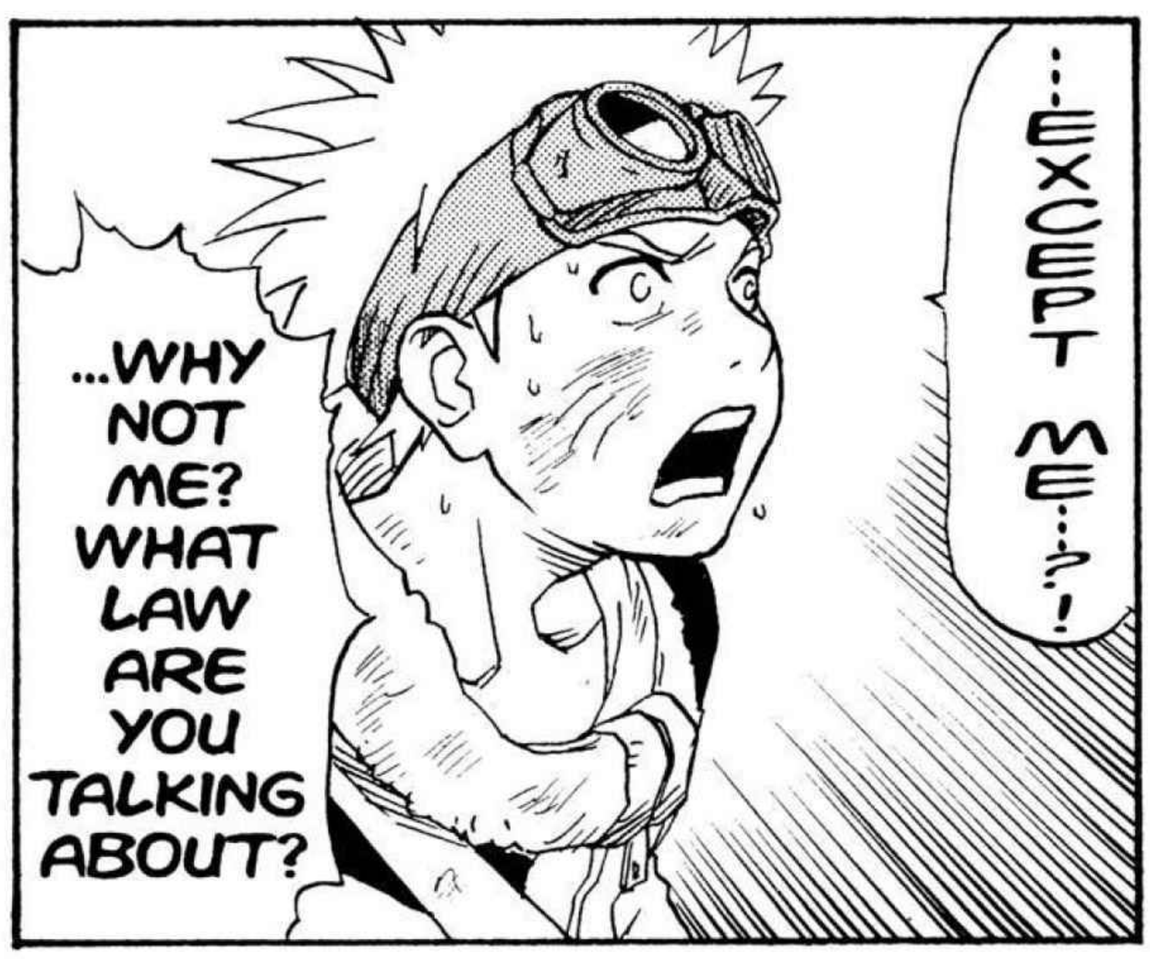
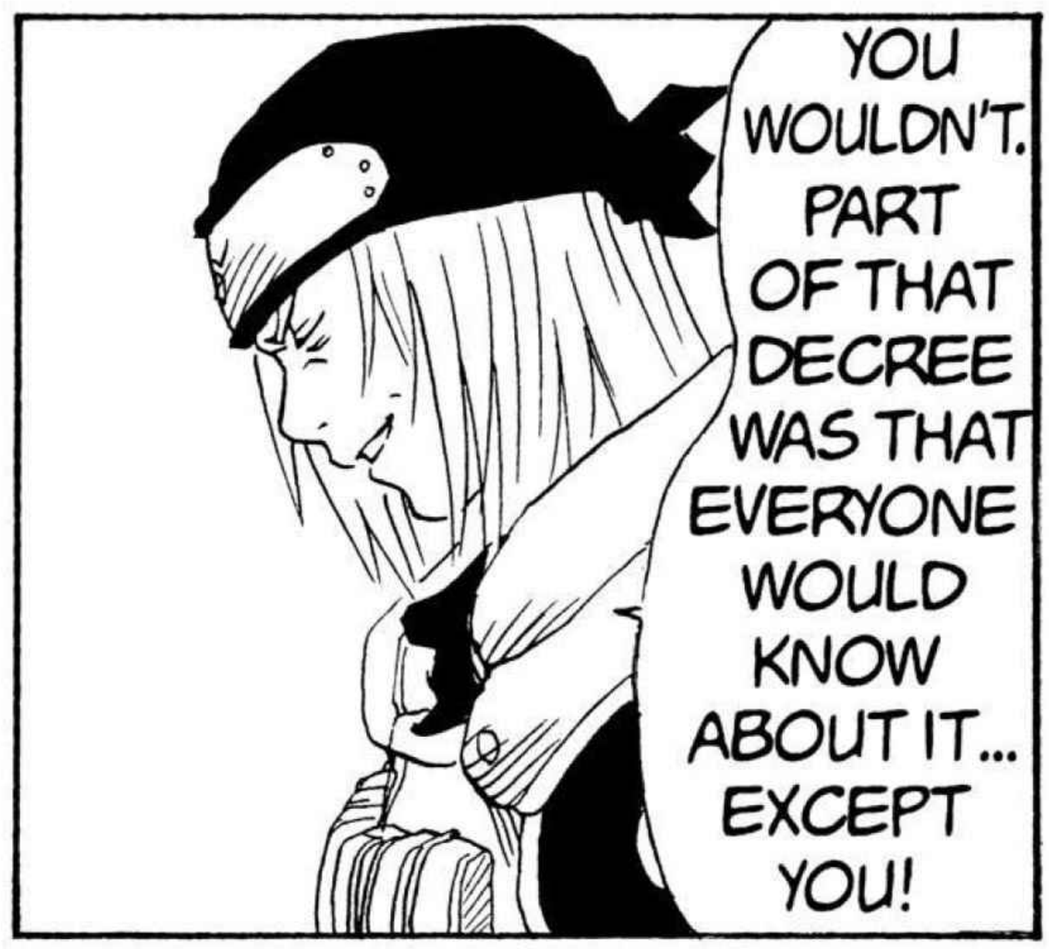
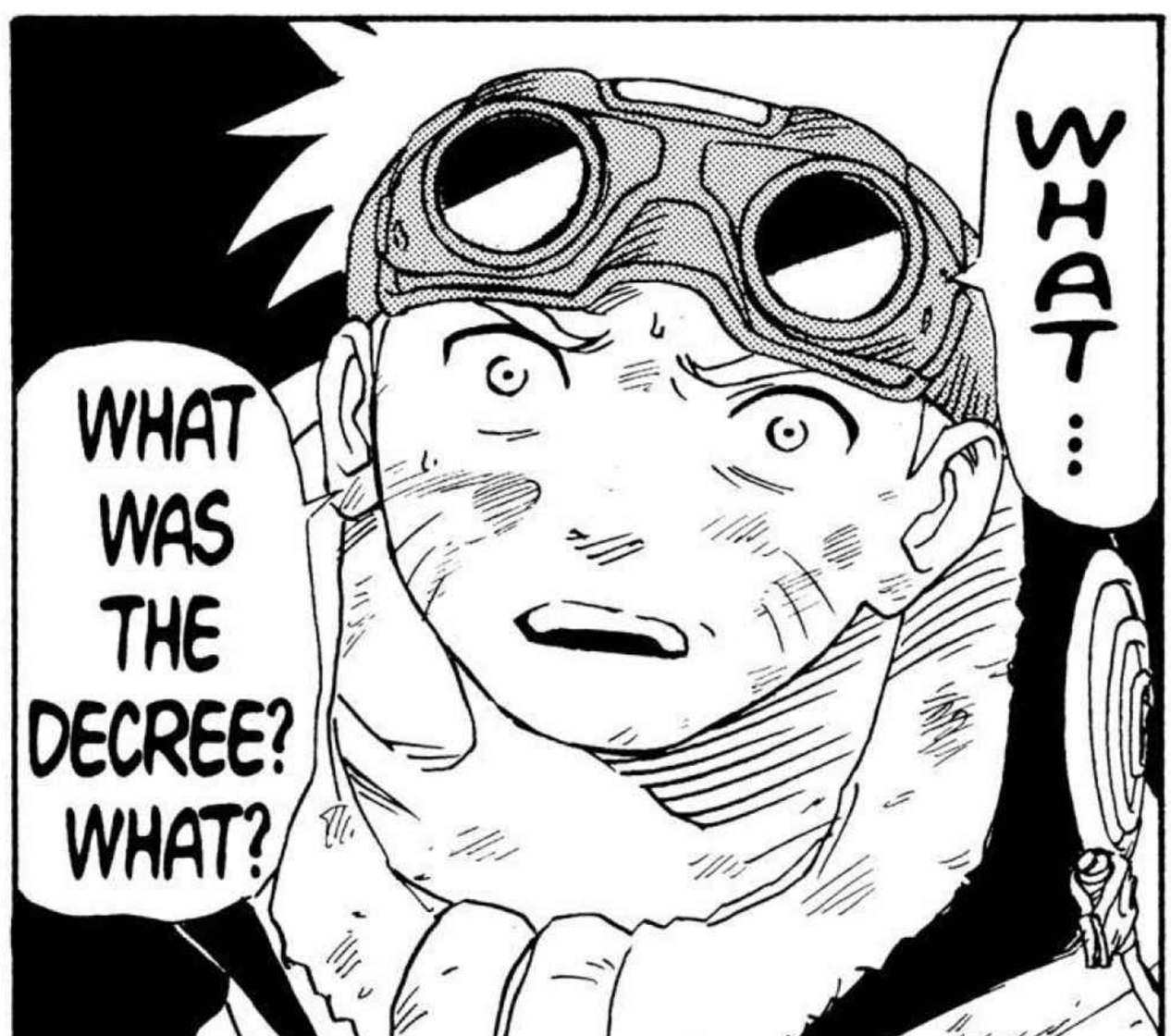

I DON'T REMEMBER ANY DECREE...


...EXCEPT ME...?!
...WHY NOT ME? WHAT LAW ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


YOU WOULDN'T. PART OF THAT DECREE WAS THAT EVERYONE WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT... EXCEPT YOU!


WHAT...
WHAT WAS THE DECREE? WHAT?

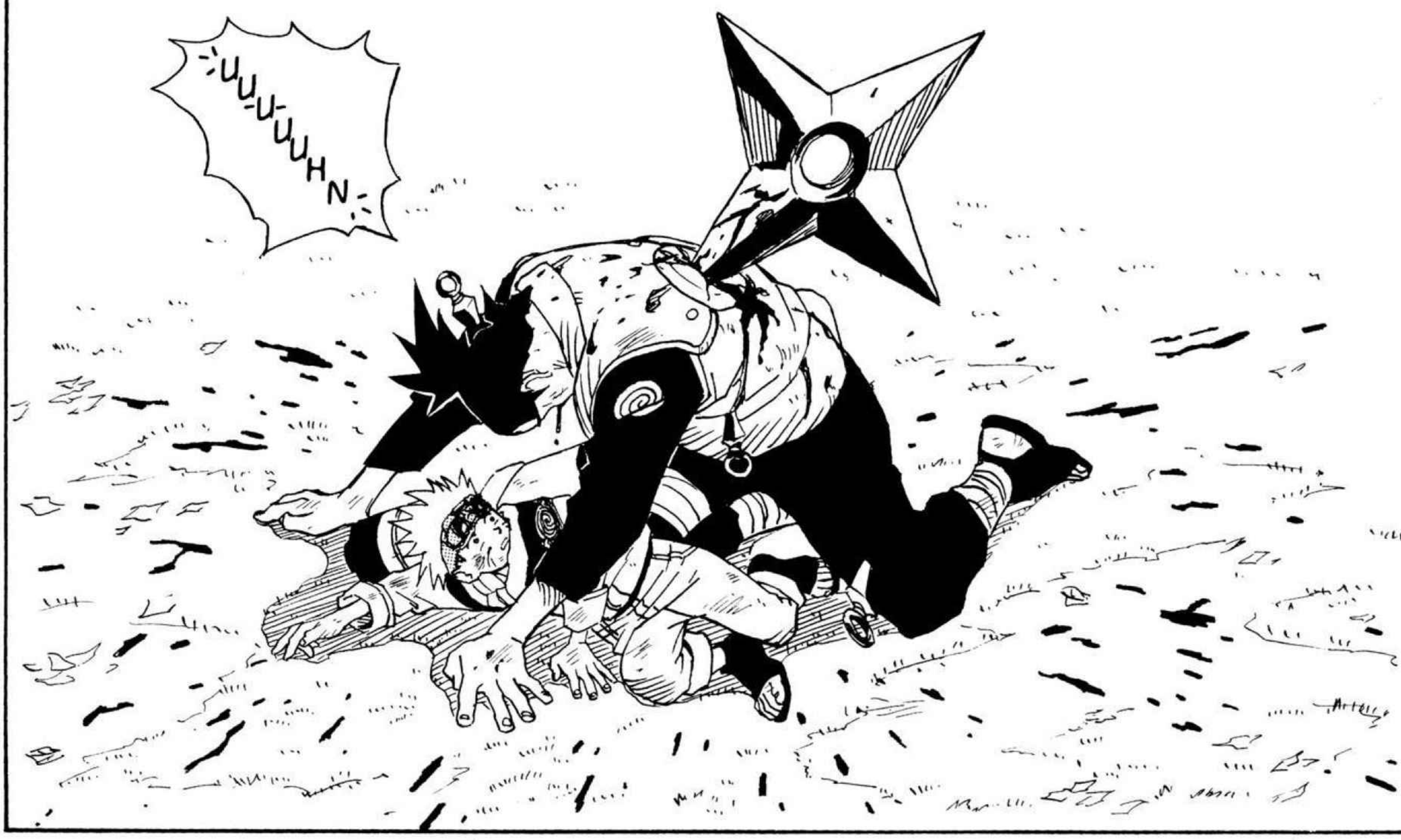
HA HA HA HA HA

THAT NO ONE MUST EVER TELL YOU... THAT WHAT YOU REALLY ARE... IS THE DEMON FOX!

WHAT?

READ THIS WAY
SINCE THEN, YOU'VE BEEN MADE A FOOL OF BY EVERYONE IN TOWN!
STOP IT!!
UNTIL, AT LAST, OUR BELOVED HERO, THE FOURTH LORD HOKAGE, TRAPPED AND BOUND YOU... IN THIS FORM.
FWP
FWP
FWP
IF HE WERE HONEST, EVEN NOBLE IRUKA WOULD ADMIT HE HATES YOU, TOO!!
DIDN'T YOU THINK IT WAS STRANGE? TO BE SO DESPISED, EVERYWHERE YOU WENT?
CRAP
CRAPDITY
CRAP
CRAP
CRAP
CRAP
CRAP
!!
NARUTO!

FFFFFFF
NO ONE WILL EVER ACCEPT YOU!
GASP!
YOU NEVER KNEW A PARENT'S LOVE...
SINCE THE DAY OF YOUR BIRTH YOU'VE BEEN SHUNNED BY OUR ENTIRE VILLAGE!
AND YOU DIDN'T CARE. YOU WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY CRITICISM, ANY CONDEMNATION, SO LONG AS IT MEANT THAT SOMEONE WAS PAYING ATTENTION TO YOU.
THE BEST YOU COULD EVER HOPE FOR WAS ATTENTION, NOT LOVE...
AND YOU COULD ONLY GET THAT BY DOING THINGS THAT WOULD GET YOU INTO TROUBLE!
IT WAS A BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE, NARUTO... BUT IT WAS ALL A SHAM, TO HIDE YOUR LONELINESS... AND PAIN!
NYAH NYAH, MASTER IRUKA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT SCROLL THAT YOU'VE STOLEN... IT WAS THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR BONDAGE!!

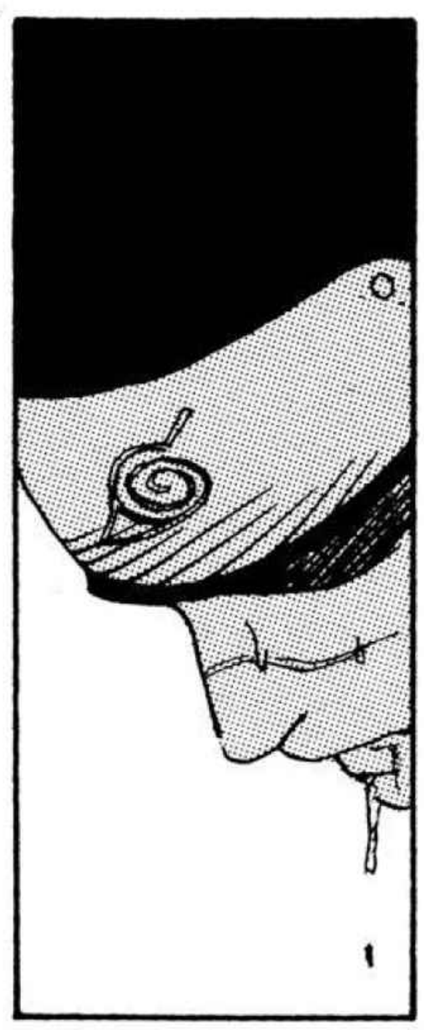

UUUUUUHN

!

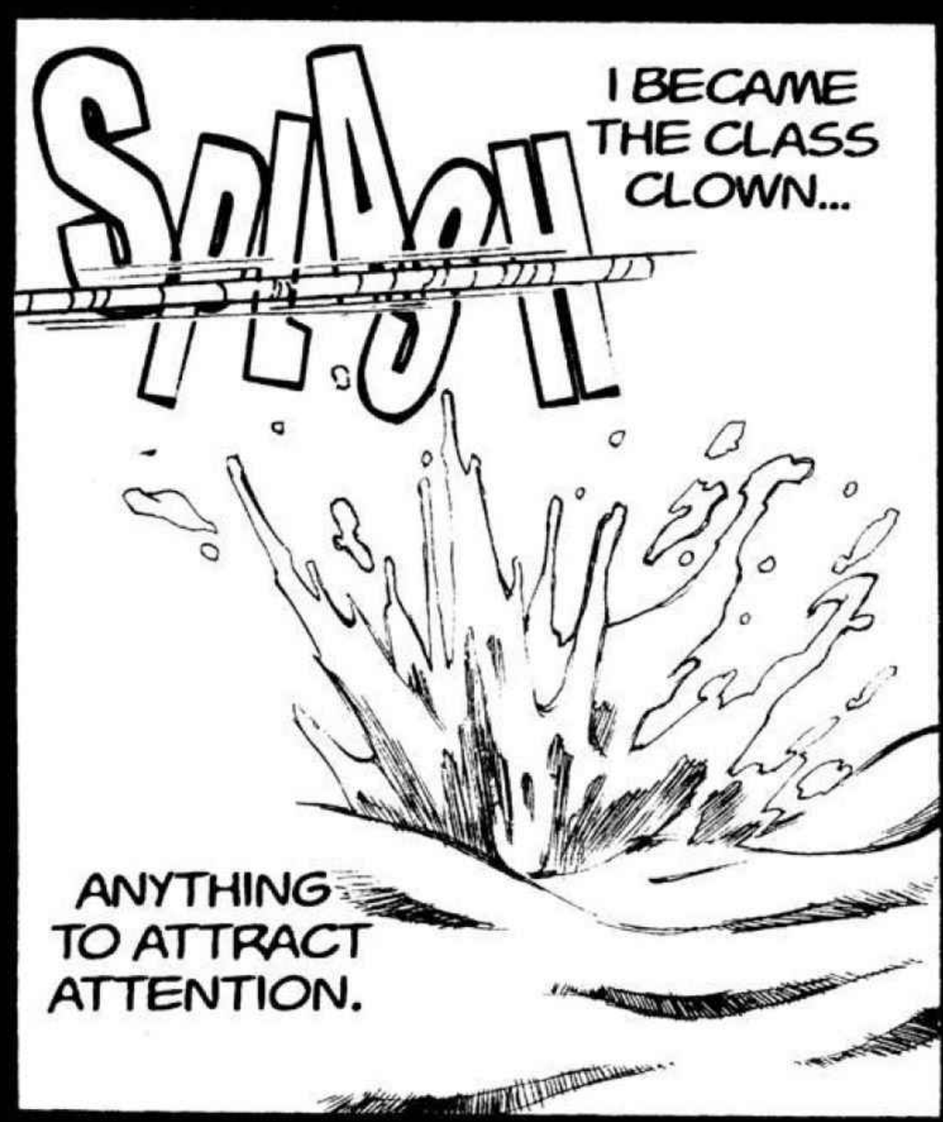
PLIT
PLIT

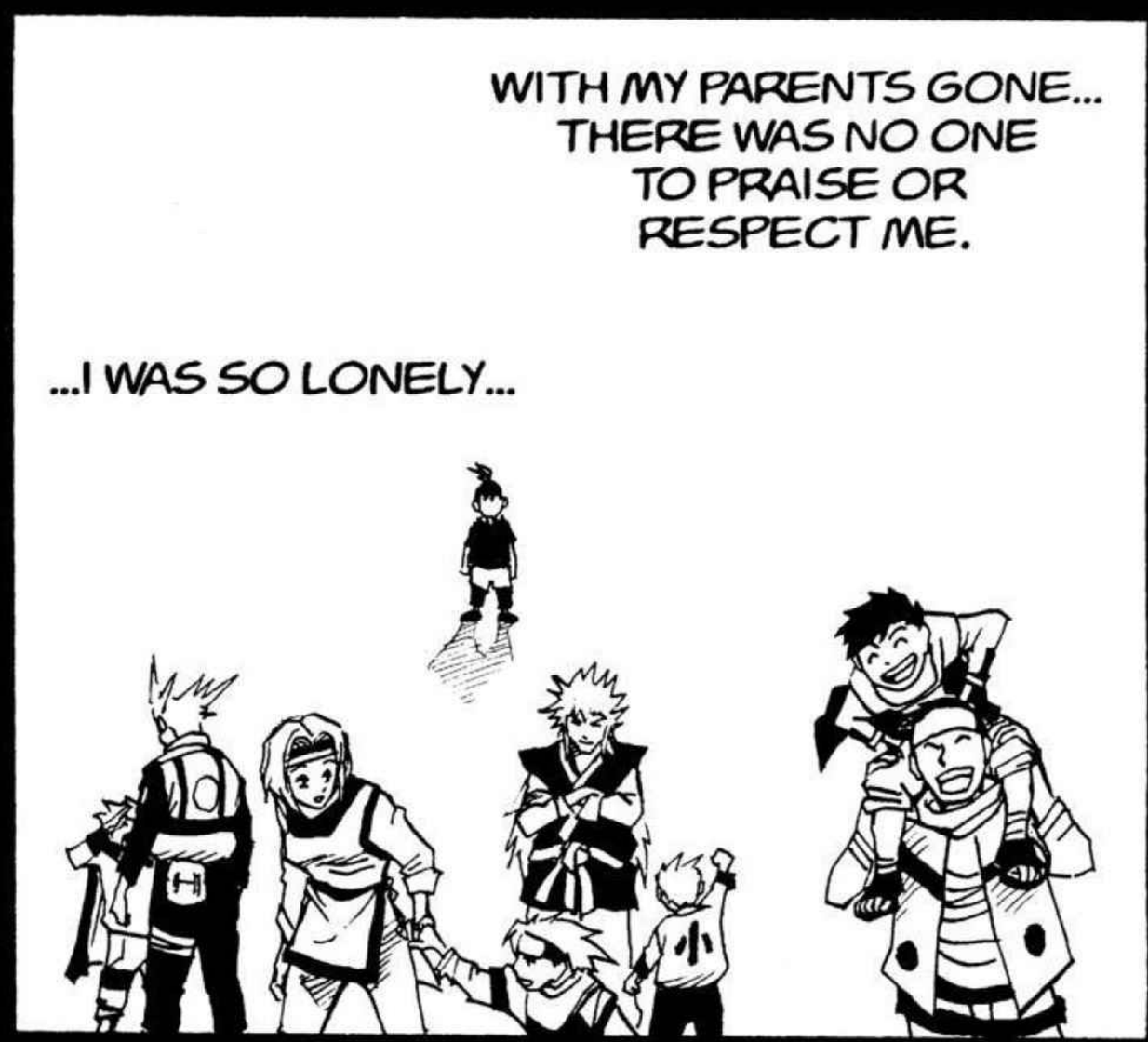
PLIT

...!...



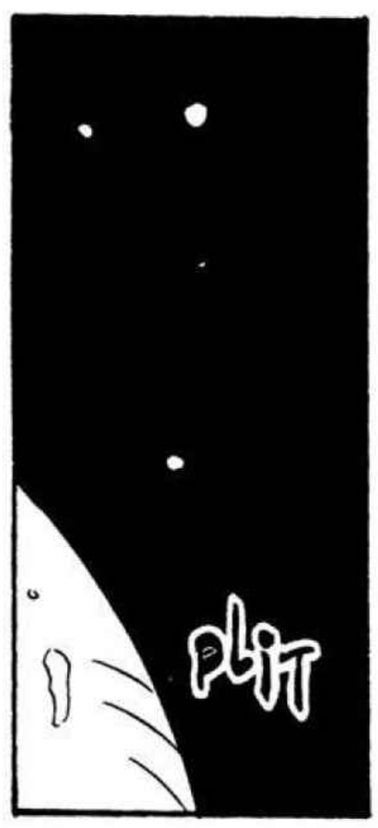
...
WHY
...?


SPLASH
I BECAME THE CLASS CLOWN...
ANYTHING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.


WITH MY PARENTS GONE... THERE WAS NO ONE TO PRAISE OR RESPECT ME.
...I WAS SO LONELY...

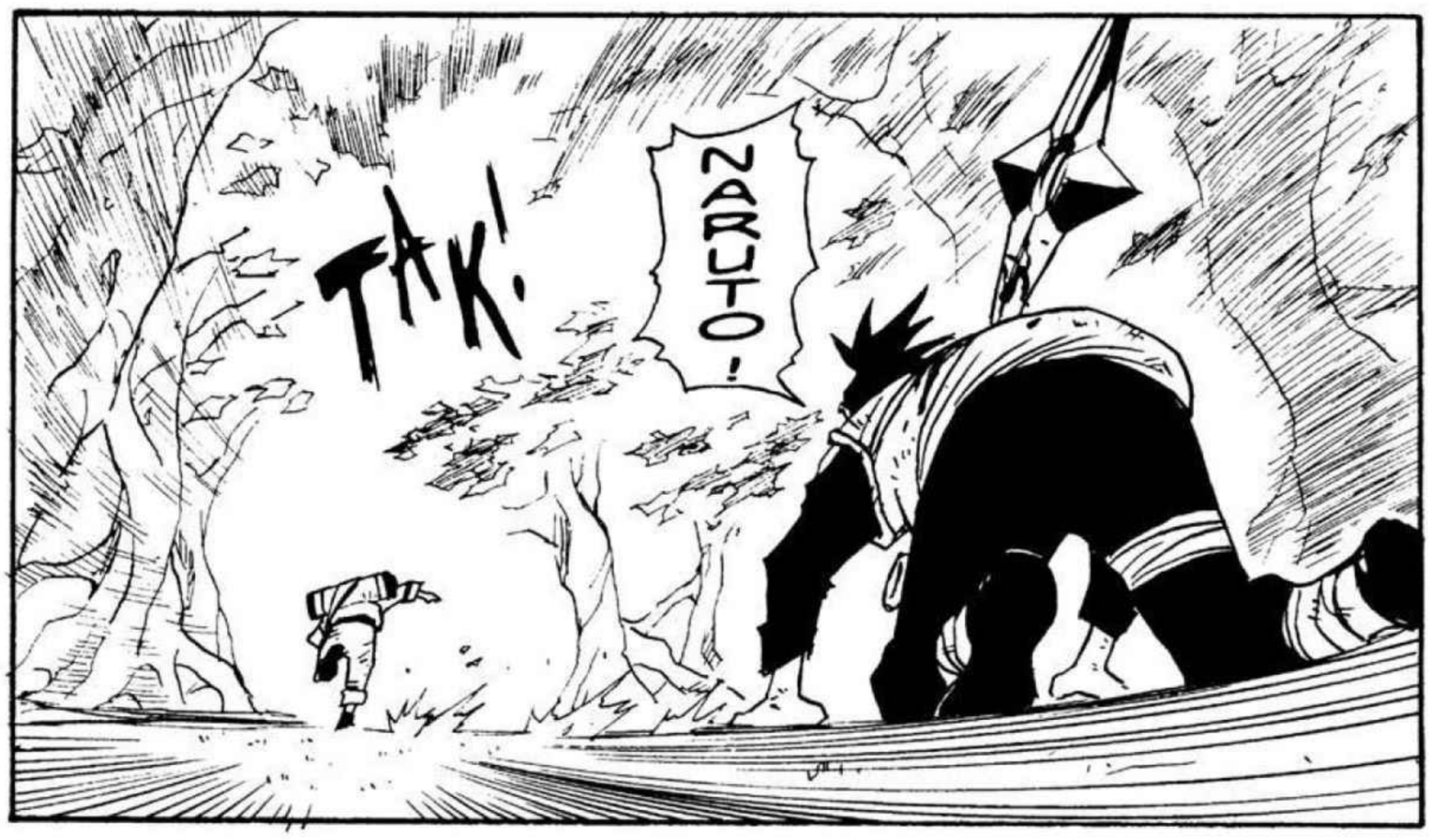
...WAS STILL BETTER THAN BEING A NOBODY.
BEING THE CLASS CLOWN ...
LUB-DUB
HA HA HA

I JUST WANTED SOMEONE TO NOTICE HOW GOOD I WAS...
TO BE PROUD OF ME.

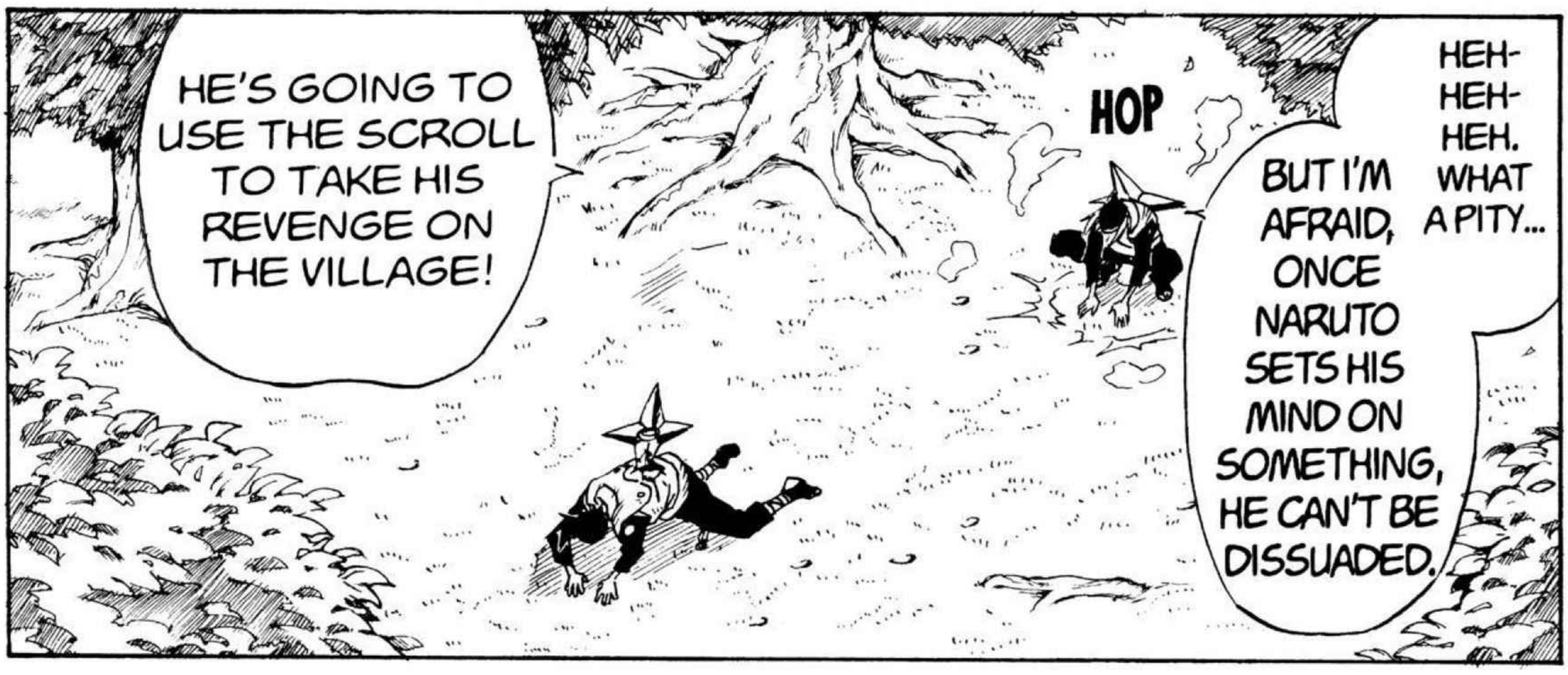

PLIT

IT... HURT SO MUCH.

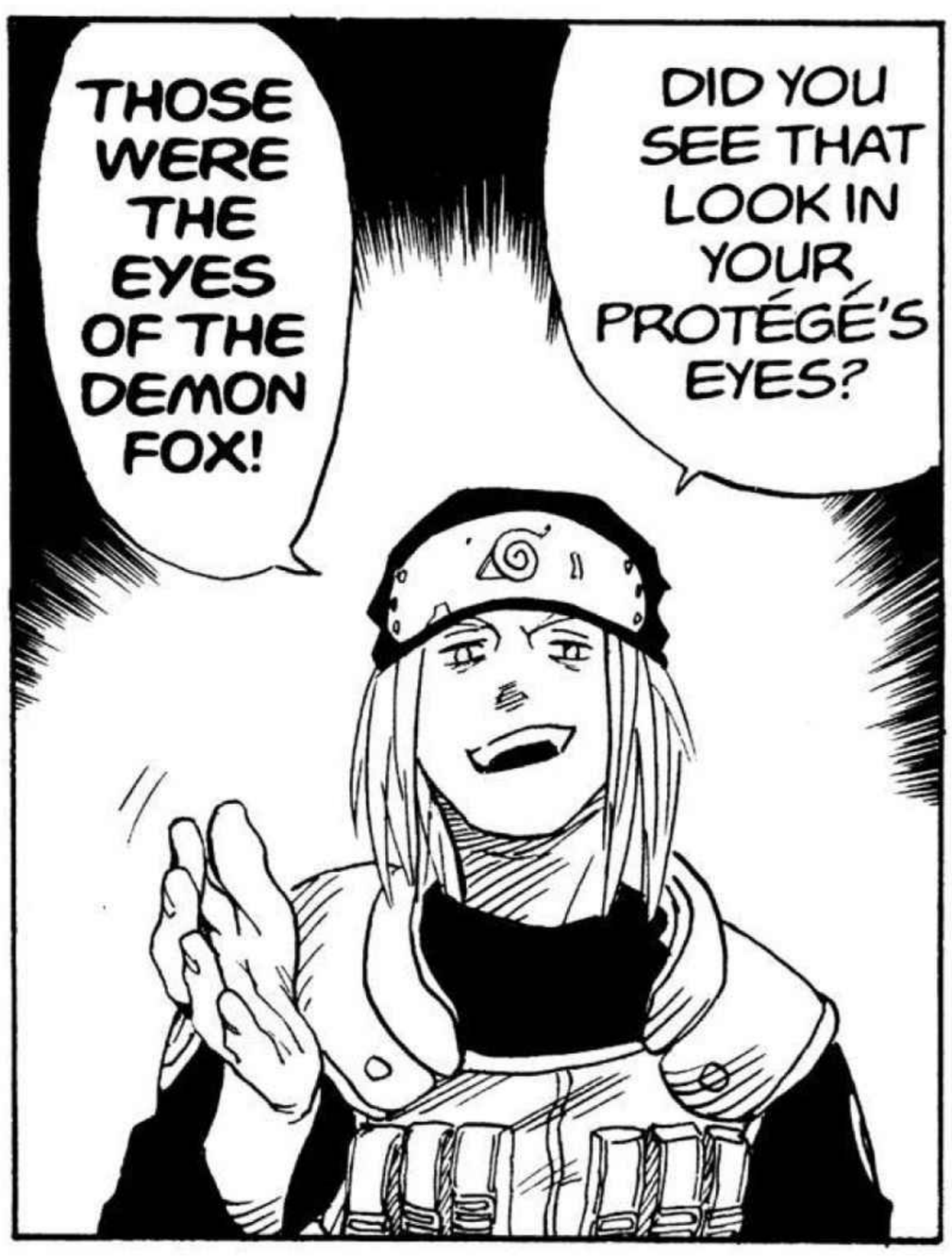
I KNOW THAT, NARUTO. I WAS SO HARD ON YOU, YELLING, SCOLDING... IT MUST HAVE HURT...


TAK!
NARUTO!

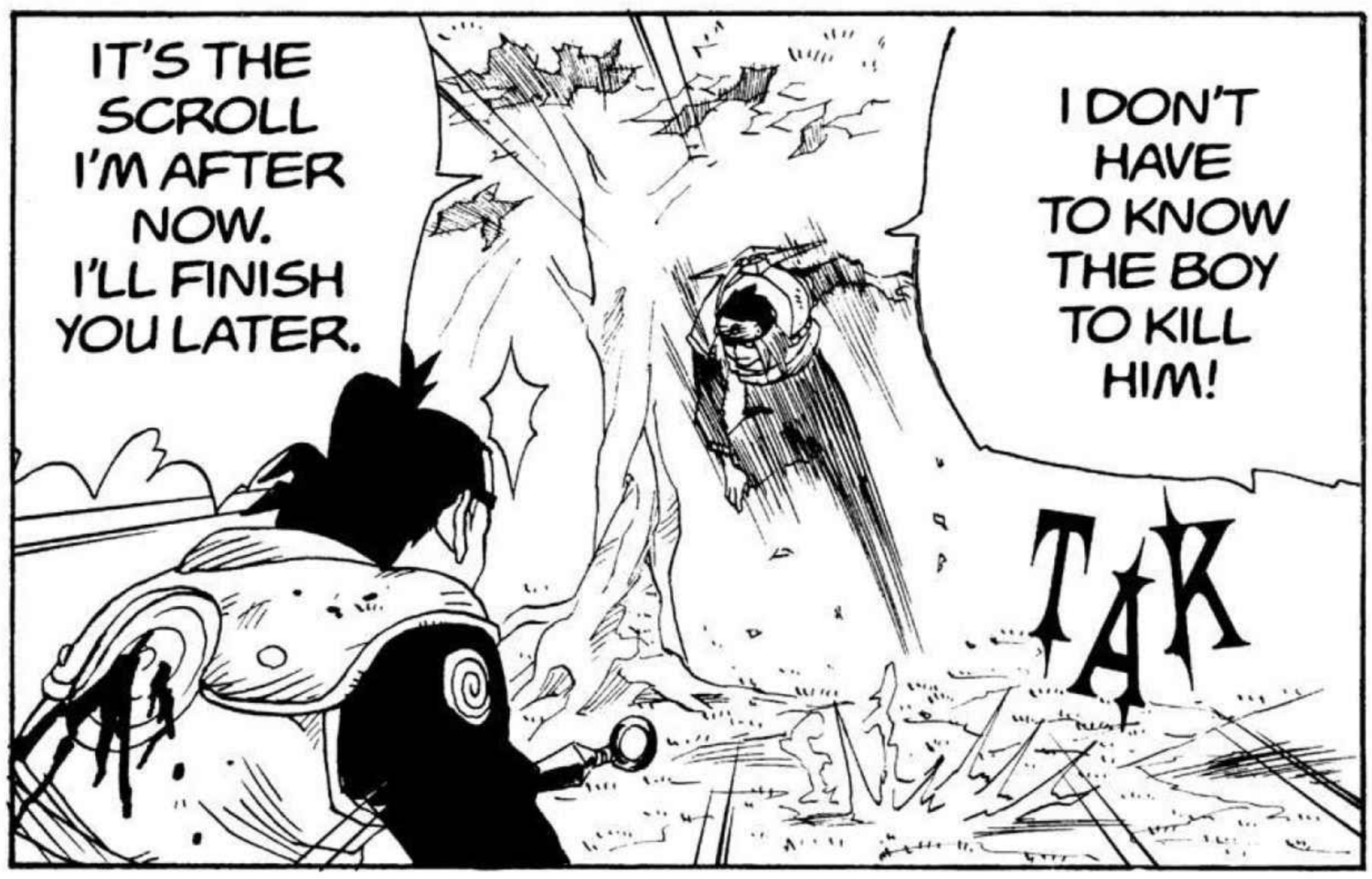
SHIFT

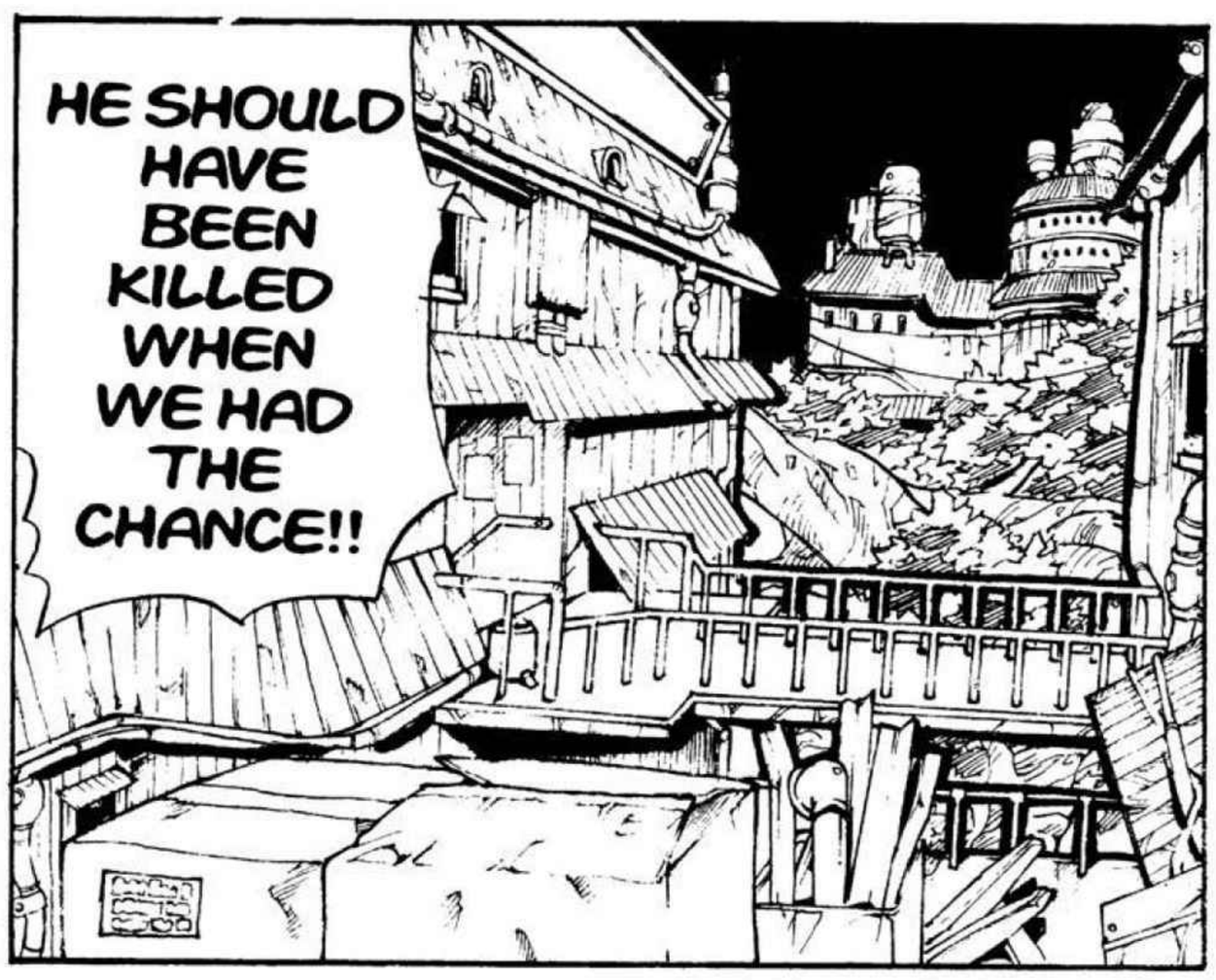

HE'S GOING TO USE THE SCROLL TO TAKE HIS REVENGE ON THE VILLAGE!
HOP
BUT I'M AFRAID, ONCE NARUTO SETS HIS MIND ON SOMETHING, HE CAN'T BE DISSUADED.
HEH-HEH-HEH. WHAT A PITY...

CCHHKH
-AAUUUH-


THOSE WERE THE EYES OF THE DEMON FOX!
DID YOU SEE THAT LOOK IN YOUR PROTÉGÉ'S EYES?

YOU... DON'T KNOW... NARUTO... AT ALL...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SPLIP

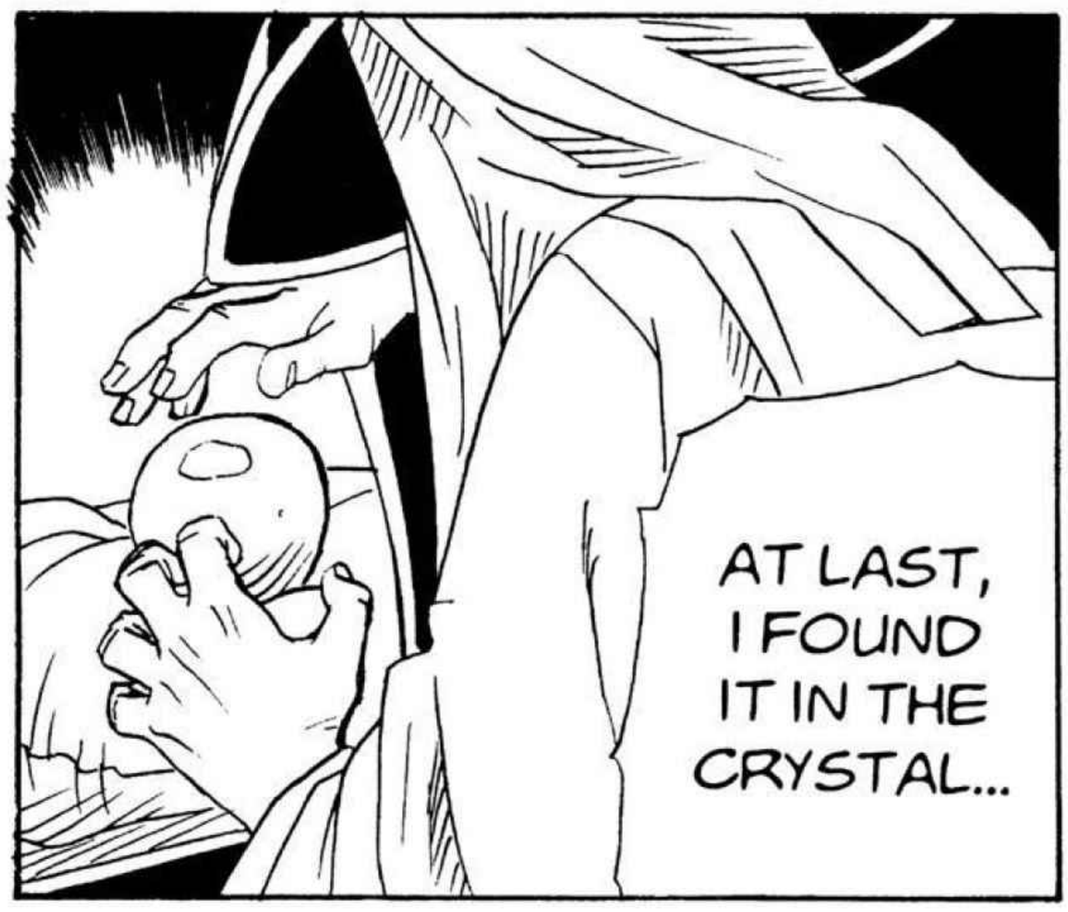

IT'S THE SCROLL I'M AFTER NOW. I'LL FINISH YOU LATER.
I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THE BOY TO KILL HIM!
TAK

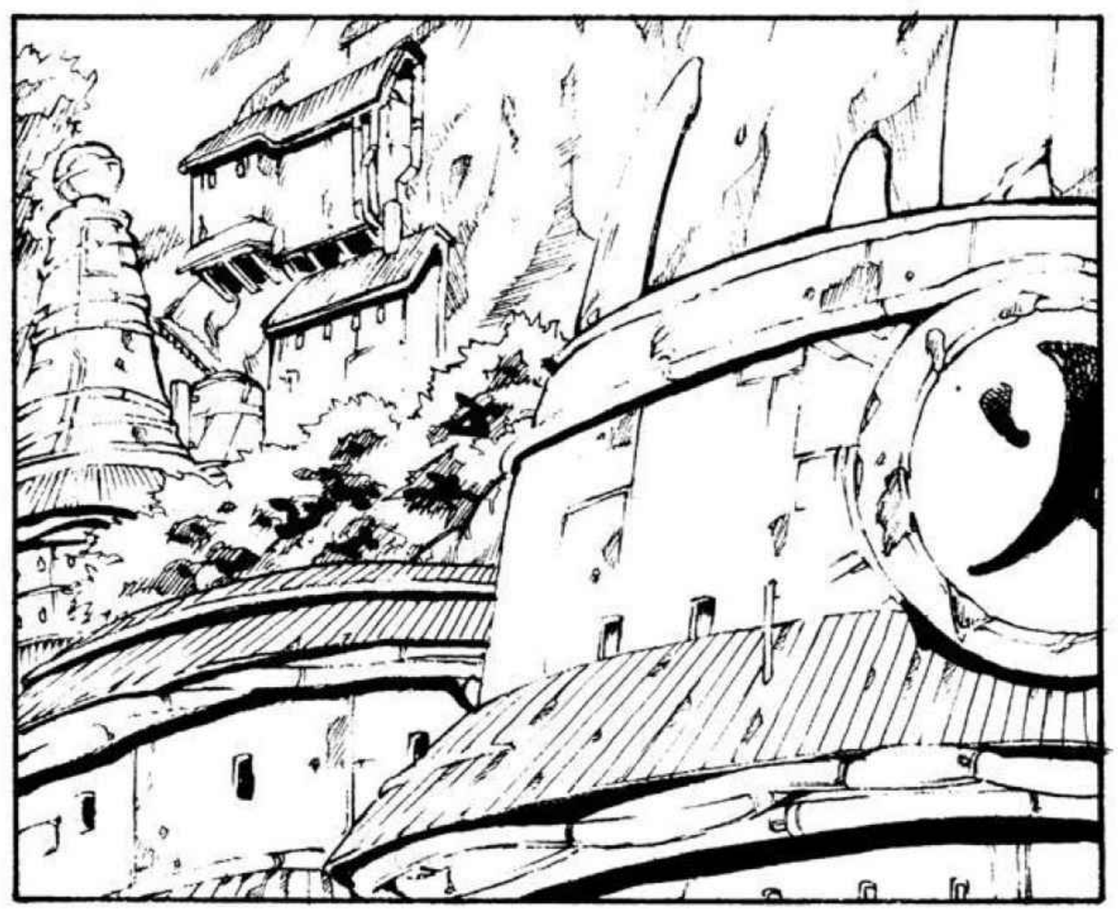

HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE!!

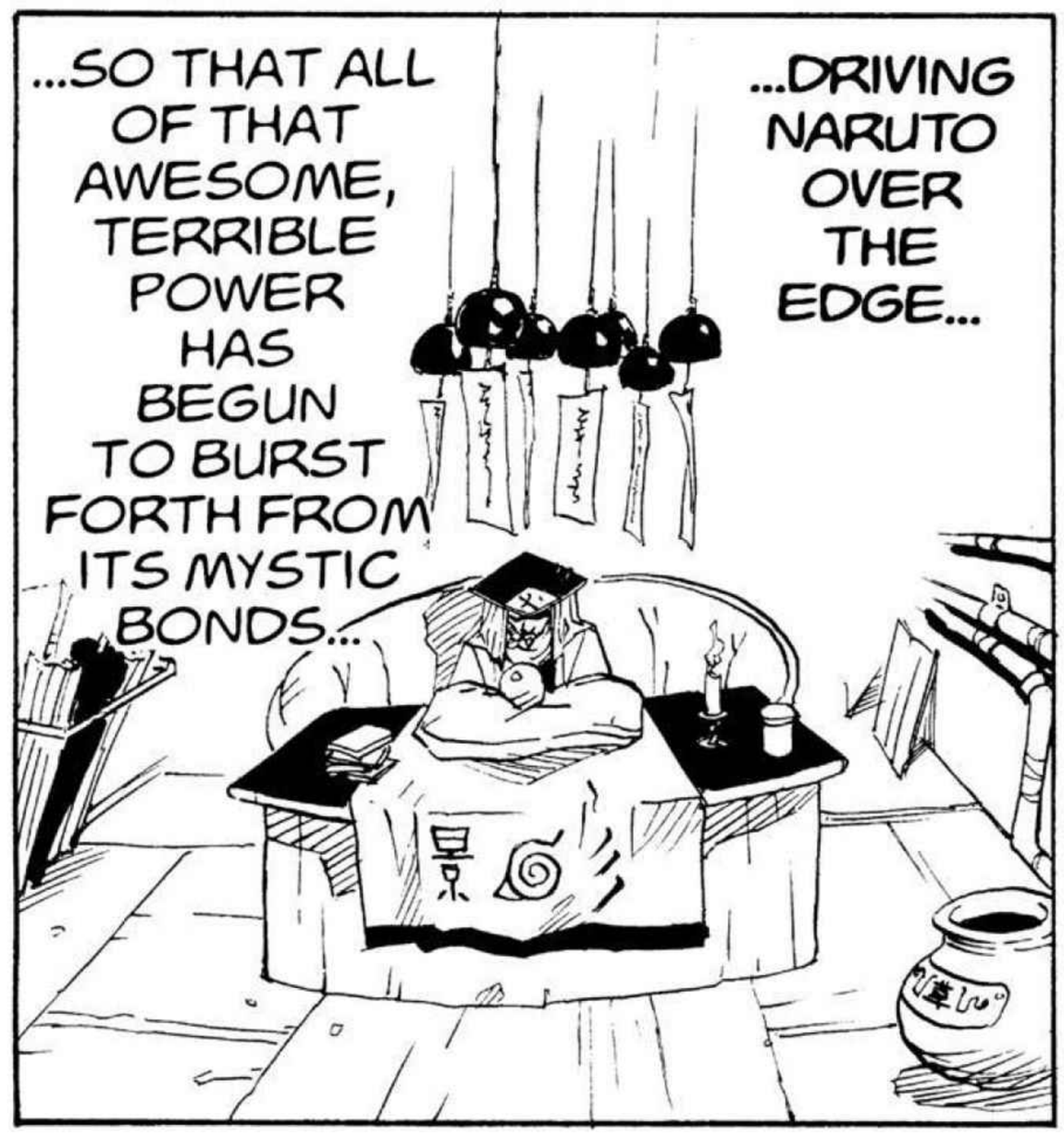
YOU CAN TRY.
UHNNG
TAK

YEAH!
DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING OF HIM AS ONE OF US. WHEN WE FIND HIM, HE HAS TO DIE!!

BUT WE CAN STILL SET THAT RIGHT IF WE ACT NOW, WHILE HE'S STILL A BOY... BEFORE THE DEMON SPIRIT BREAKS FREE!!

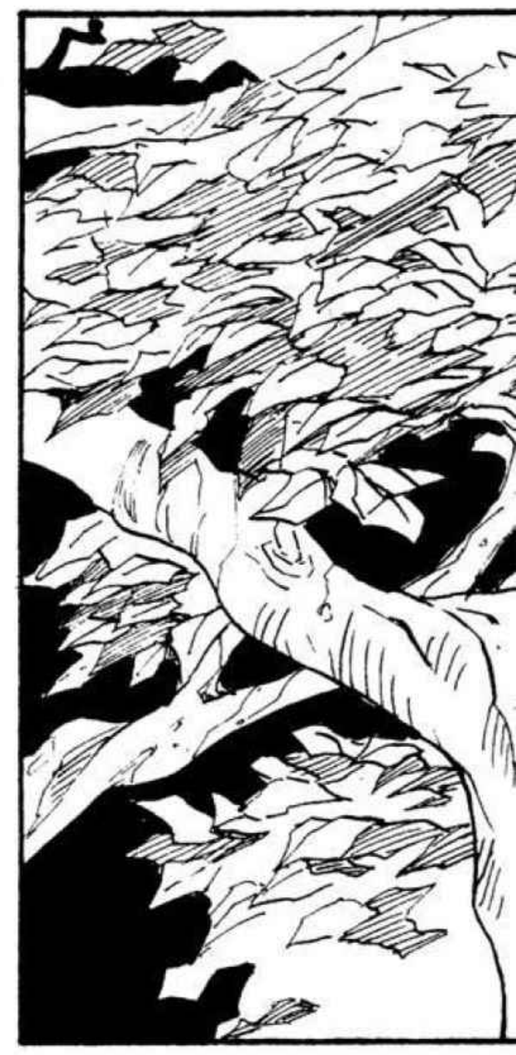

AT LAST, I FOUND IT IN THE CRYSTAL...



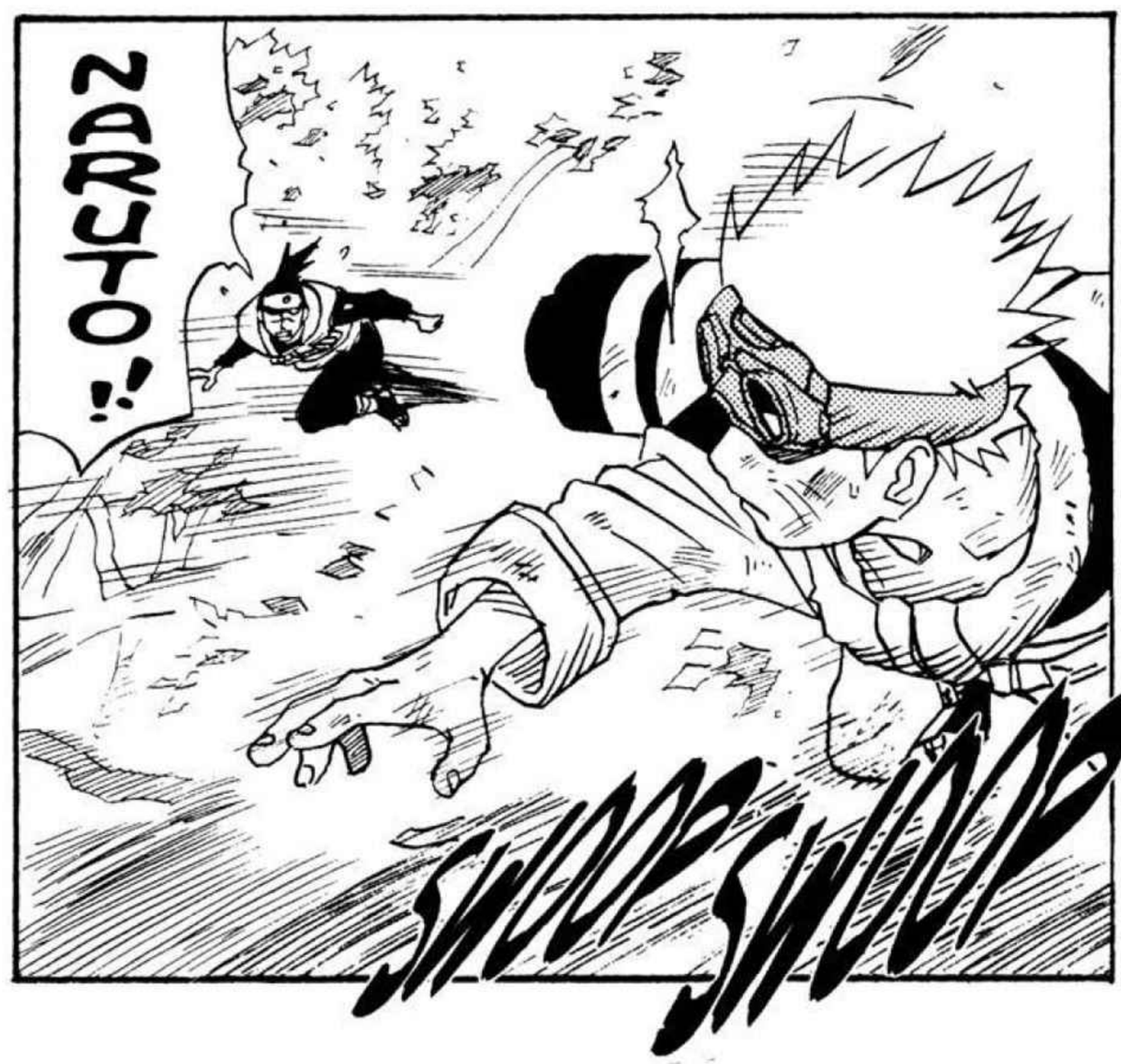

...SO THAT ALL OF THAT AWESOME, TERRIBLE POWER HAS BEGUN TO BURST FORTH FROM ITS MYSTIC BONDS...
...DRIVING NARUTO OVER THE EDGE...

SO, AT THE VERY MOMENT MY TEACHERS FOUND HIM...
MIZUKI SPOKE, REVEALING ALL...

AND TO TOP THAT, IF THE SECRET SCROLL IS IN HIS HANDS...
THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SPIRIT MIGHT ESCAPE...

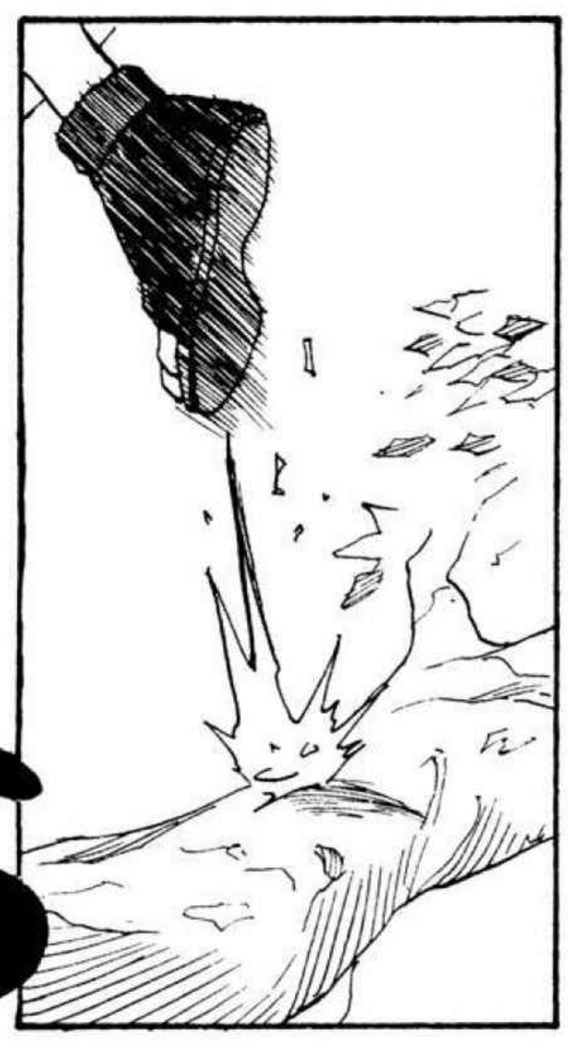


...
IT'S HIM !!


NARUTO!!
SWOOP SWOOP

IT'S WHAT MIZUKI'S AFTER!!
QUICKLY!! GIVE ME THE SCROLL!!
HOP
TAK

SUSSH



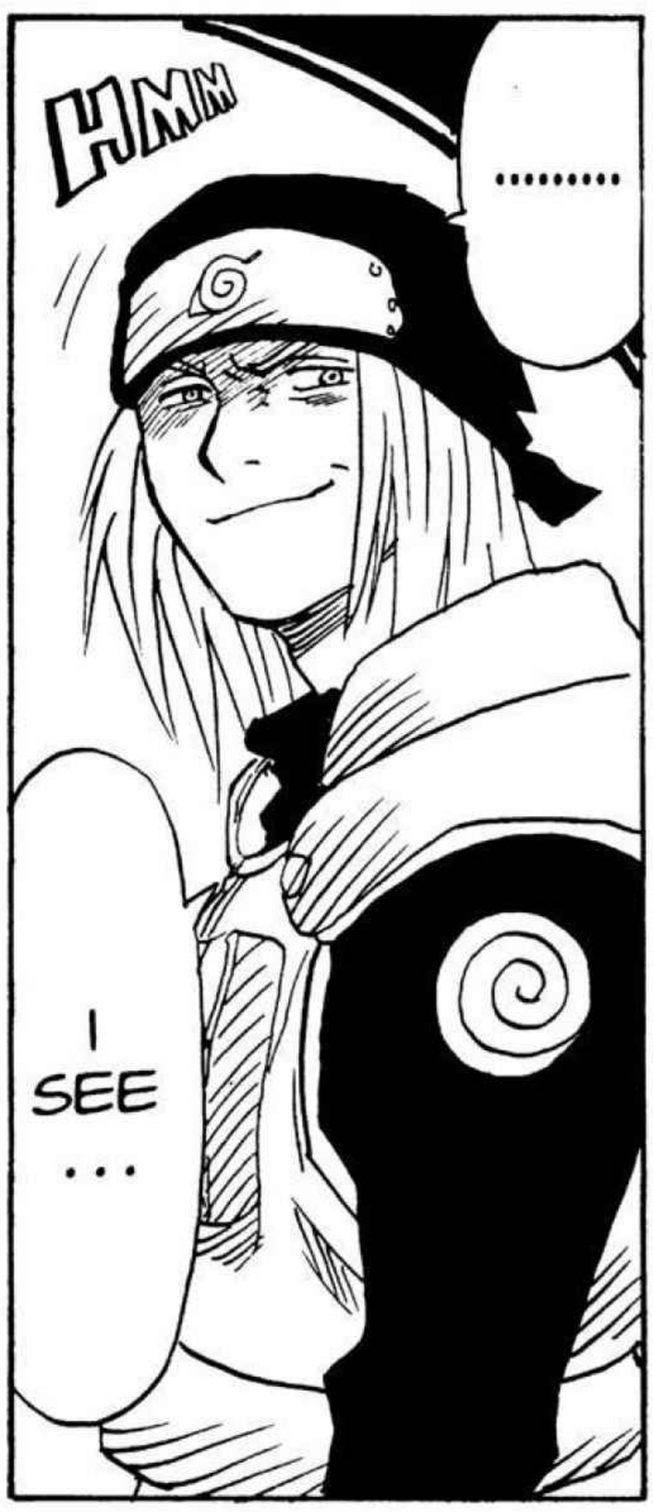
HUNH?

KRAAAK
CHAAAK
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S WRONG, NARUTO?
.....
...Y-YOU...
ZZZP
SKFF

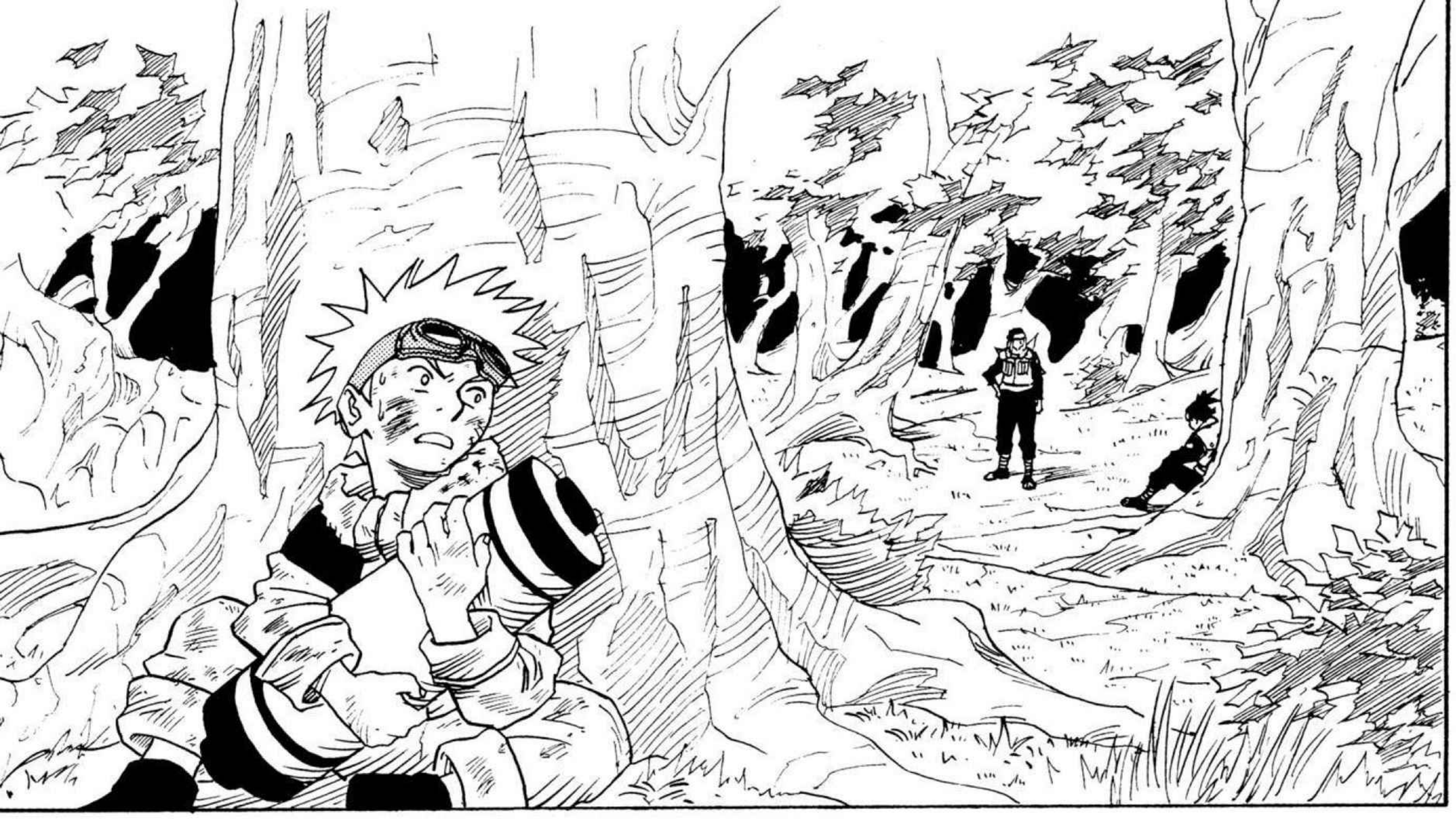
HEH HEH HEH HEH

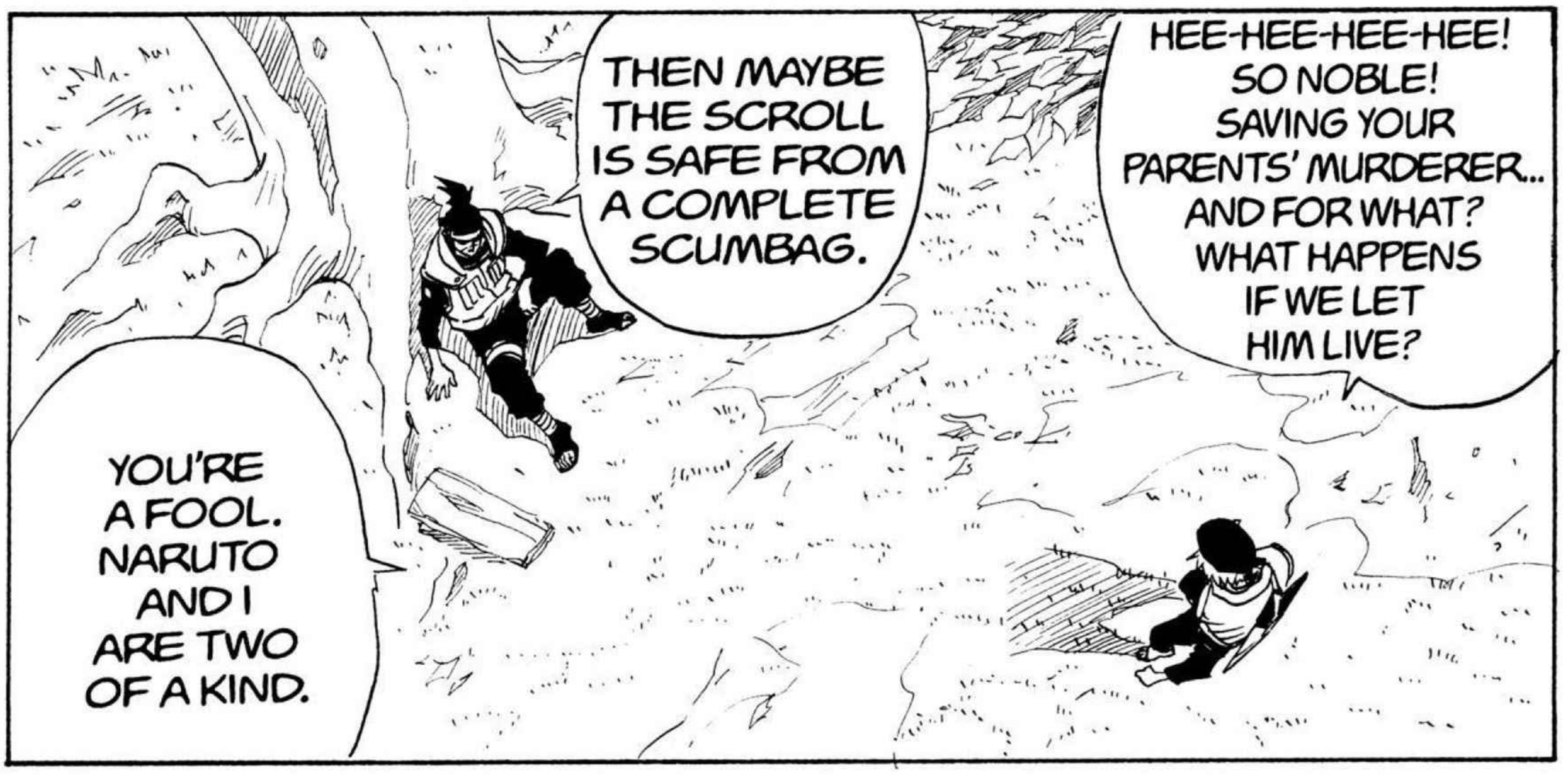
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WASN'T IRUKA?!

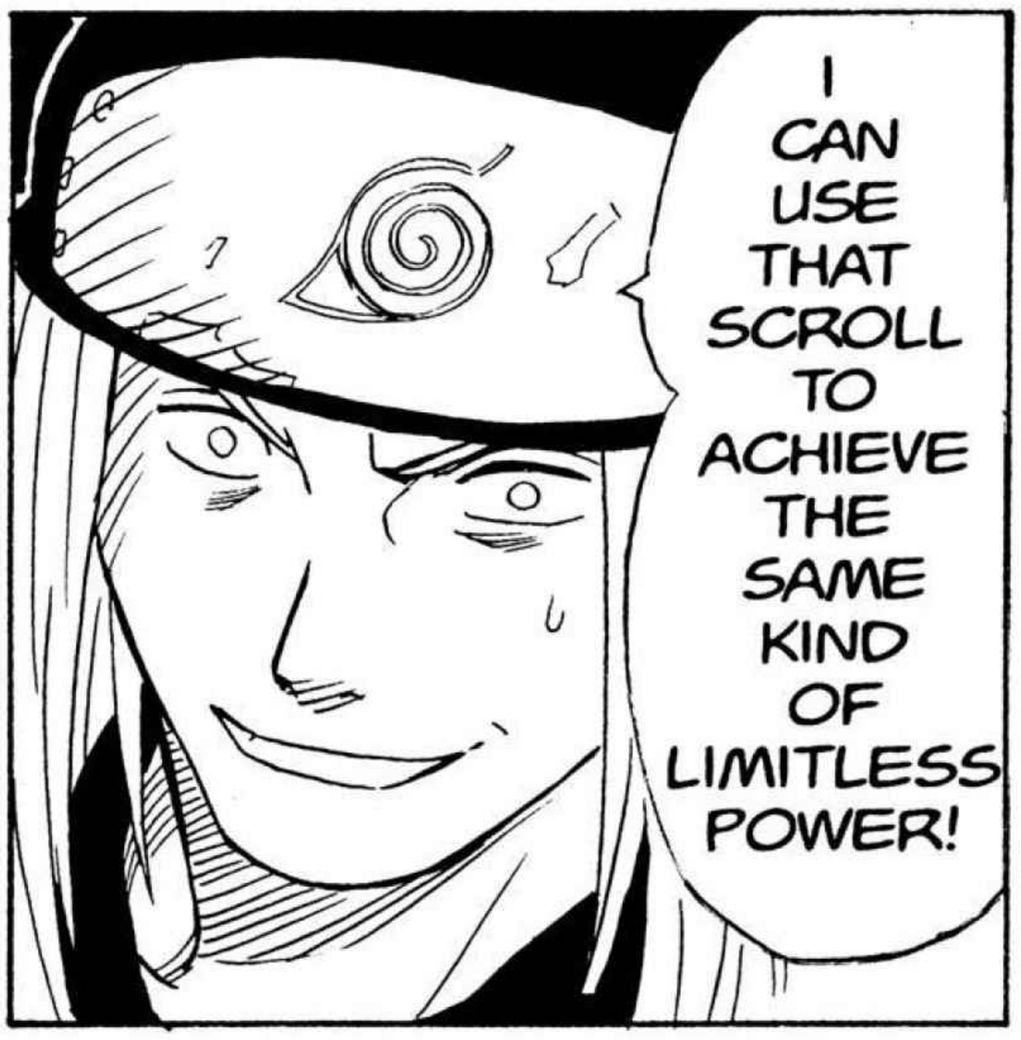
GNNNNG


HMM
.....
I SEE ...

BECAUSE I AM!

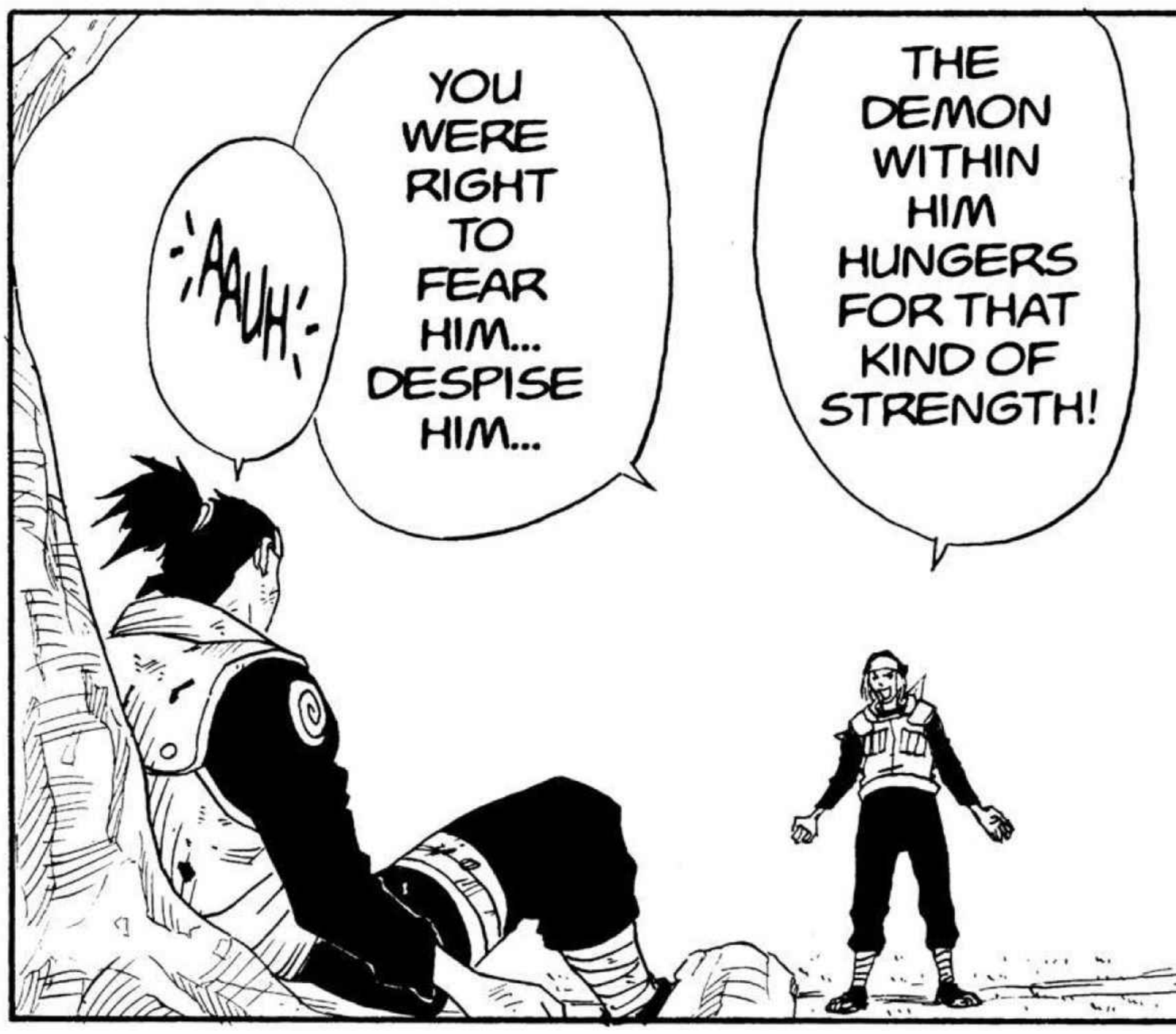


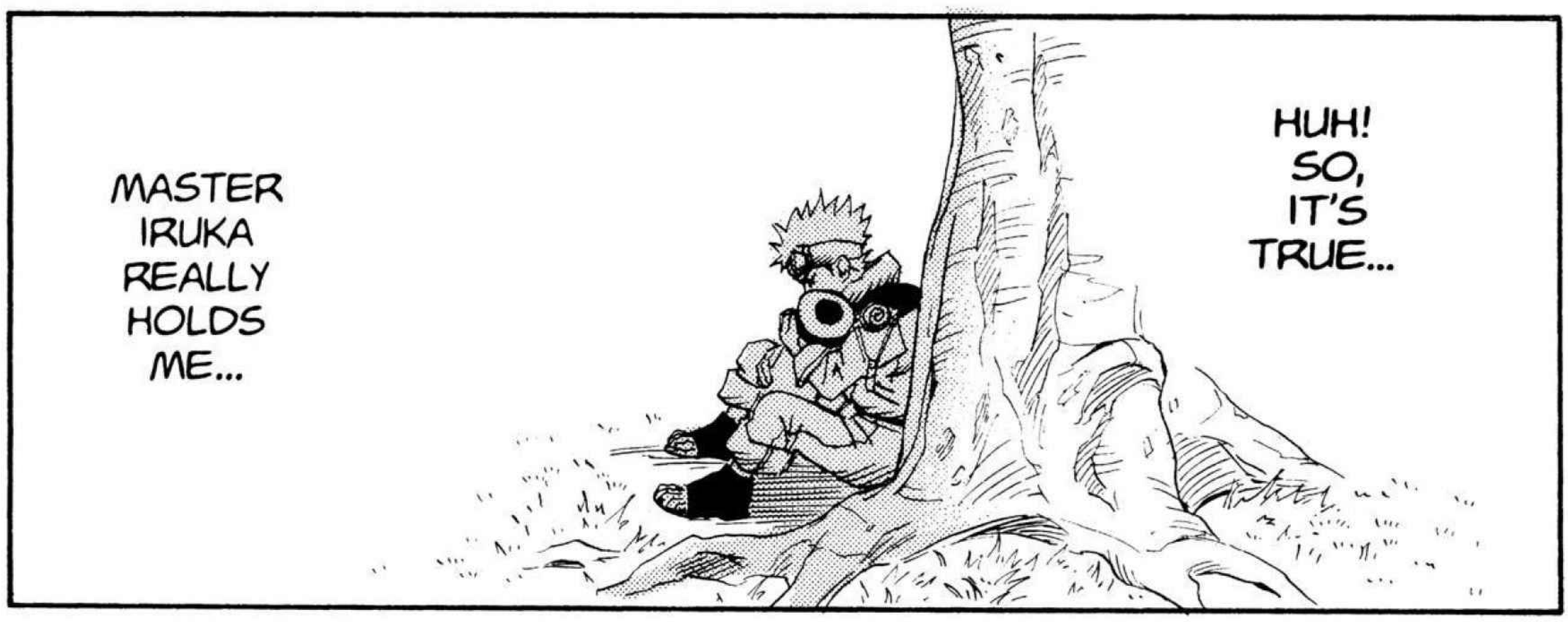

THEN MAYBE THE SCROLL IS SAFE FROM A COMPLETE SCUMBAG.
HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE! SO NOBLE! SAVING YOUR PARENTS' MURDERER... AND FOR WHAT? WHAT HAPPENS IF WE LET HIM LIVE?
YOU'RE A FOOL. NARUTO AND I ARE TWO OF A KIND.

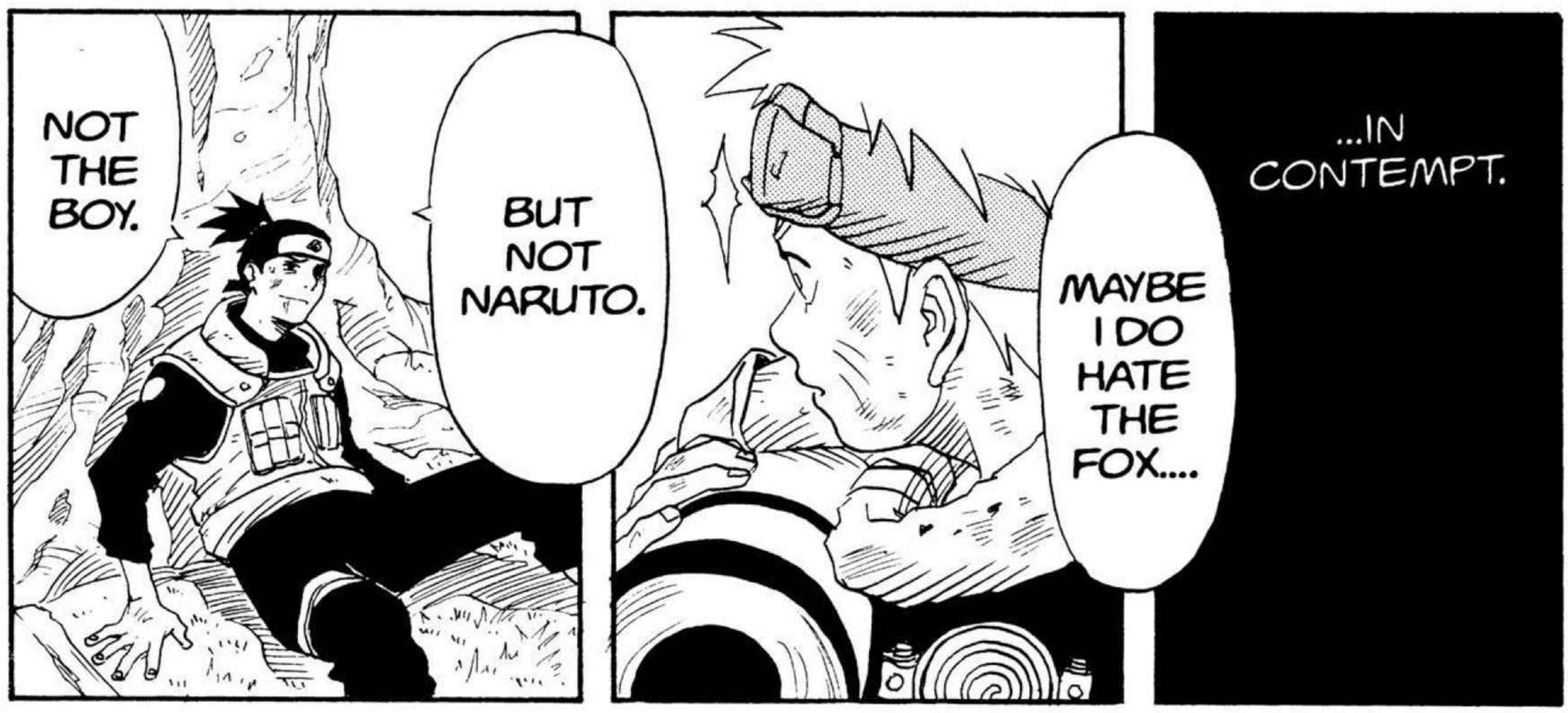

I CAN USE THAT SCROLL TO ACHIEVE THE SAME KIND OF LIMITLESS POWER!

!
TWO OF A KIND?

GRRR

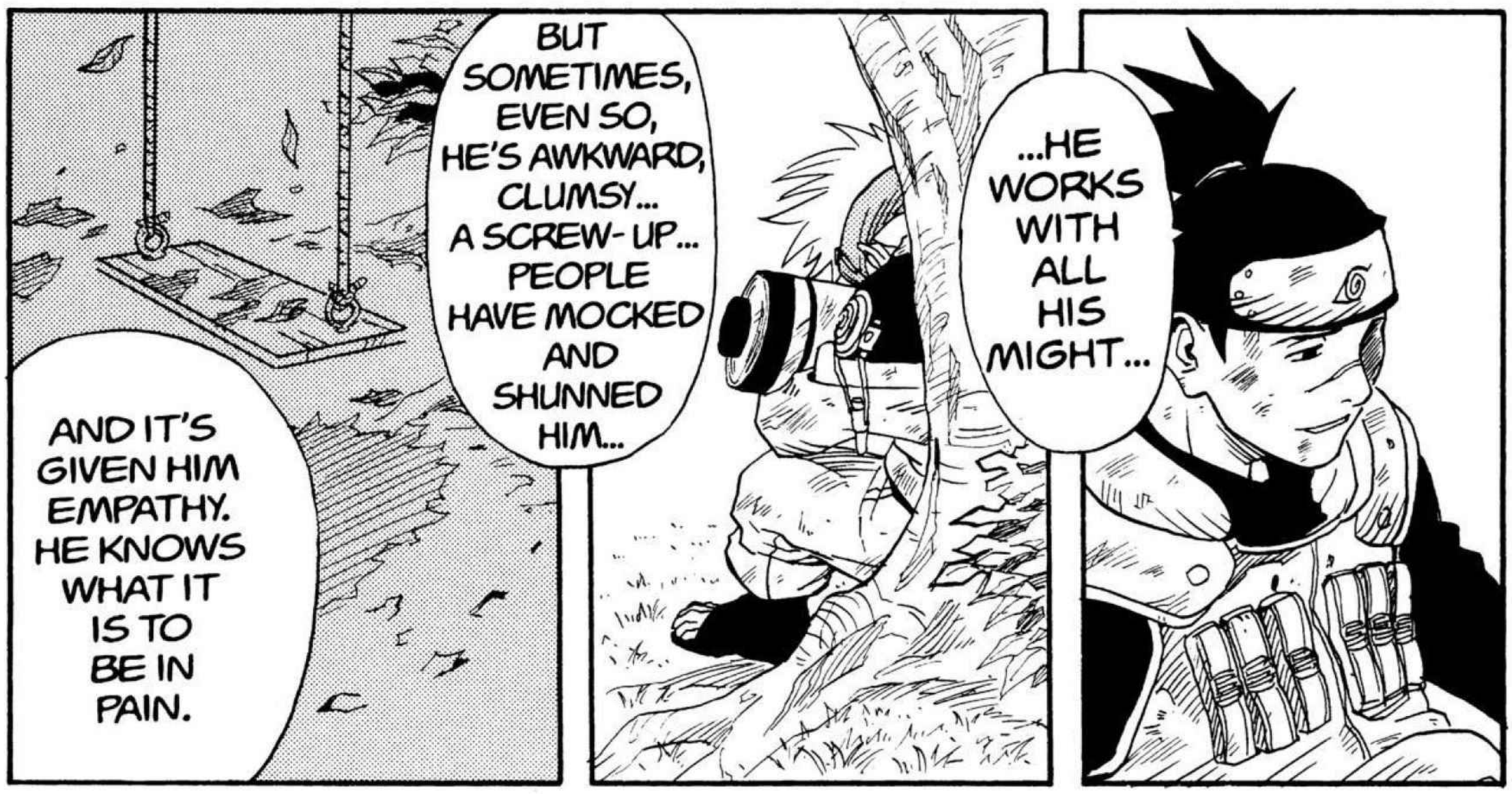

READ THIS WAY
AAUH
YOU WERE RIGHT TO FEAR HIM... DESPISE HIM...
THE DEMON WITHIN HIM HUNGERS FOR THAT KIND OF STRENGTH!

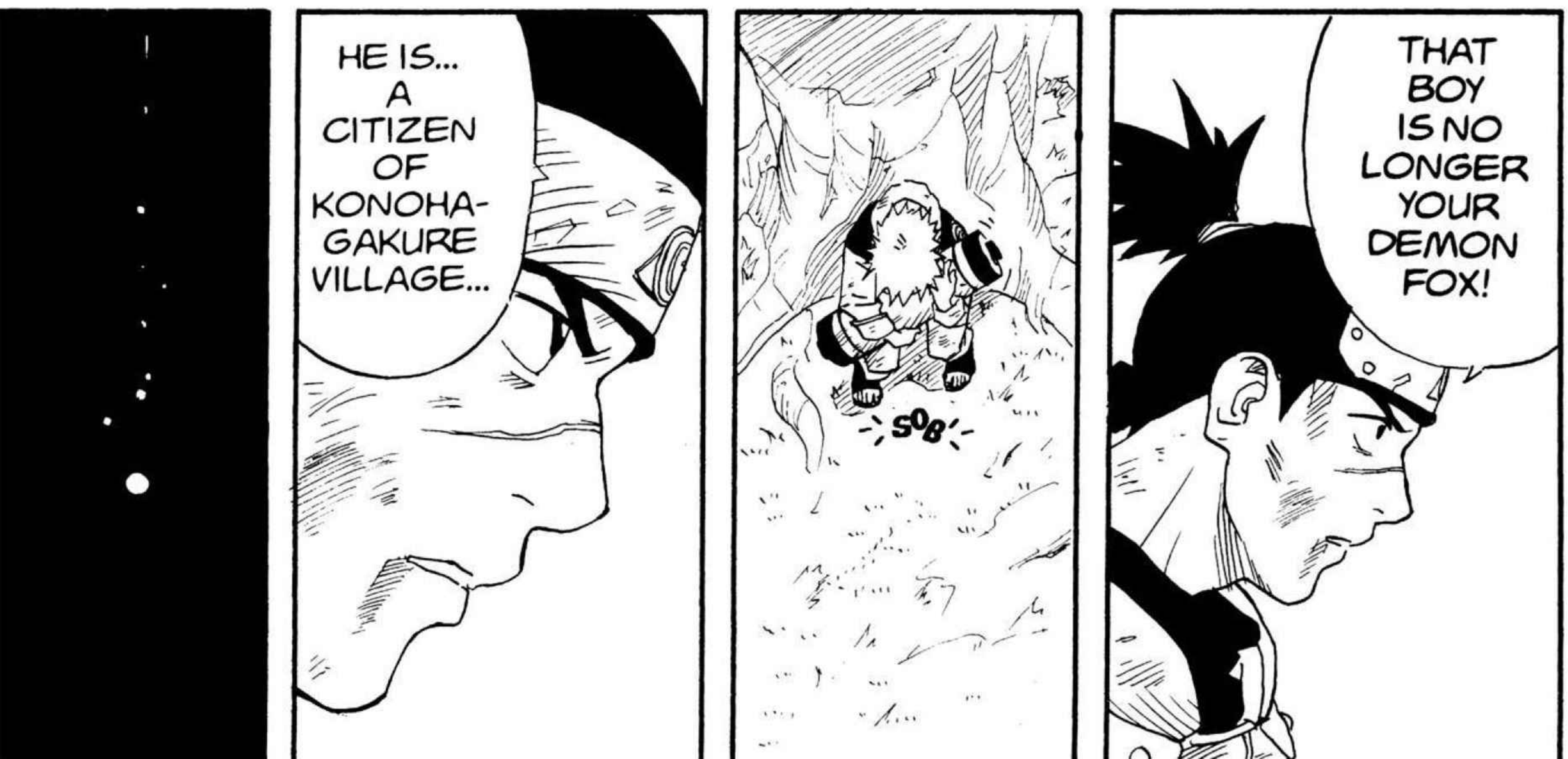

MASTER IRUKA REALLY HOLDS ME...
HUH! SO, IT'S TRUE...


NOT THE BOY.
BUT NOT NARUTO.
MAYBE I DO HATE THE FOX....
...IN CONTEMPT.

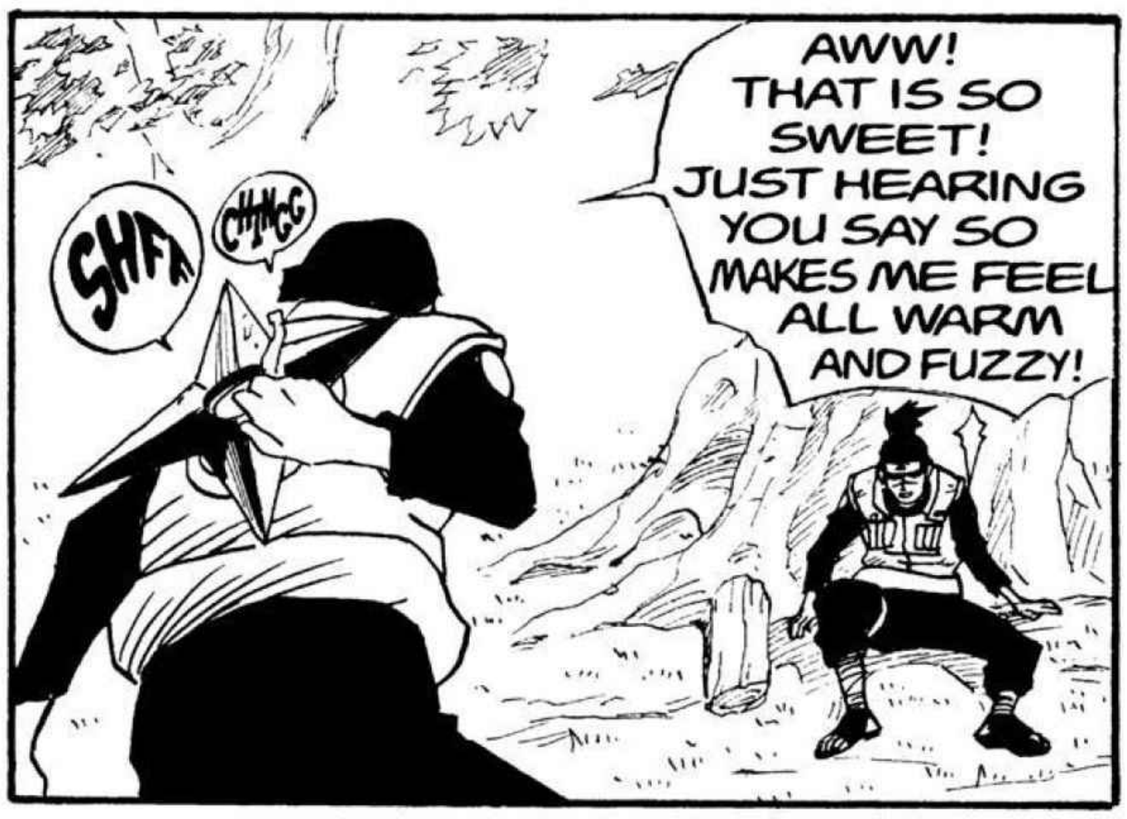
HE'S AN EXCELLENT STUDENT.

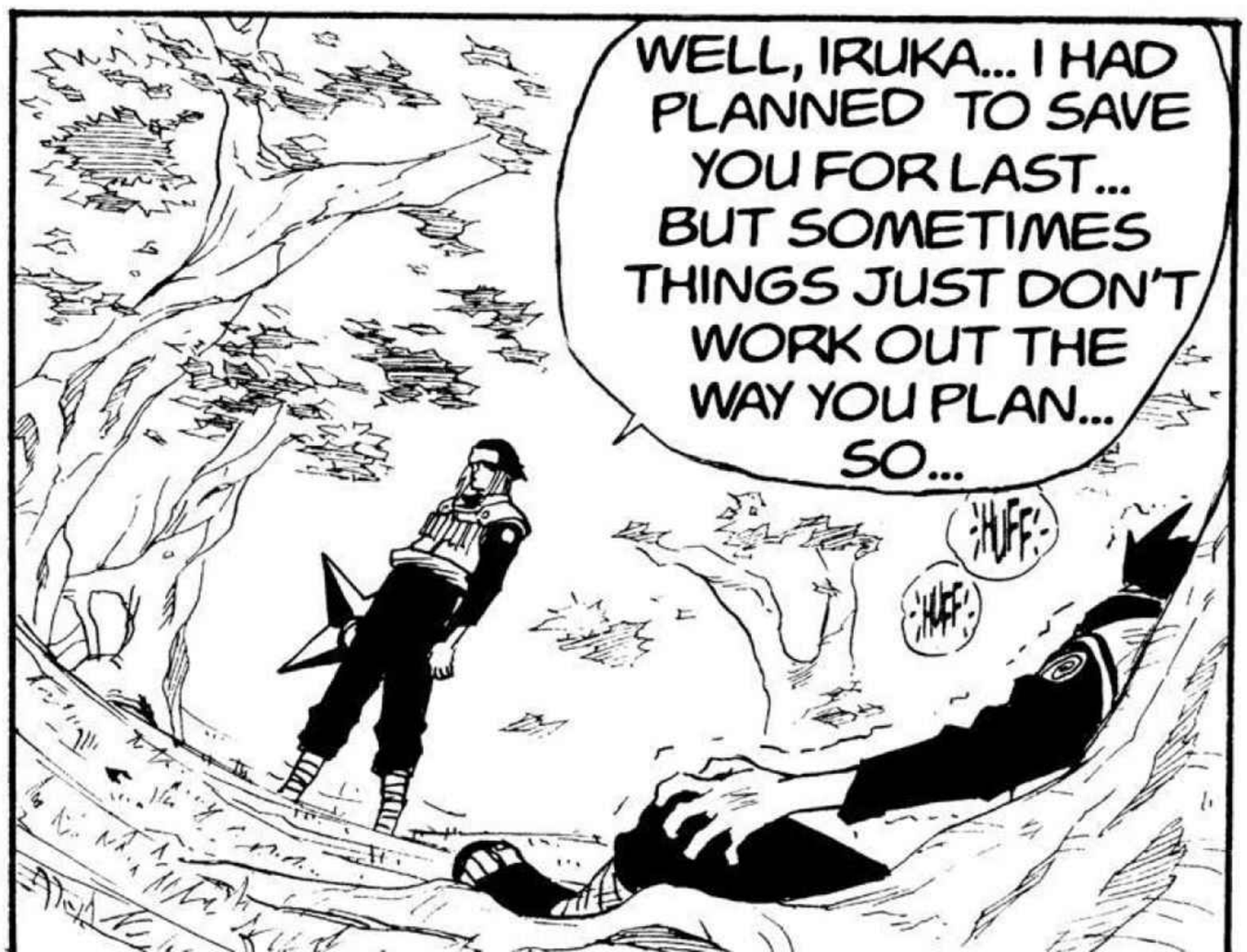
FOR HIM, I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT.



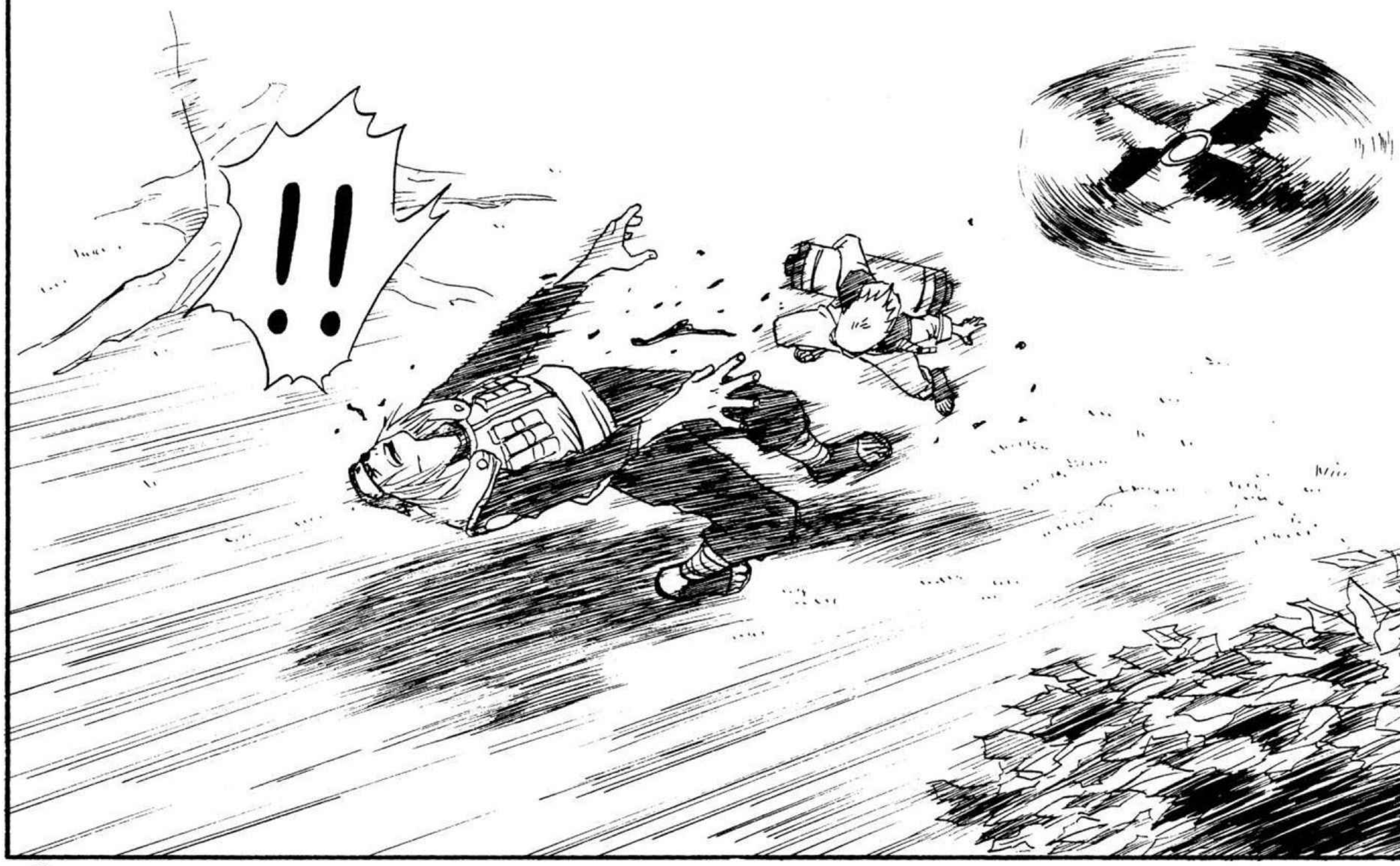


...UZUMAKI NARUTO!





CHING
SAY GOODBYE!
WHOOSH
UURRRR
SO, THIS IS IT...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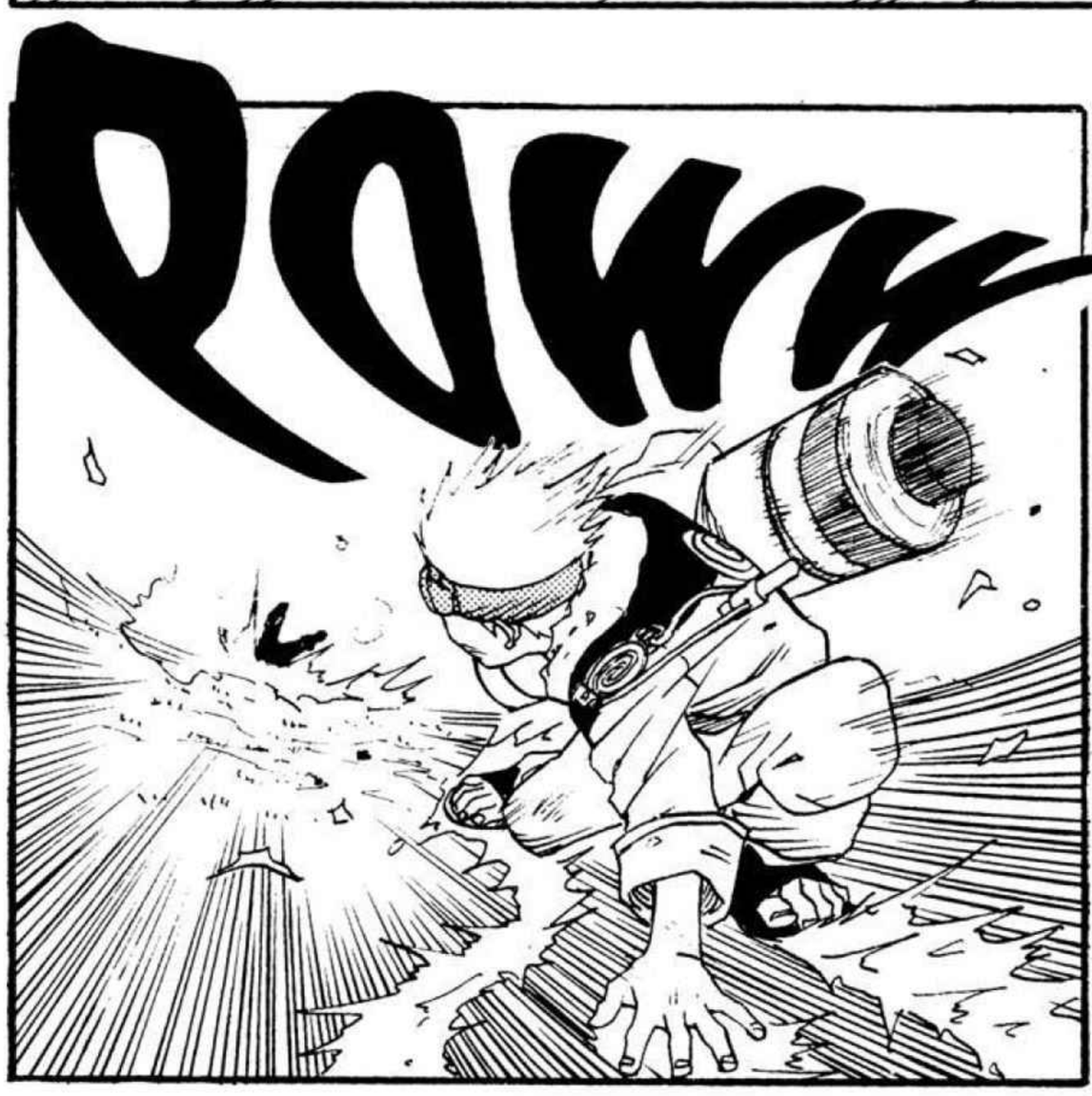
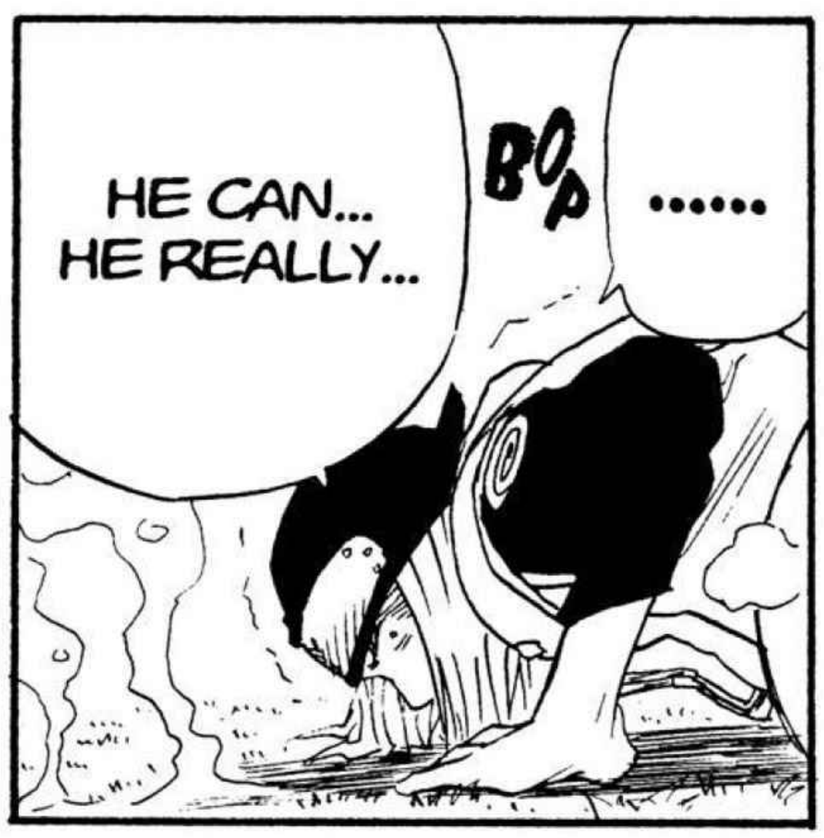

POW

!!

WHUNK


HE CAN...
HE REALLY...
BOP
.....

NARUTO...!?

READ THIS WAY

GET OUT OF HERE! SAVE YOUR-SELF!!

STUPID KID... SHOULD HAVE STAYED... AWAY!!

LOUDMOUTH BRAT!! I CAN KILL YOU WITH ONE BLOW!!

CRACK

...OR I'LL KILL YOU!

KEEP AWAY FROM MASTER IRUKA...

TAP

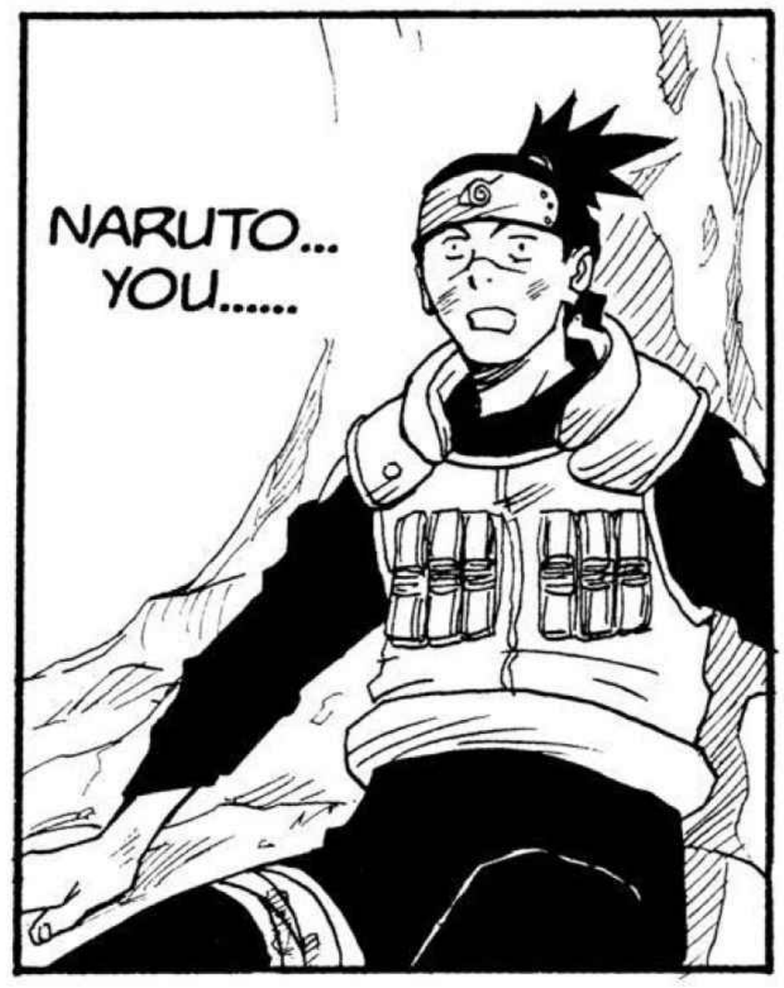
BRING IT ON, YOU JERK! ANYTHING YOU THROW AT ME I'LL GIVE BACK TIMES A THOUSAND!

DOPPELGANGER!!!
!!!
ARTOF THE

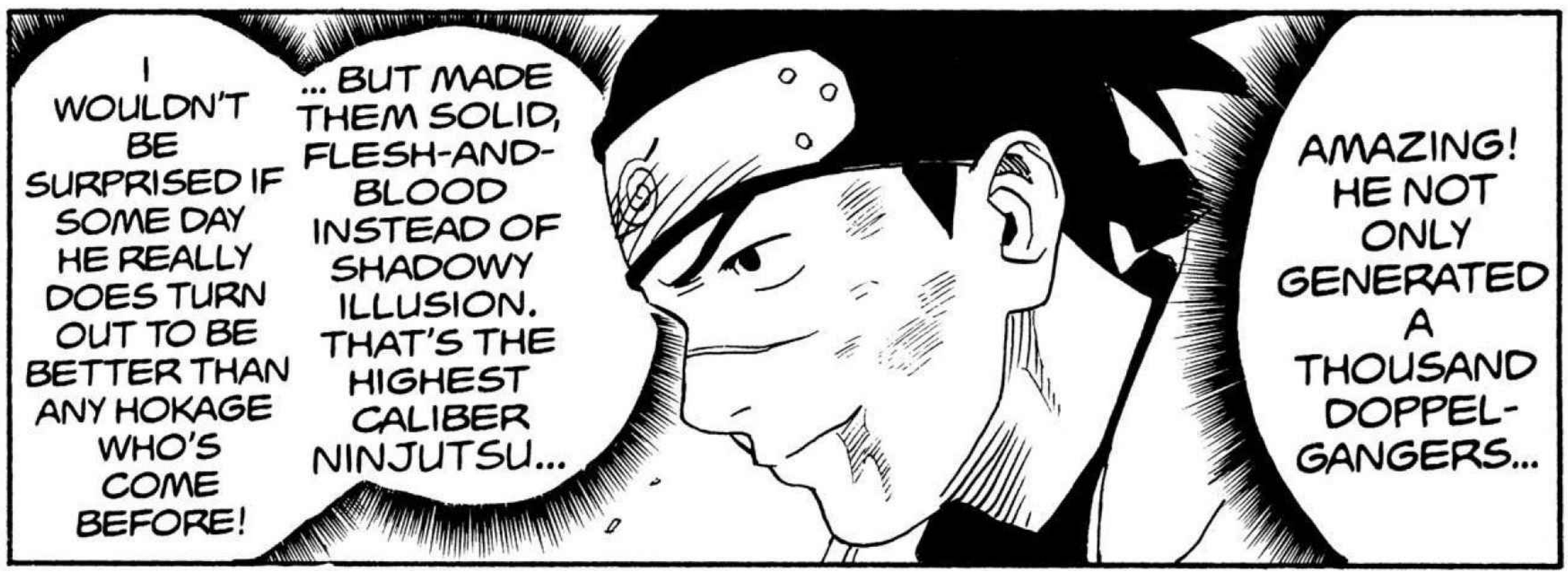
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME WITH ONE PUNCH, RIGHT? COME ON!
THUD
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TOUGH GUY? COME AND GET ME!

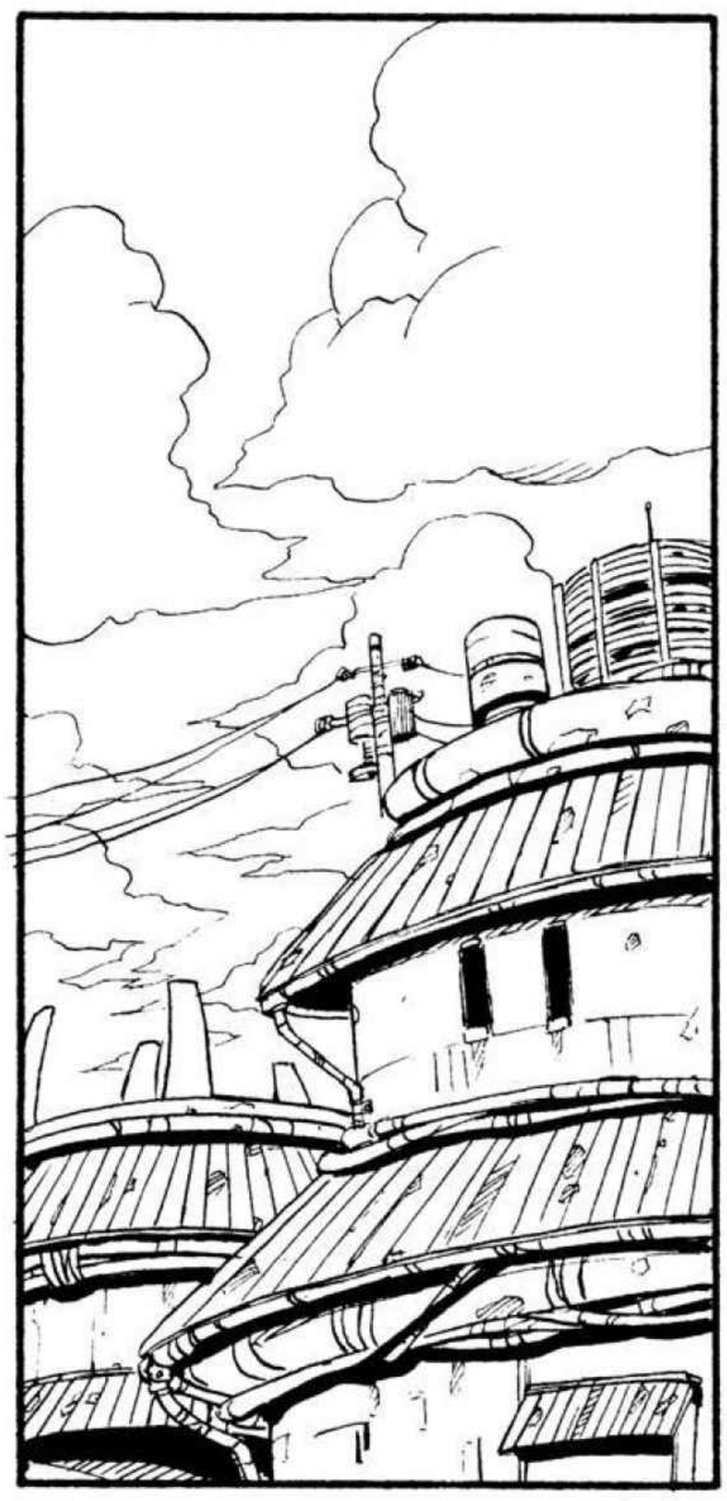
WHAT...?
HOW DID HE...?

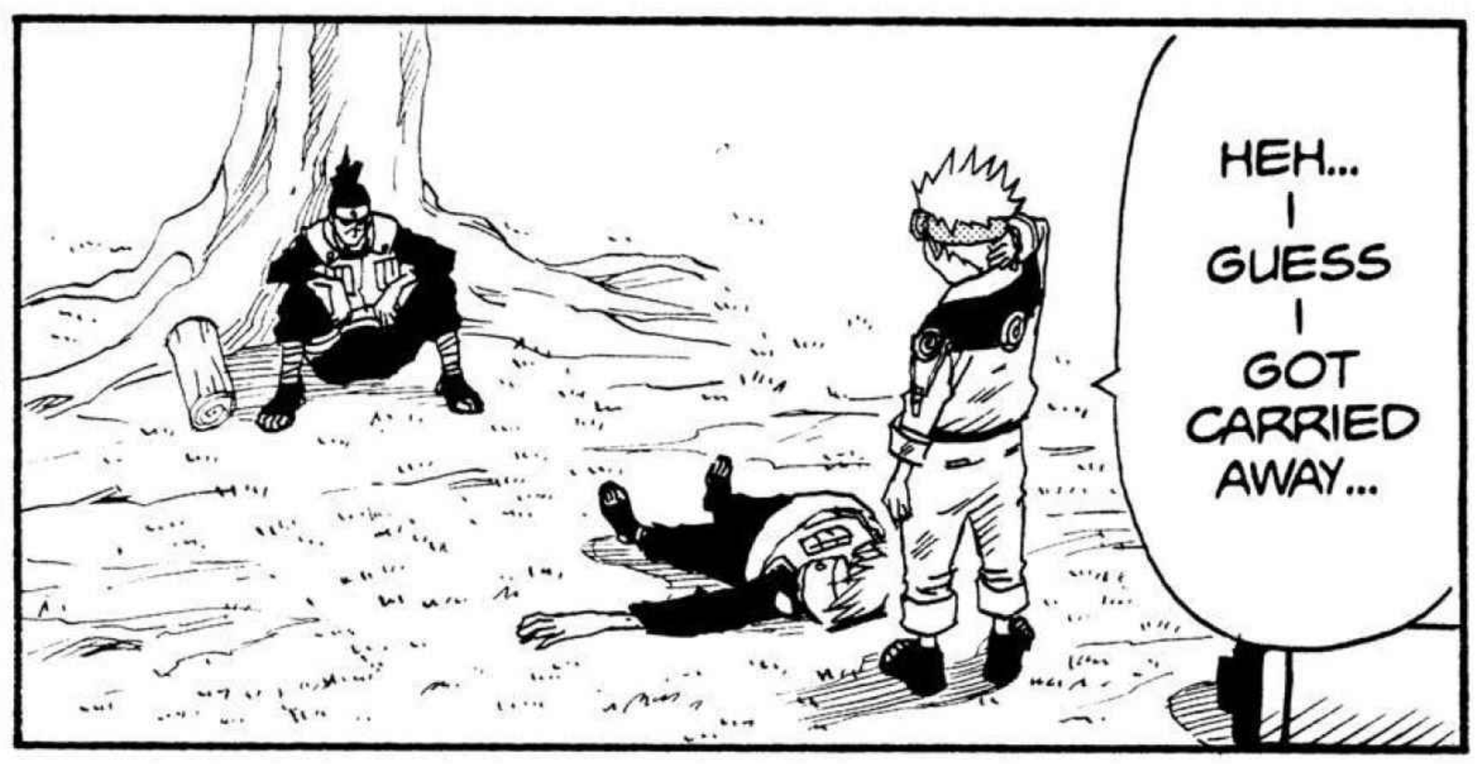
I'LL JUST HAVE TO ATTACK YOU!
ZZP
ZZP
WELL, THEN ...


NARUTO... YOU.....

AAIEEEE
WHACK
AAGGH
BAM
WHAP
THOK
SHIISH
WHAM
GUPP
BASH


I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SOME DAY HE REALLY DOES TURN OUT TO BE BETTER THAN ANY HOKAGE WHO'S COME BEFORE!
... BUT MADE THEM SOLID, FLESH-AND-BLOOD INSTEAD OF SHADOWY ILLUSION. THAT'S THE HIGHEST CALIBER NINJUTSU...
AMAZING! HE NOT ONLY GENERATED A THOUSAND DOPPEL-GANGERS...




HEH... I GUESS I GOT CARRIED AWAY...

I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU.
HUFF
NARUTO, COME HERE.

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

HE COULD BE MILES AWAY BY NOW!

BRAT

THIS IS AWFUL! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...?!

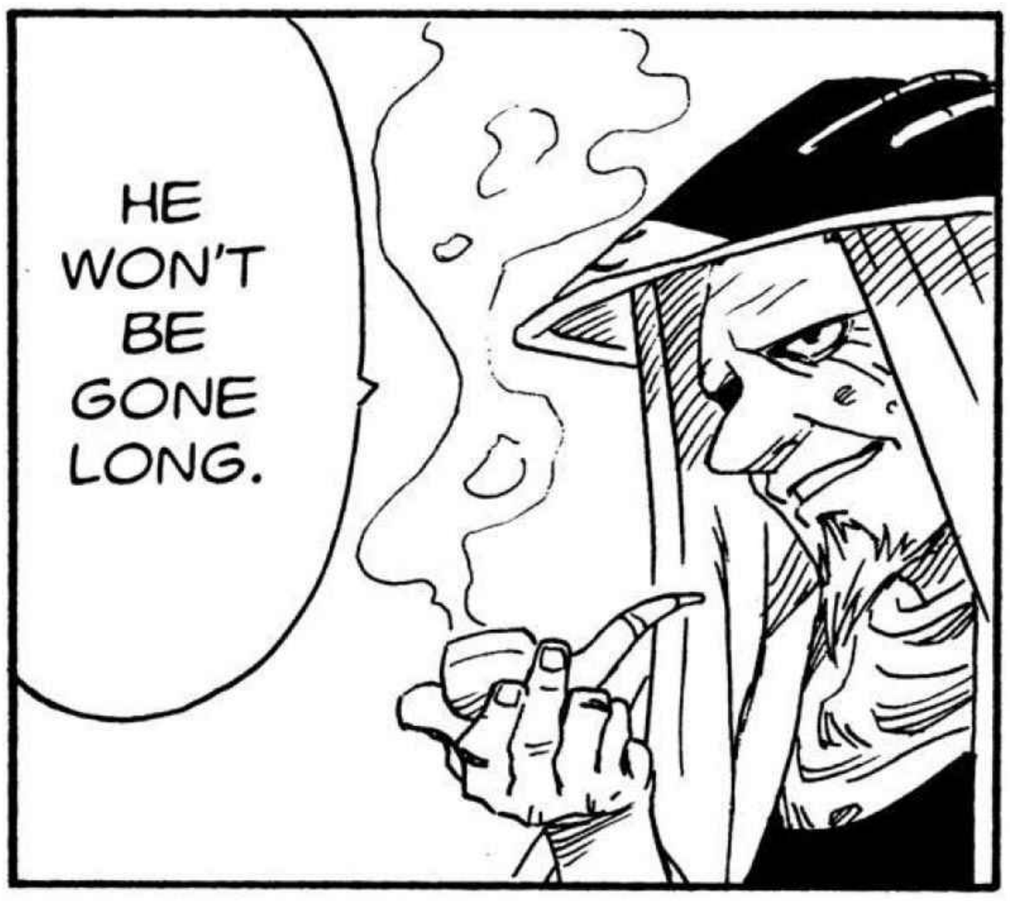
TROUBLE MAKER

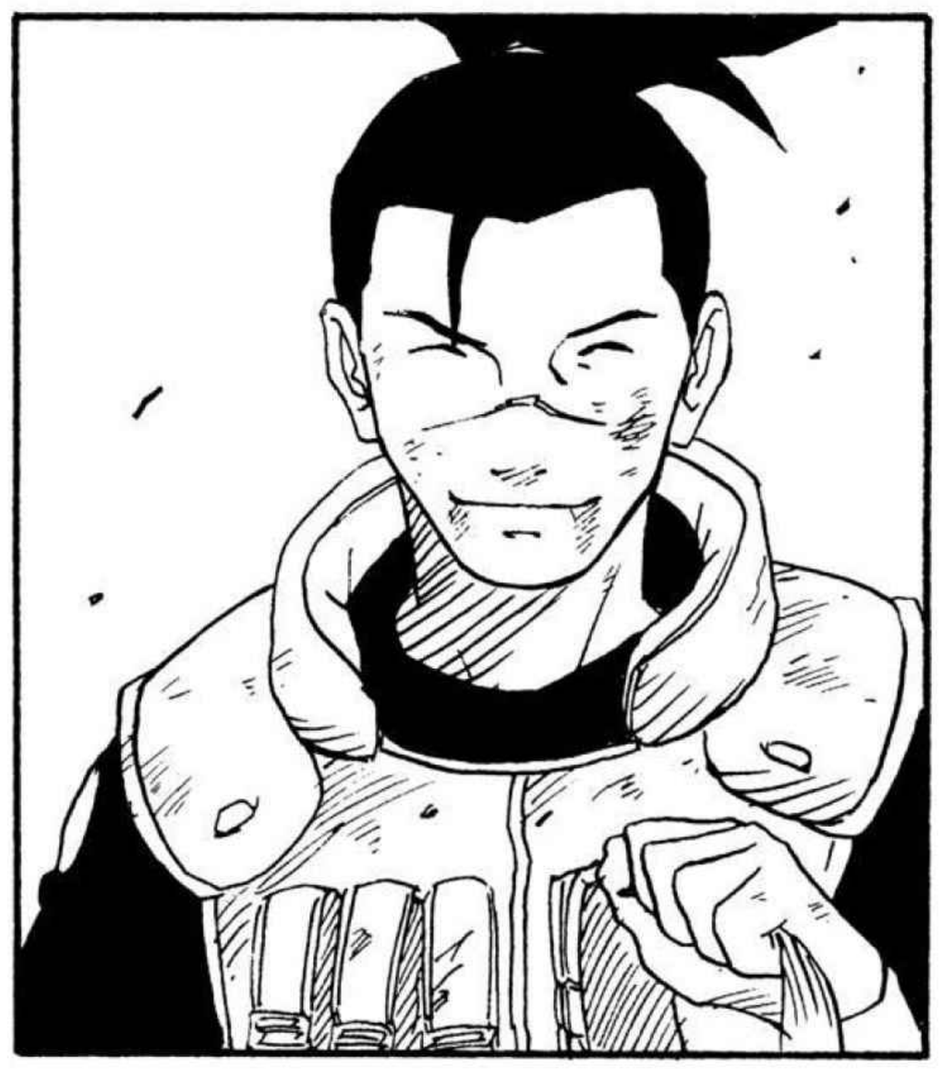
NOT YET!

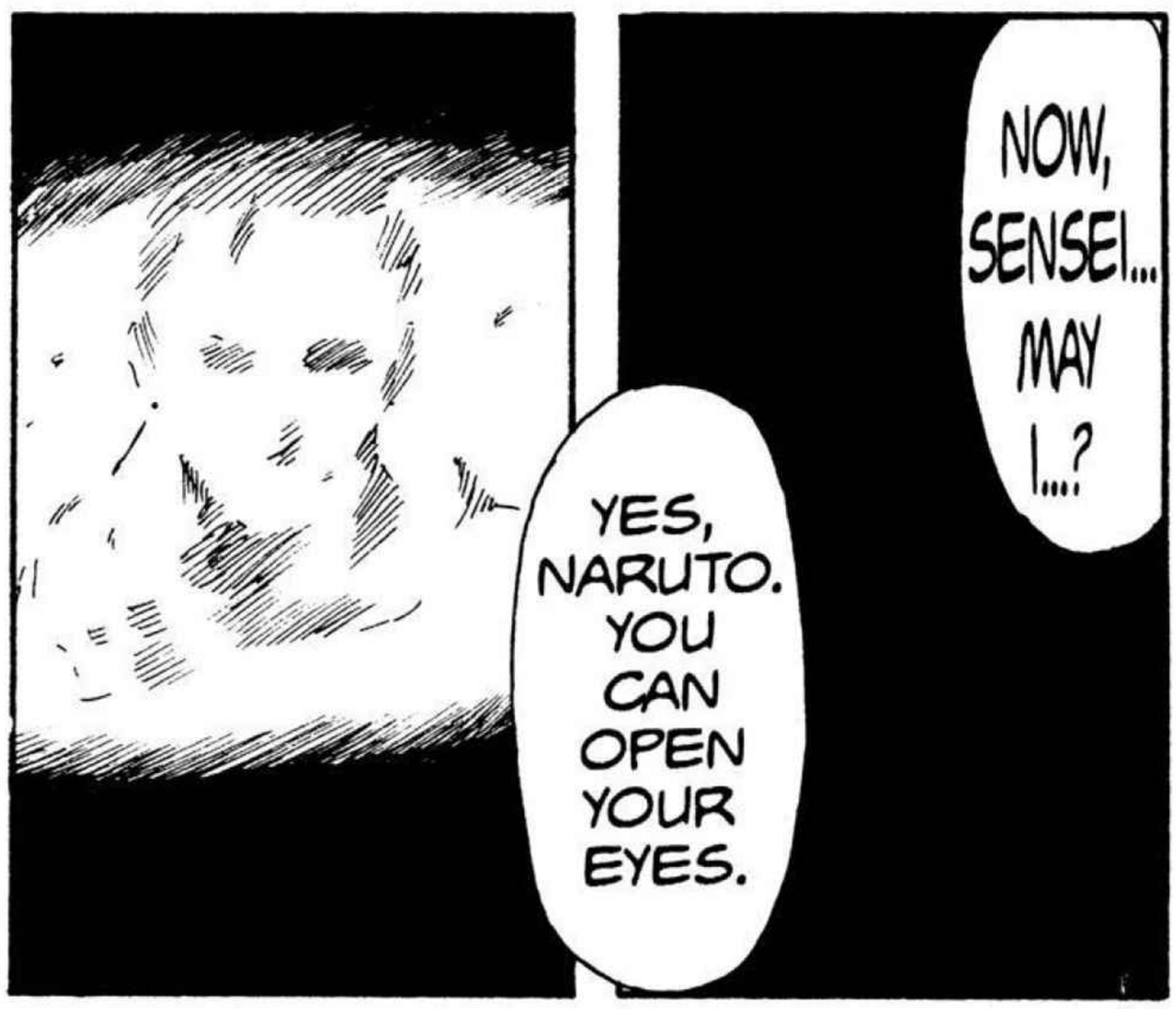
LITTLE CREEP

THAT GUY

DID YOU GUYS FIND NARUTO!?

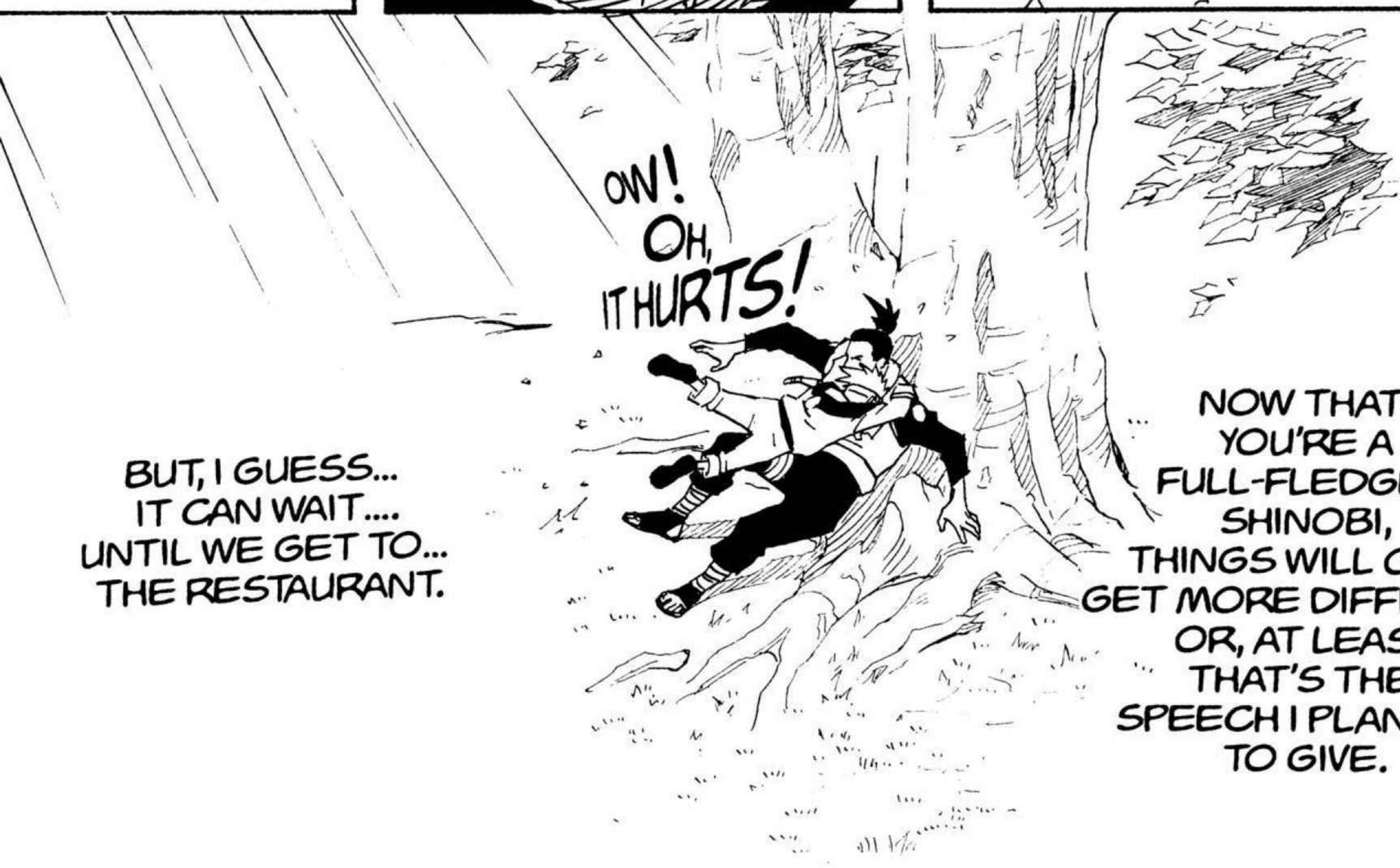


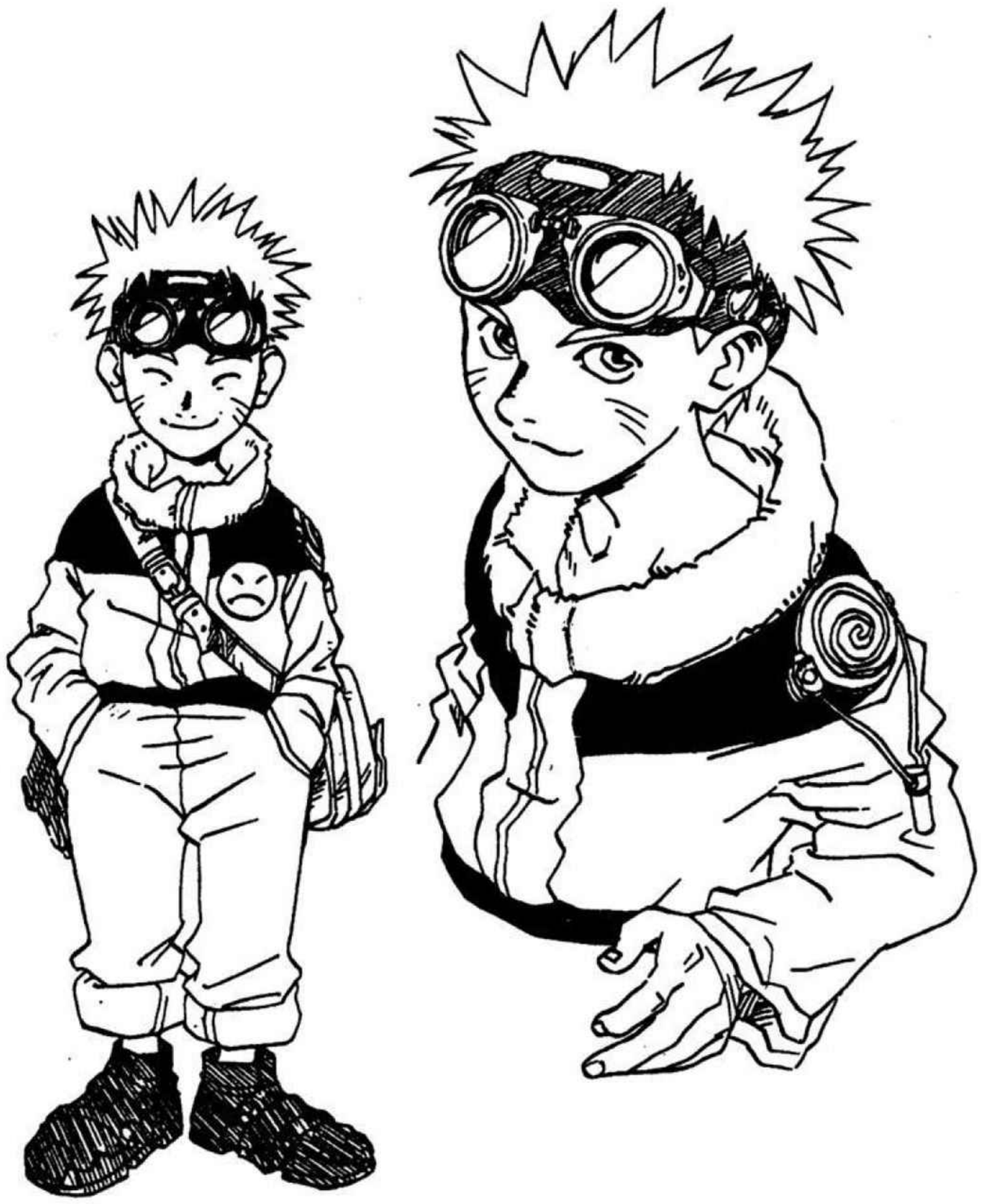




...GRADUATE!

CONGRATULATIONS...





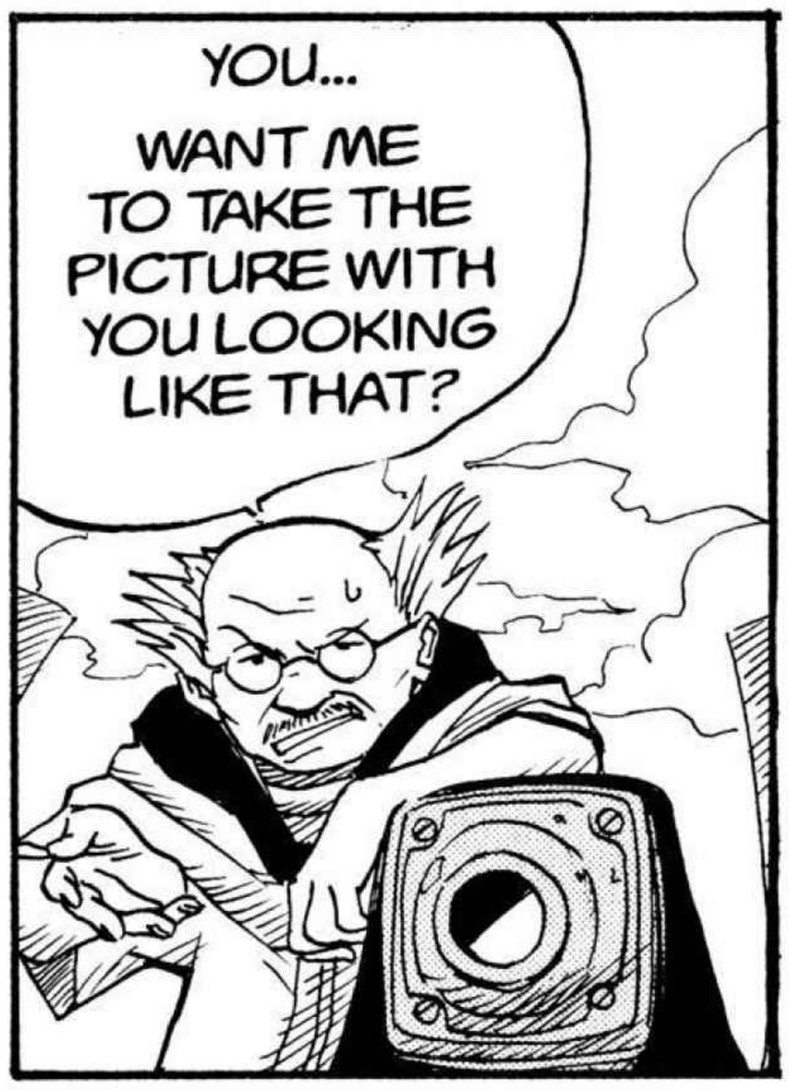
This is the very first sketch of Naruto that I drew. It was for a one-shot story in the Japanese ***Weekly Shonen Jump***'s special seasonal edition, ***Akamaru Jump***. Notice that he wears boots instead of *zori* (traditional Japanese sandals).

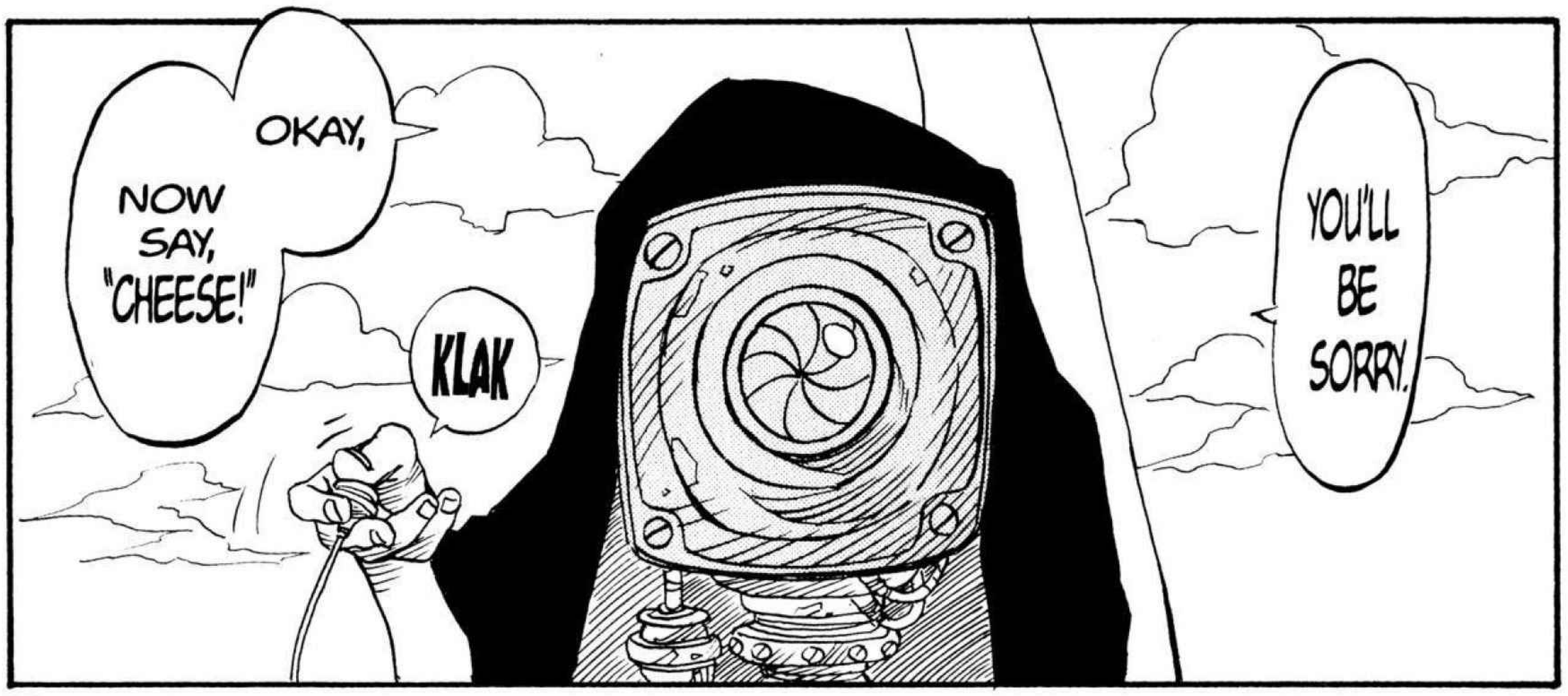
In the one-shot story, ***Naruto*** wasn't a ninja comic at all, but just about magic and sorcery. Even though the setup was completely different from the current storyline, it was the very first character-driven manga that I ever drew, and I liked the character so I decided to keep using him. But drawing the goggles each time was a pain! That's why I came up with the idea for the ninja *hitai-ate* (headband).

KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE- "THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES"...

...WHERE TODAY, ONE YOUNG MAN BEGINS HIS QUEST TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA.

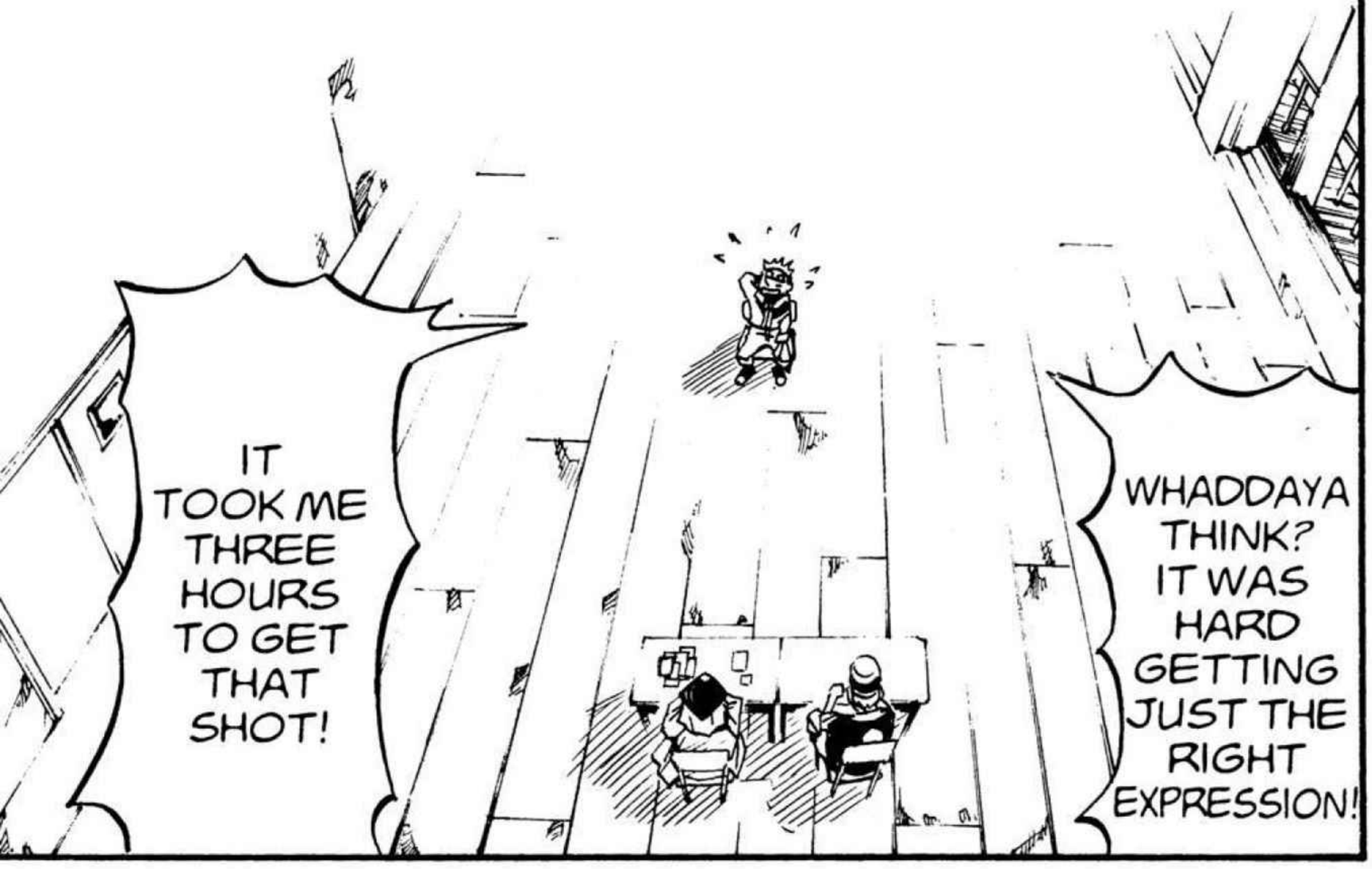
NUMBER 2: KONOHAMARU!!



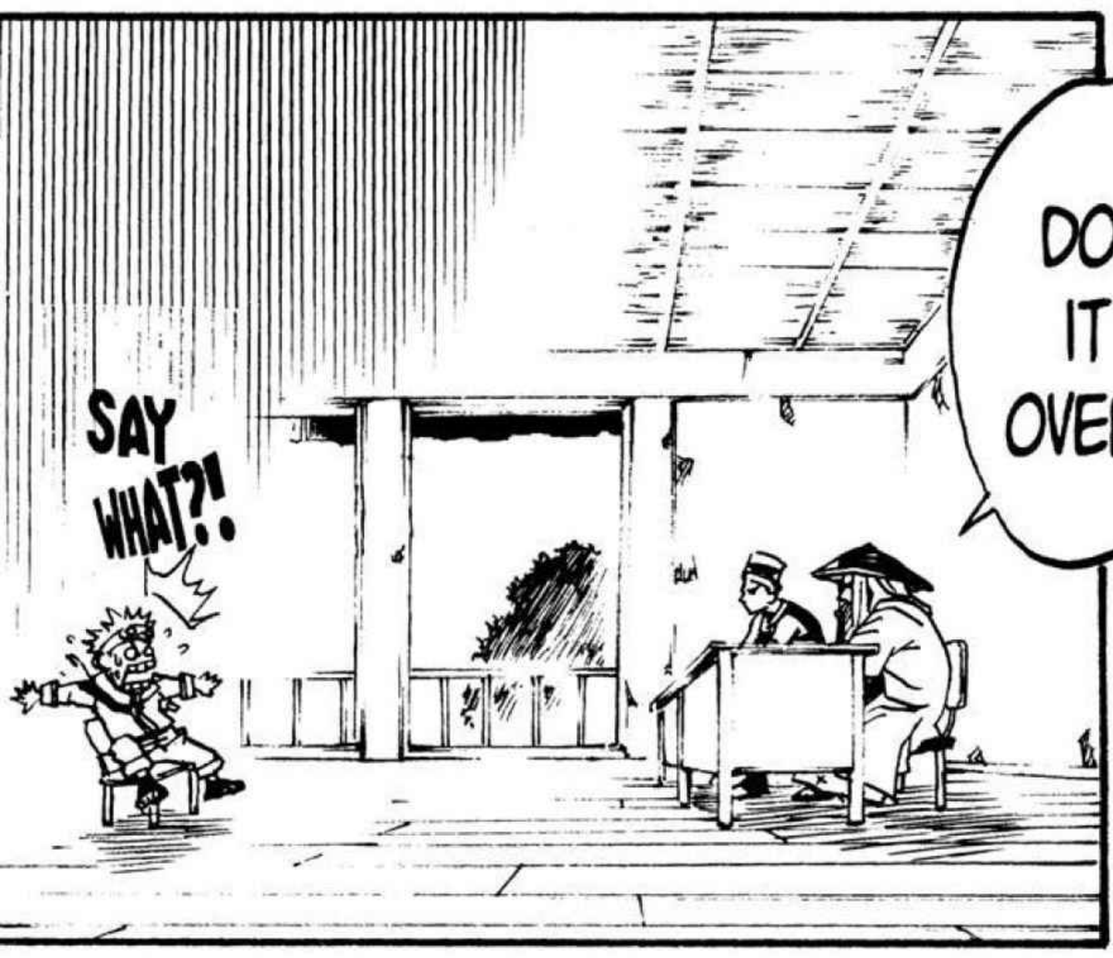


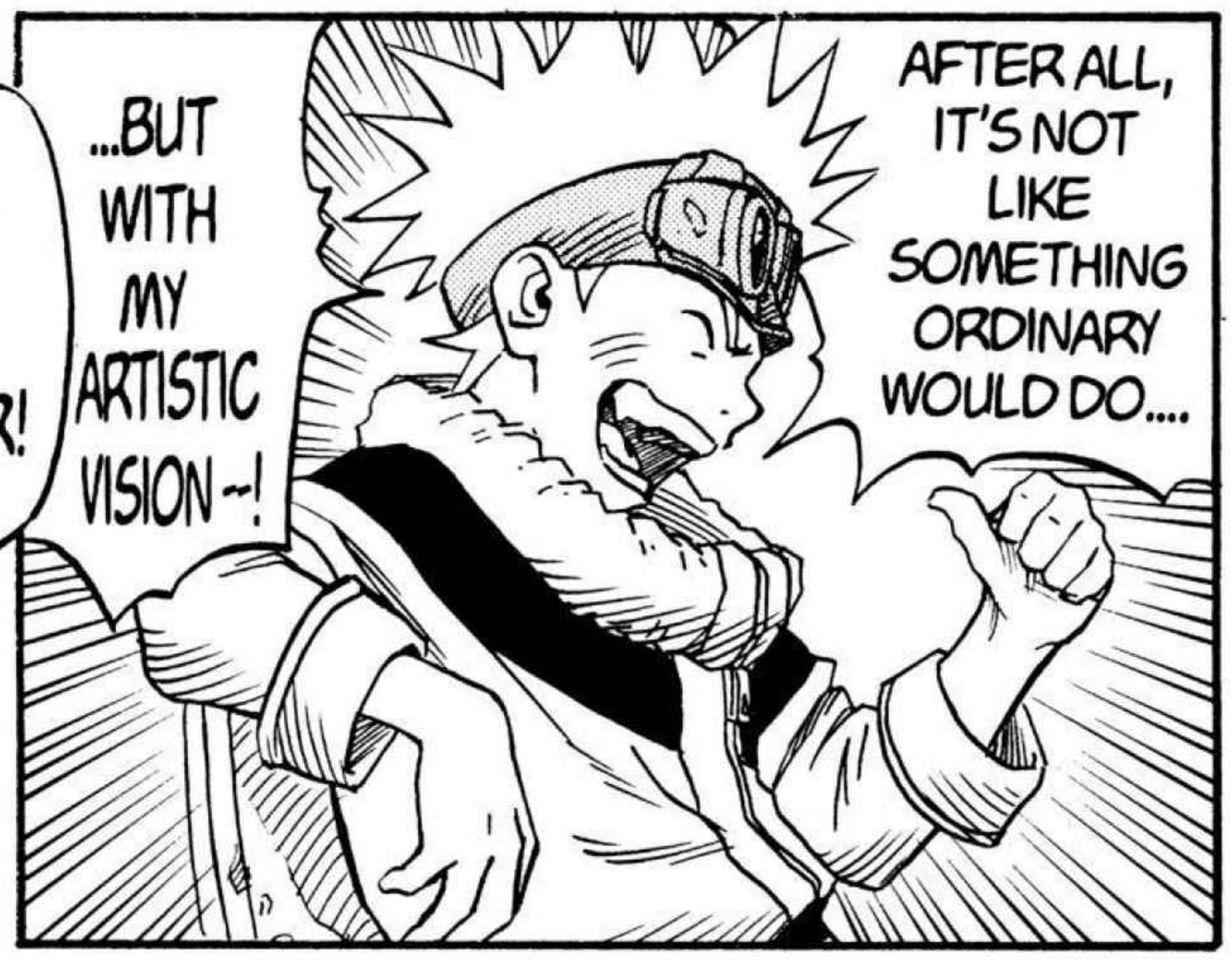
GRRRRRRR

NUMBER 2: KONOHAMARU!!


IT TOOK ME THREE HOURS TO GET THAT SHOT!
WHADDAYA THINK? IT WAS HARD GETTING JUST THE RIGHT EXPRESSION!

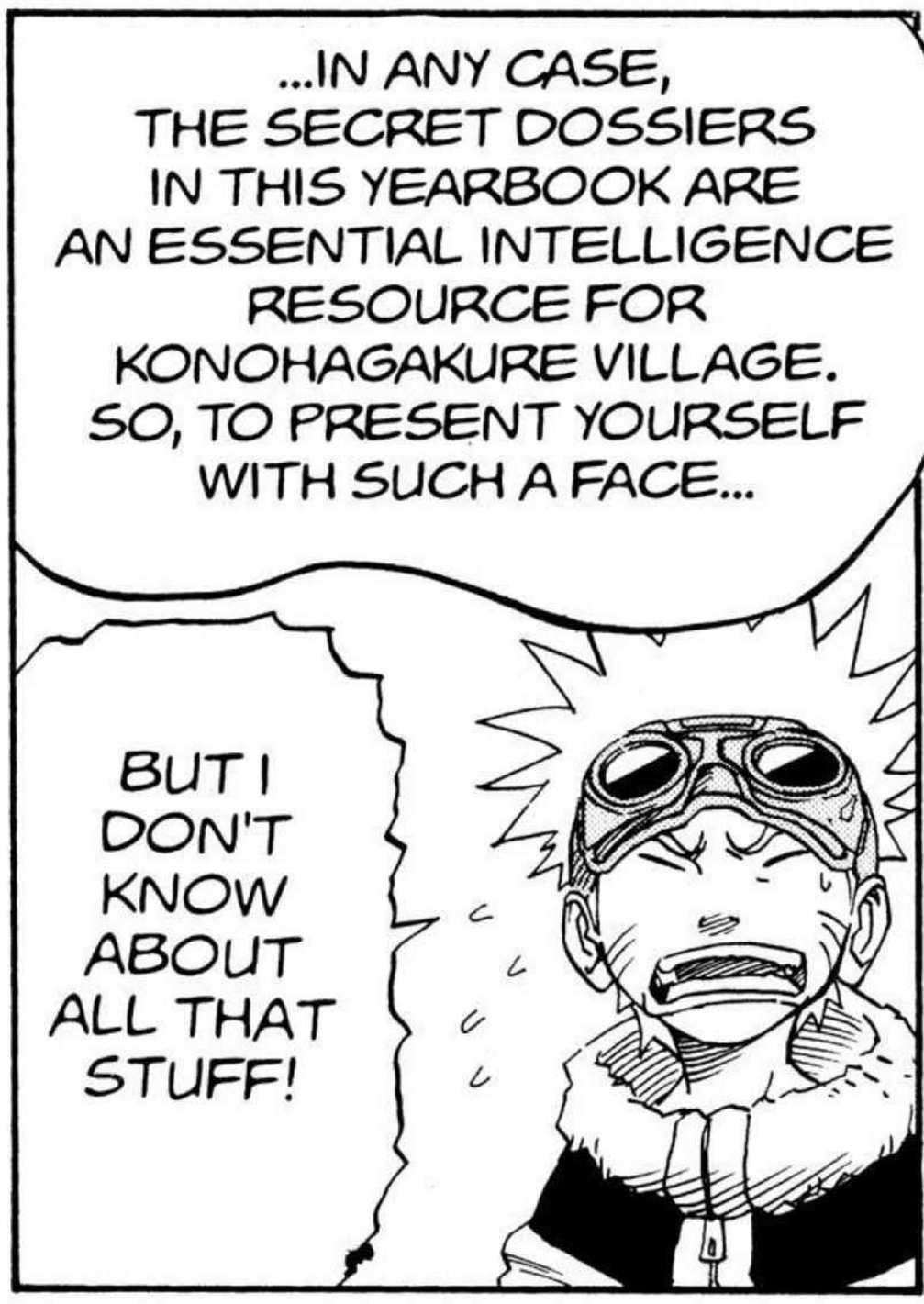
....


SAY WHAT?!
DO IT OVER!


...BUT WITH MY ARTISTIC VISION--!
AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE SOMETHING ORDINARY WOULD DO....

KREAK

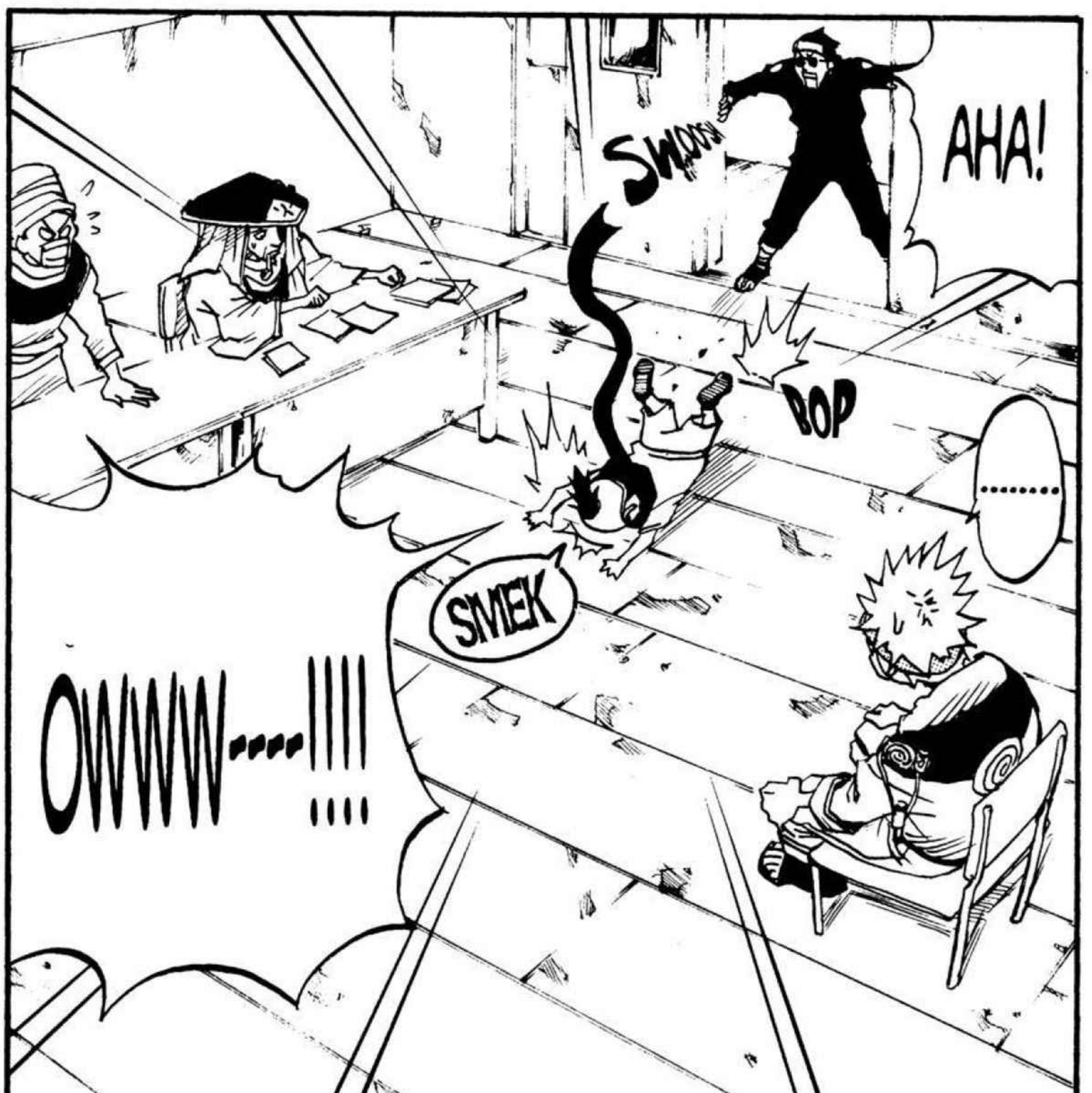
?


...IN ANY CASE, THE SECRET DOSSIERS IN THIS YEARBOOK ARE AN ESSENTIAL INTELLIGENCE RESOURCE FOR KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE. SO, TO PRESENT YOURSELF WITH SUCH A FACE...
BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ALL THAT STUFF!

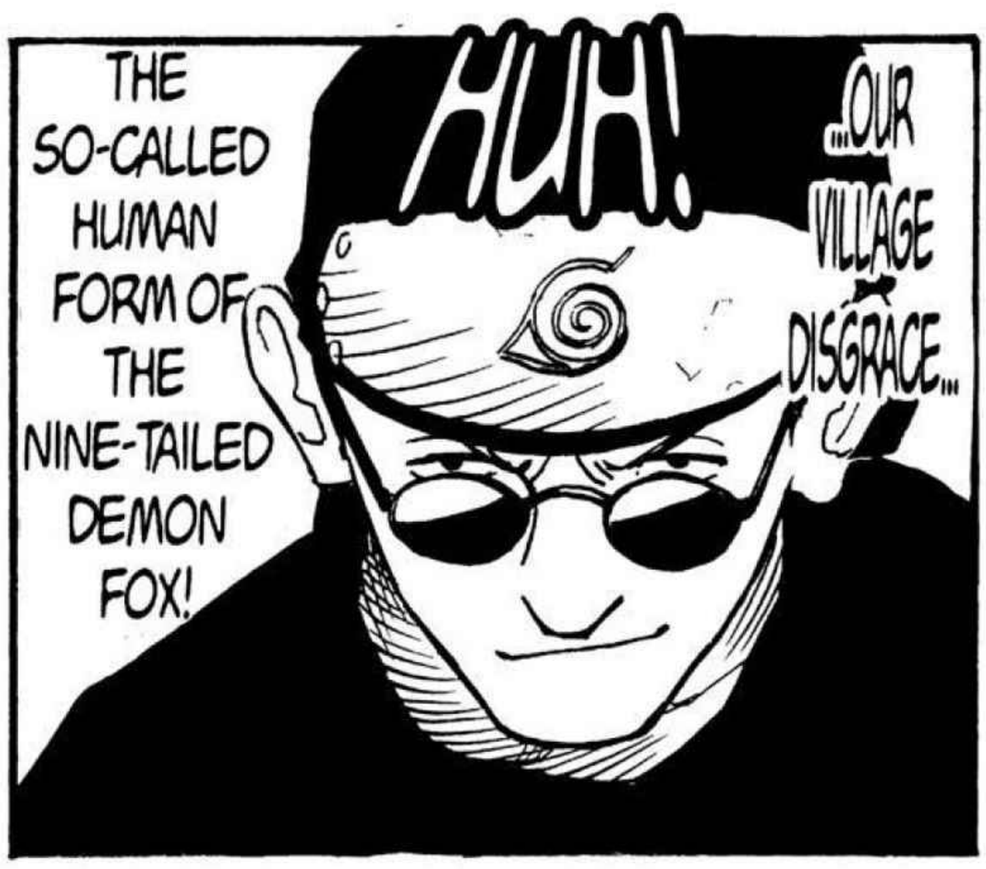
WHAT CONCERNS ME MORE IS WHY YOU CHOSE NOT TO WEAR YOUR HITAI-ATE— THE HEADBAND THAT MARKS YOU AS AN ADULT SHINOBI OF OUR VILLAGE...
I DIDN'T WANT TO DAMAGE IT. I'LL START WEARING IT AFTER THE CEREMONY TOMORROW.

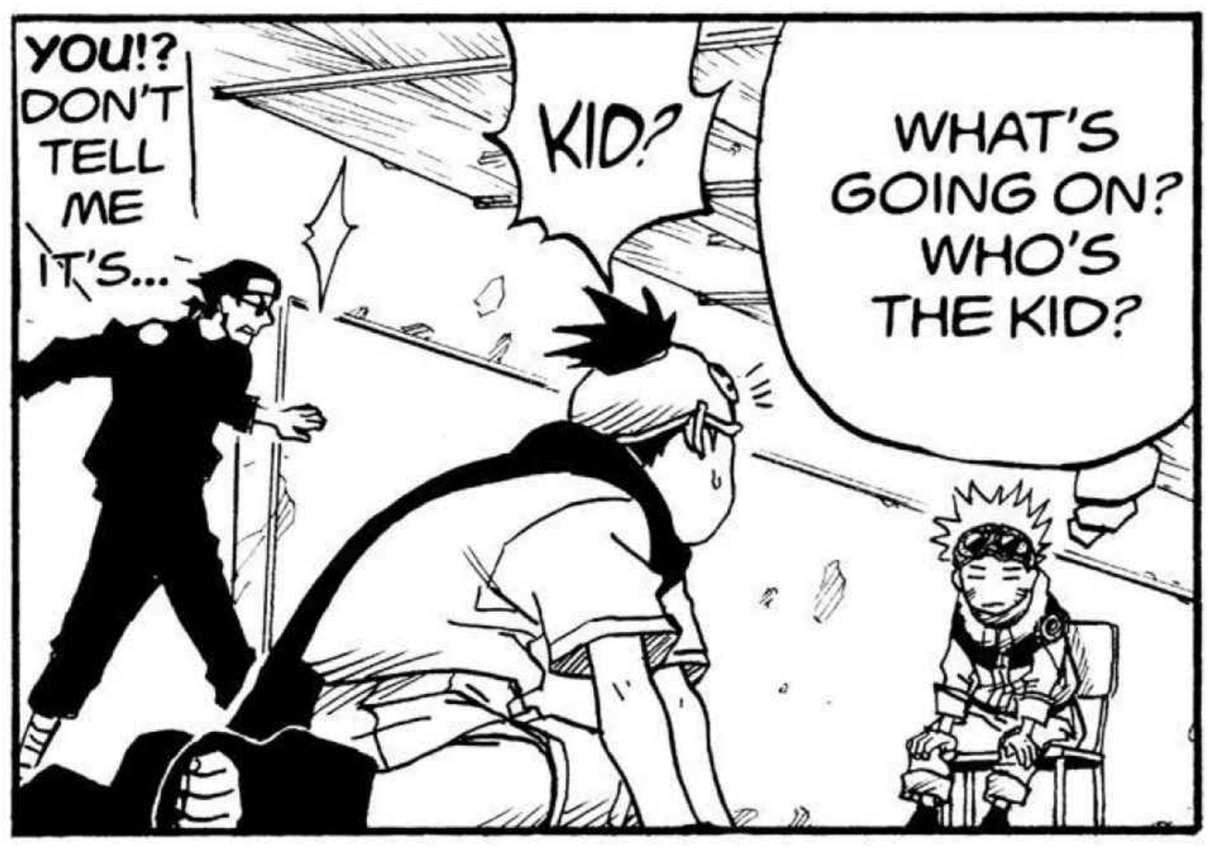
ON GUARD, OL' MAN! RIGHT?!

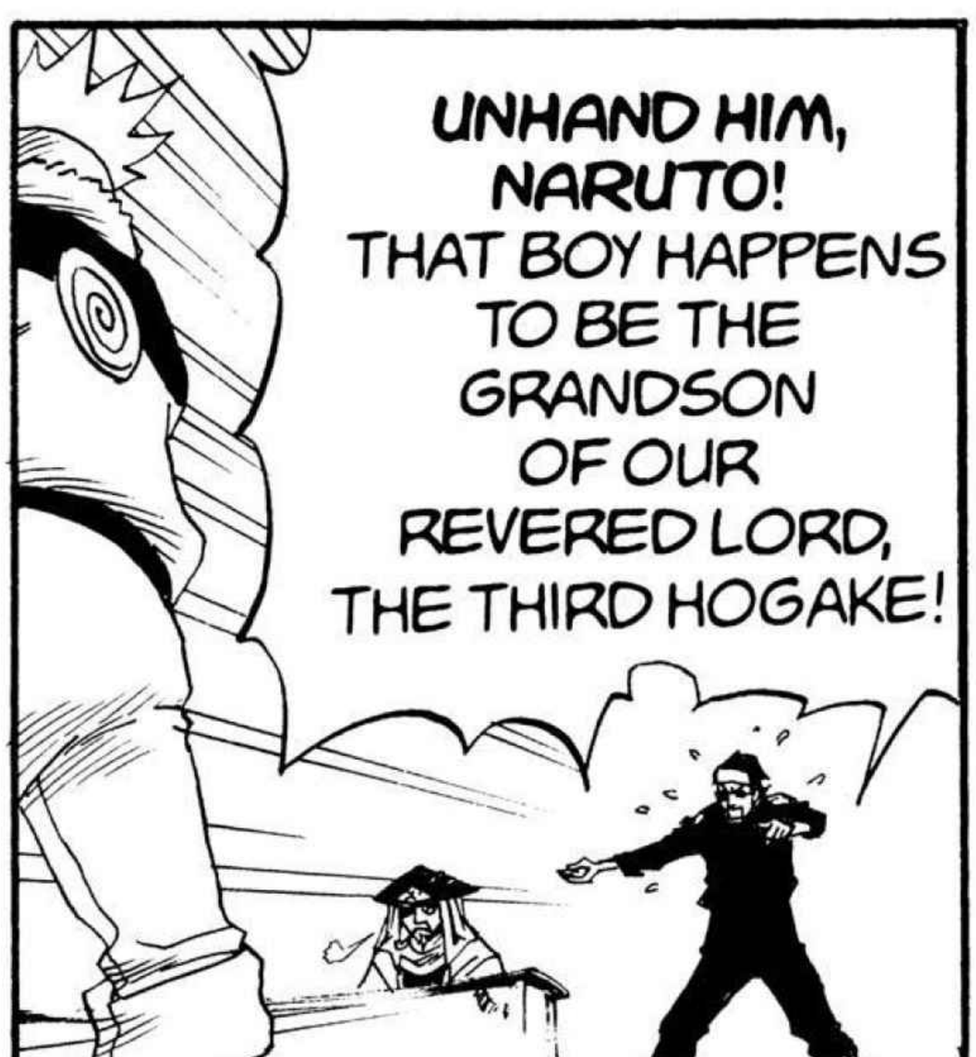
SLAP!



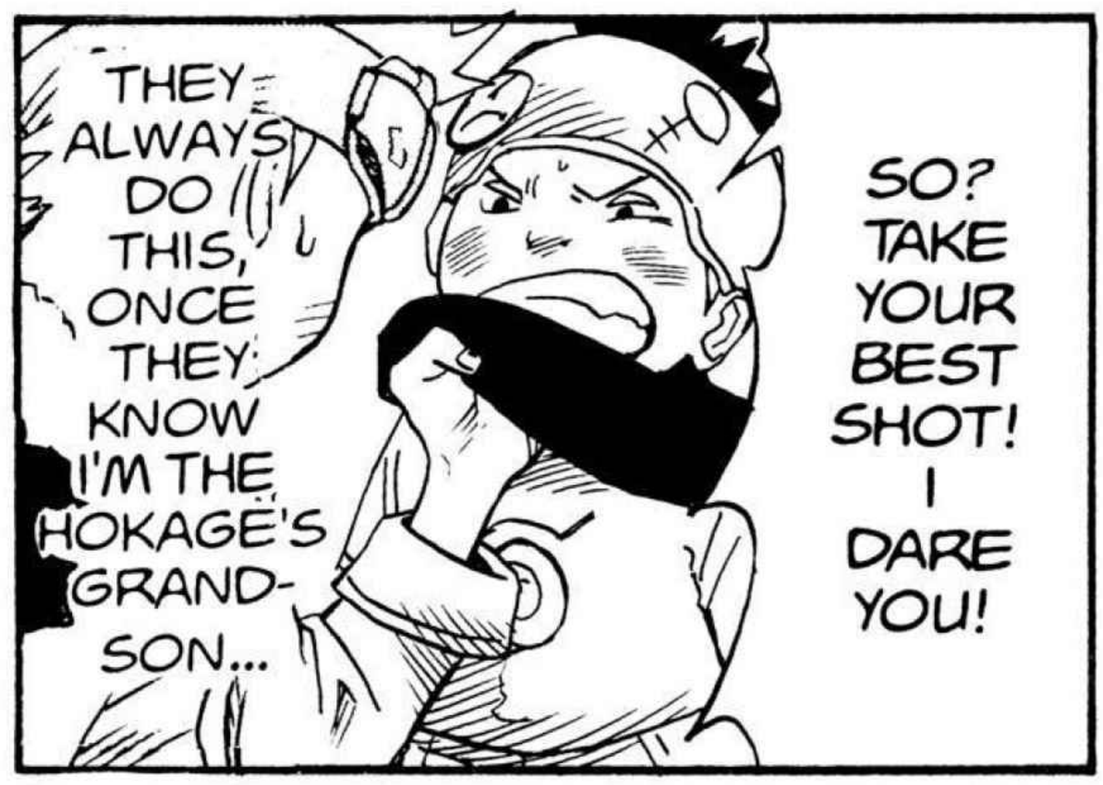
READ THIS WAY

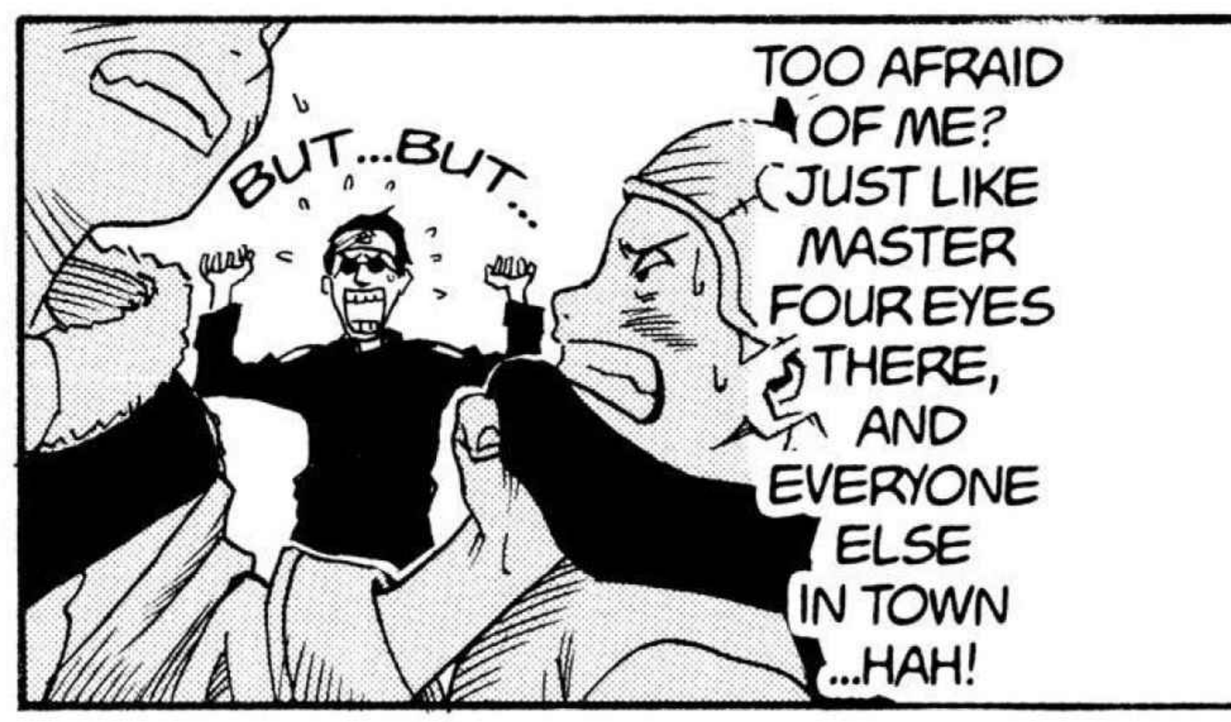






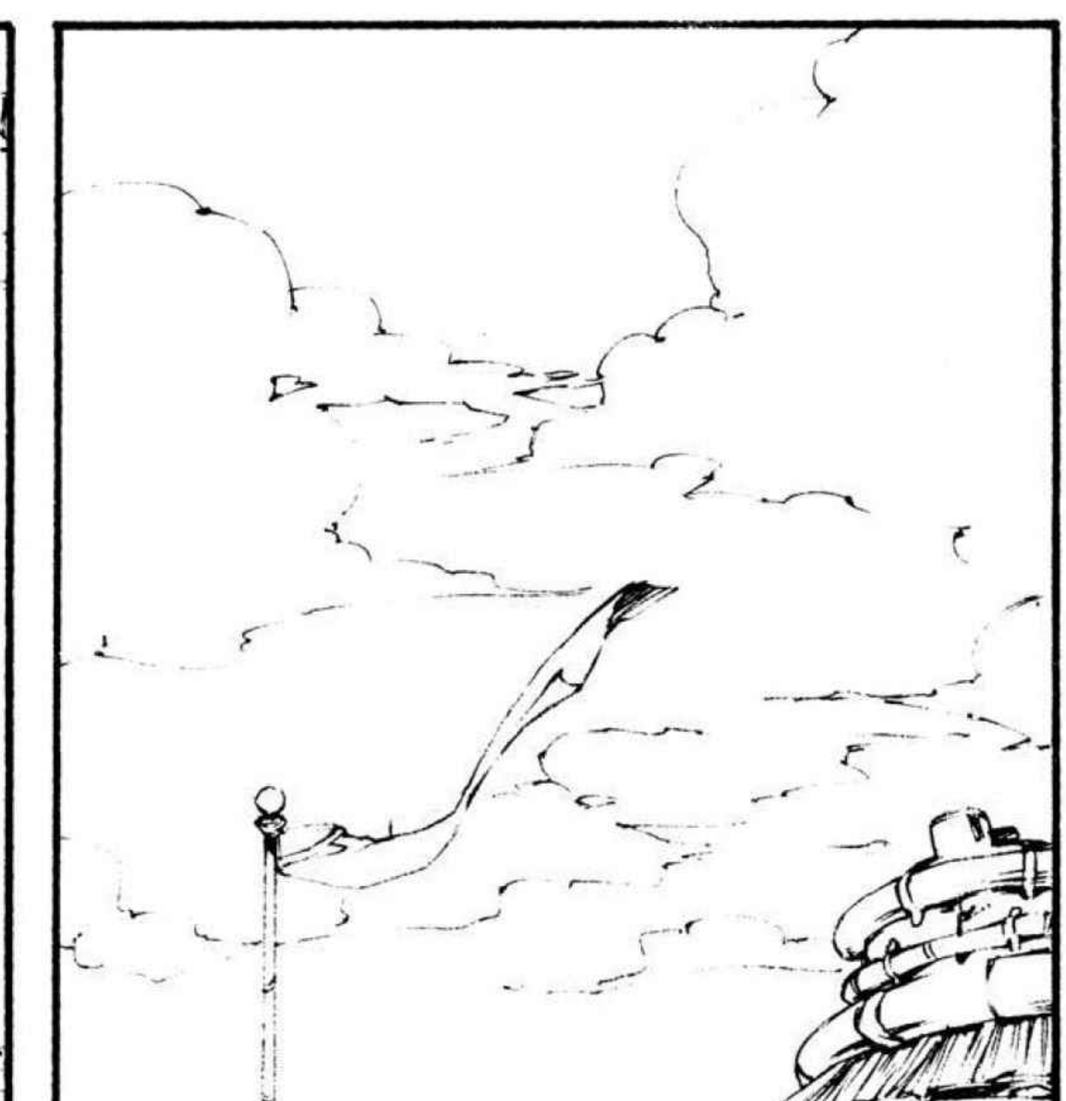
OWWW-----!!
POW
LIKE I CARE, STUPID!


THEY ALWAYS DO THIS, ONCE THEY KNOW I'M THE HOKAGE'S GRAND-SON...
SO? TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT! I DARE YOU!


BUT...BUT...
TOO AFRAID OF ME? JUST LIKE MASTER FOUR EYES THERE, AND EVERYONE ELSE IN TOWN ...HAH!

HMMMM...
WHA---T!!!!

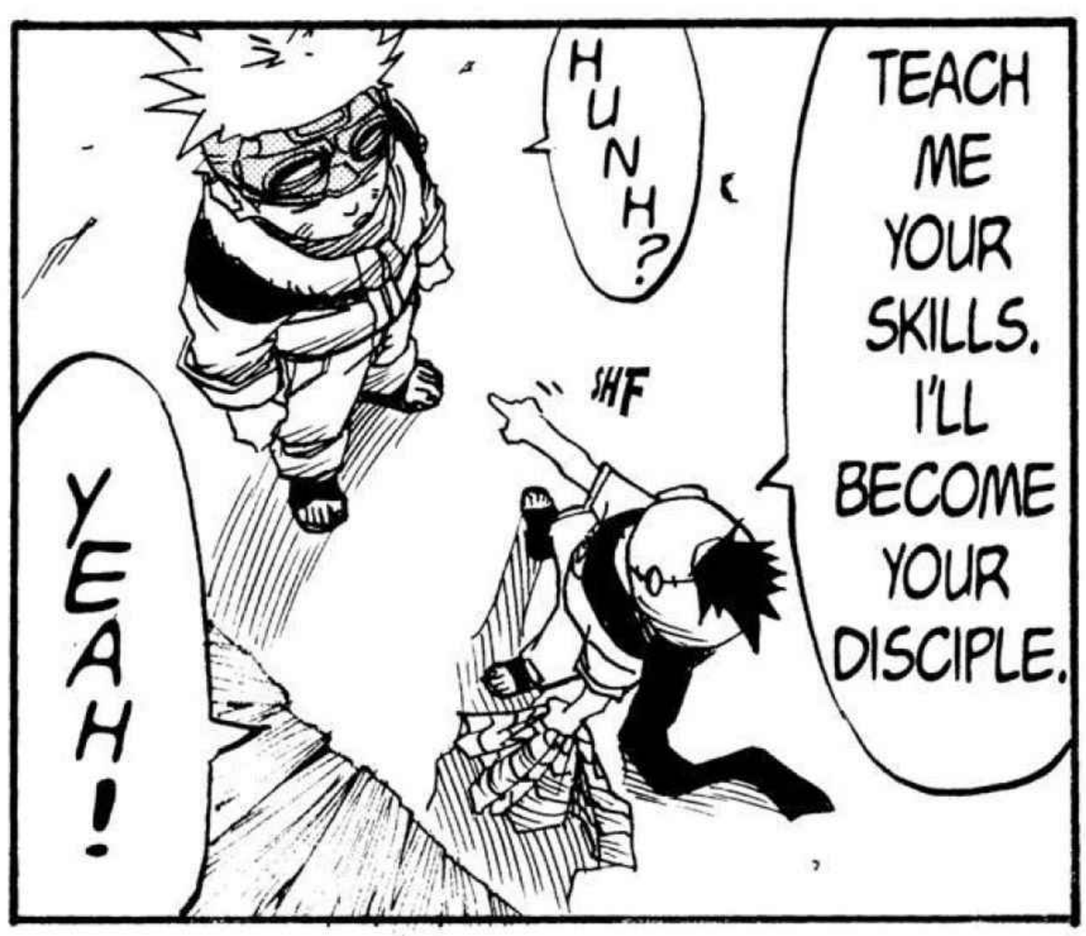
SHF
SHF

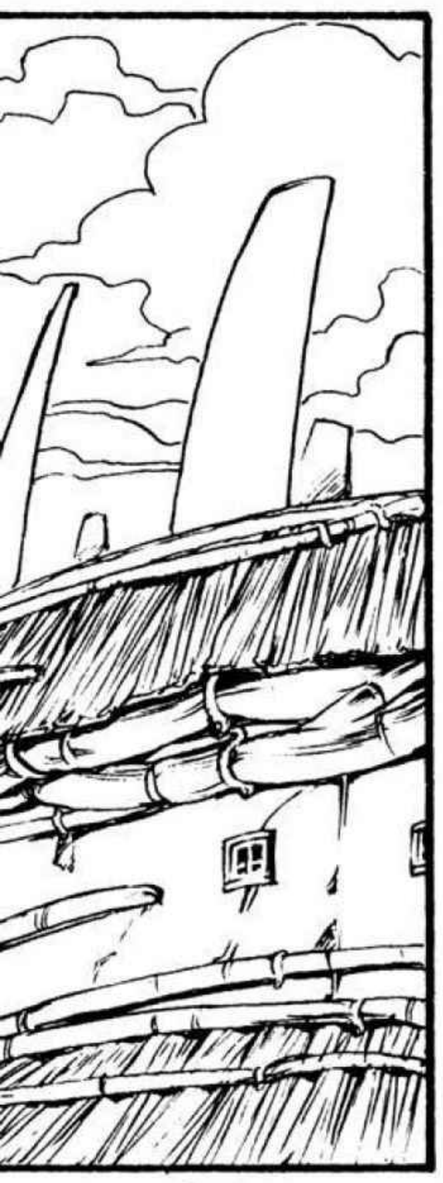


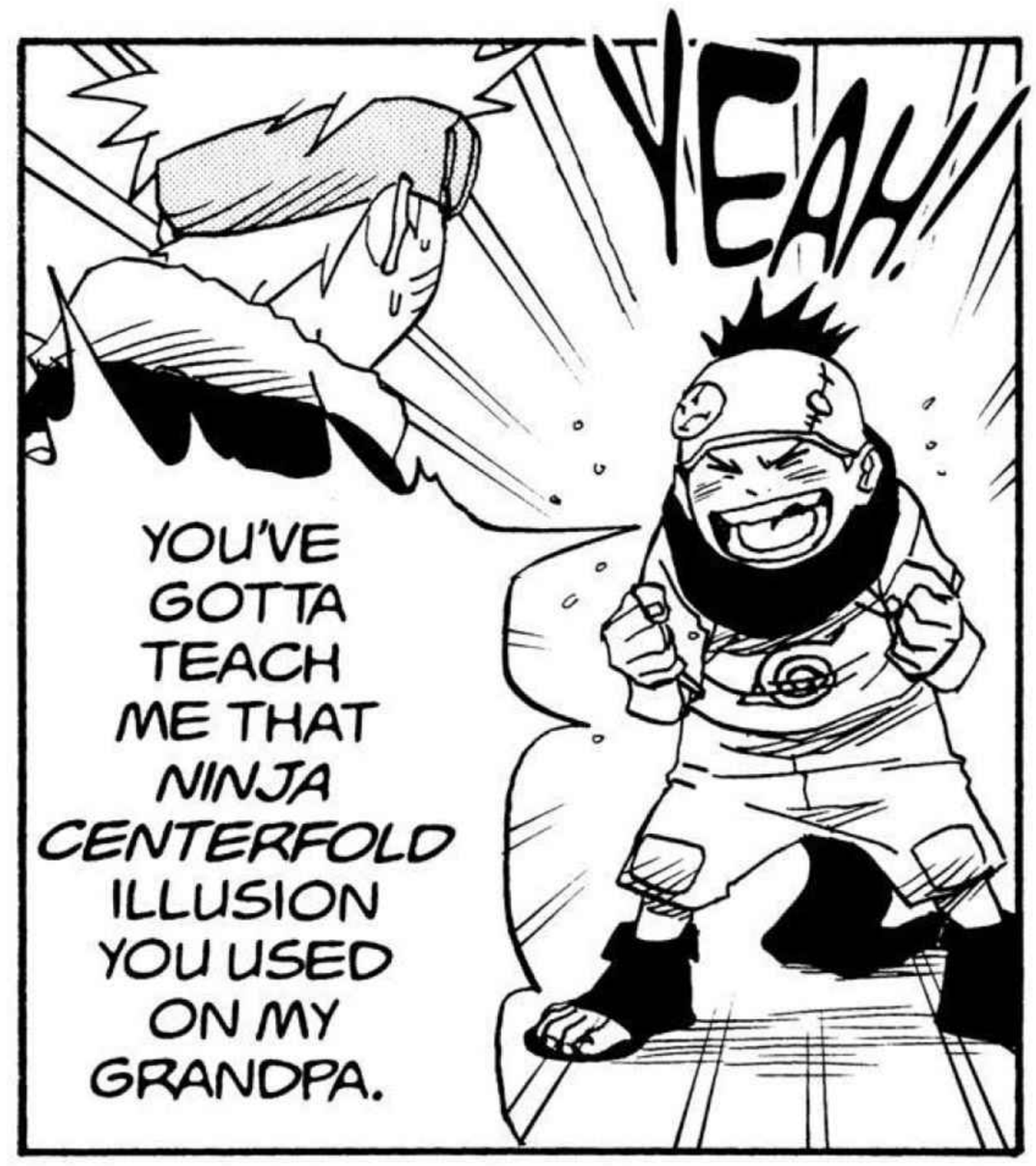
I CAN SEE YOU RIGHT THERE!

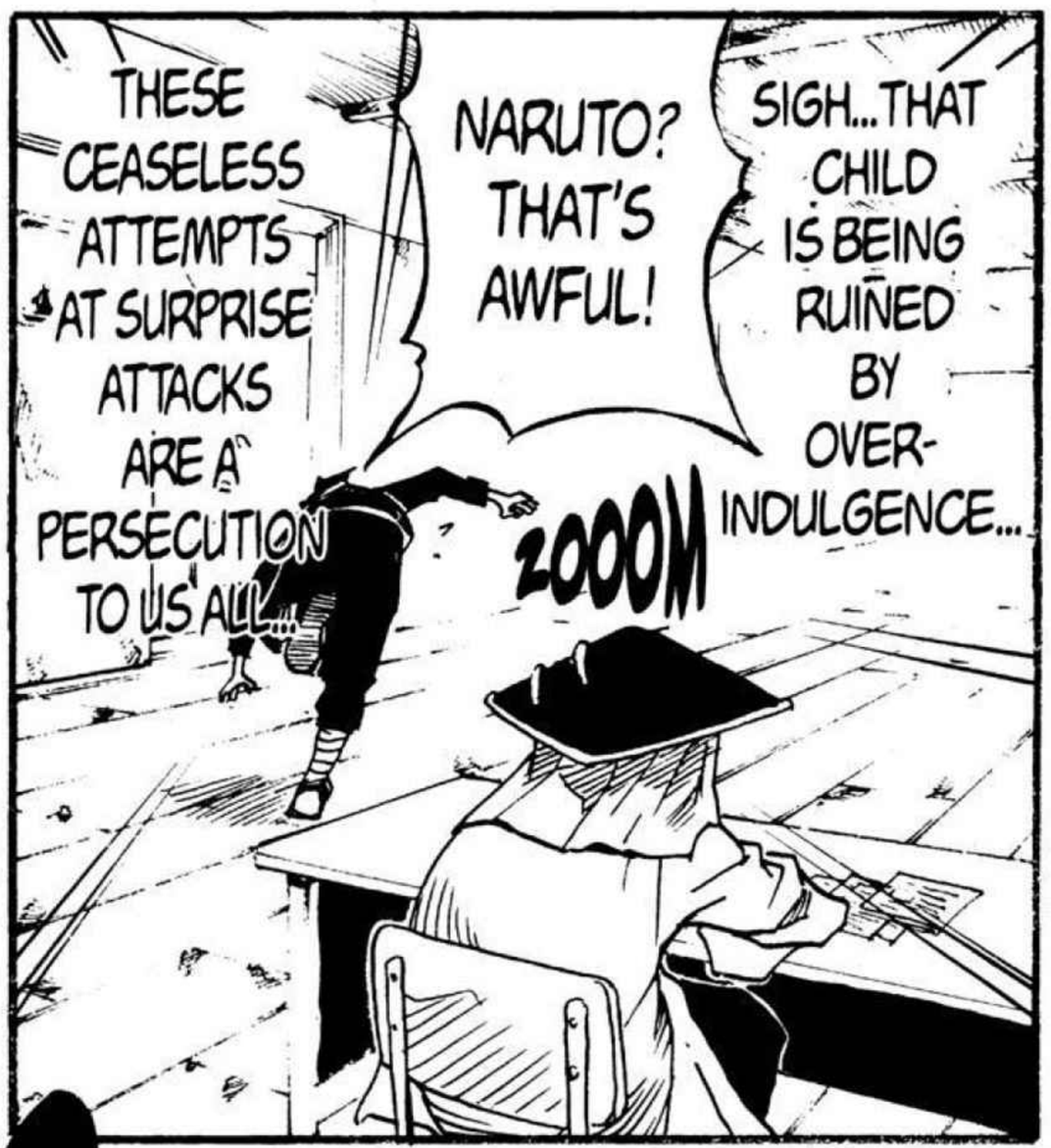
FLUP

QUIT FOLLOWING ME, STUPID.



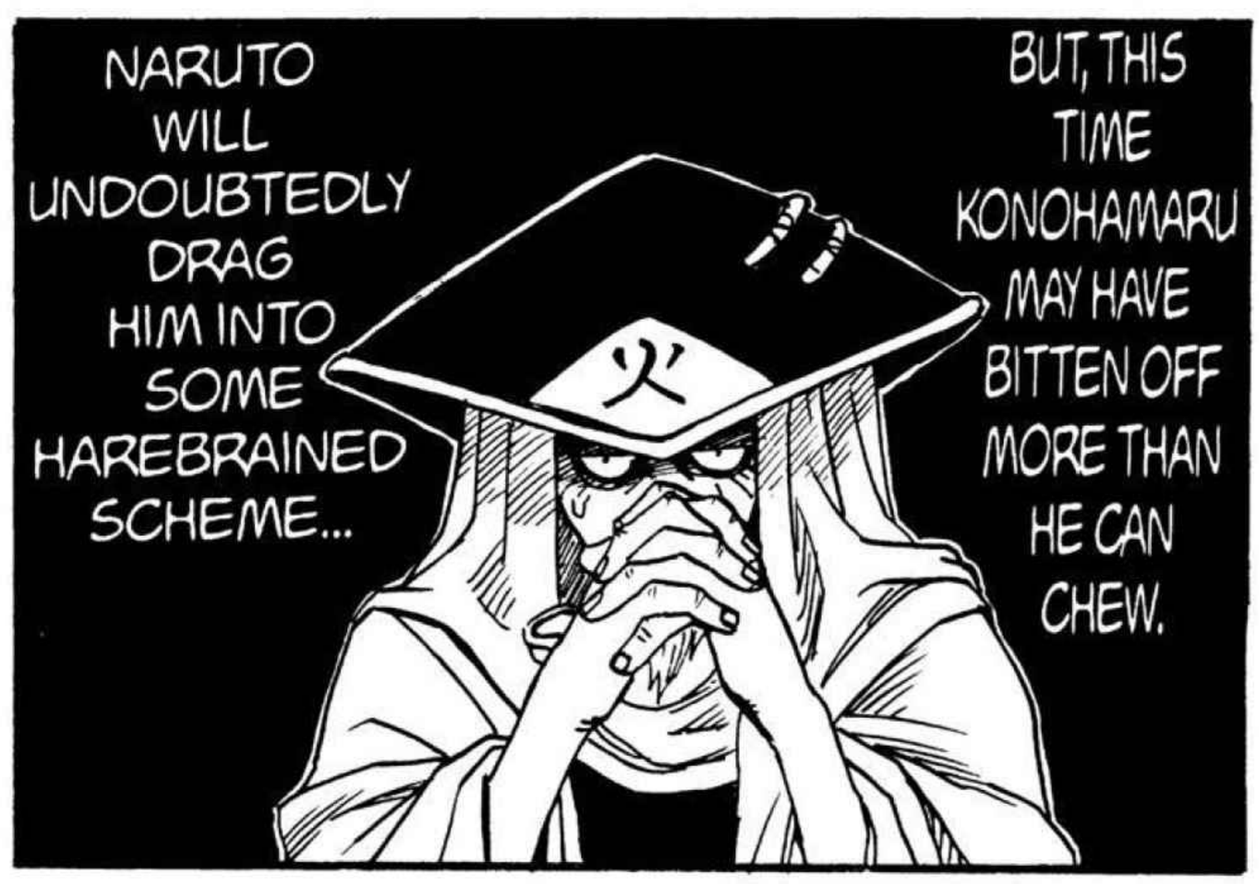





THESE CEASELESS ATTEMPTS AT SURPRISE ATTACKS ARE A PERSECUTION TO US ALL...
NARUTO? THAT'S AWFUL!
SIGH...THAT CHILD IS BEING RUINED BY OVER-INDULGENCE...
2000M

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HE FOLLOWED NARUTO.
HFF HFF
BLAST IT! WHERE IS HE THIS TIME...?

NO -----!!!!!


NARUTO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DRAG HIM INTO SOME HAREBRAINED SCHEME...
BUT, THIS TIME KONOHAMARU MAY HAVE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW.

OKAY, CHIEF!!!
SWOOSH!!
READY... STEADY... GO---!!!!
BEHOLD!!!!

I WILL CRUSH ANY INSECT THAT DARES CLING TO MY STUDENT!

KRAK

I AM PART OF THE ELITE, ONE IN A LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS LINE OF TUTORS WHO HAVE PREPARED COUNTLESS CANDIDATES FOR A POSSIBLE FUTURE AS NEXT LORD HOKAGE.

YESSIR!

TOTALLY WRONG!! TALLER! THINNER!

THAT IS THE SHORTEST PATH, HONORED GRANDSON!!

SHHHAA

THERE!!!

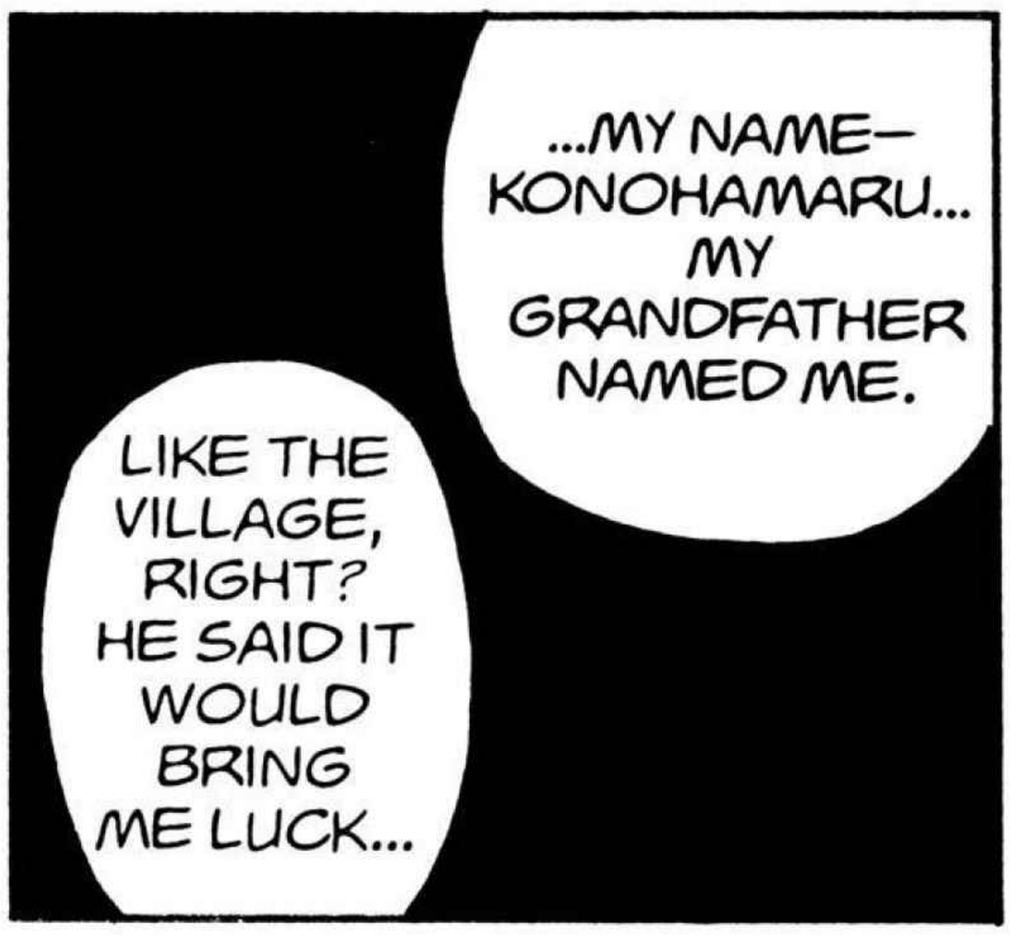
UNDER MY TUTELAGE, YOUR FUTURE AS LORD HOKAGE IS ASSURED.

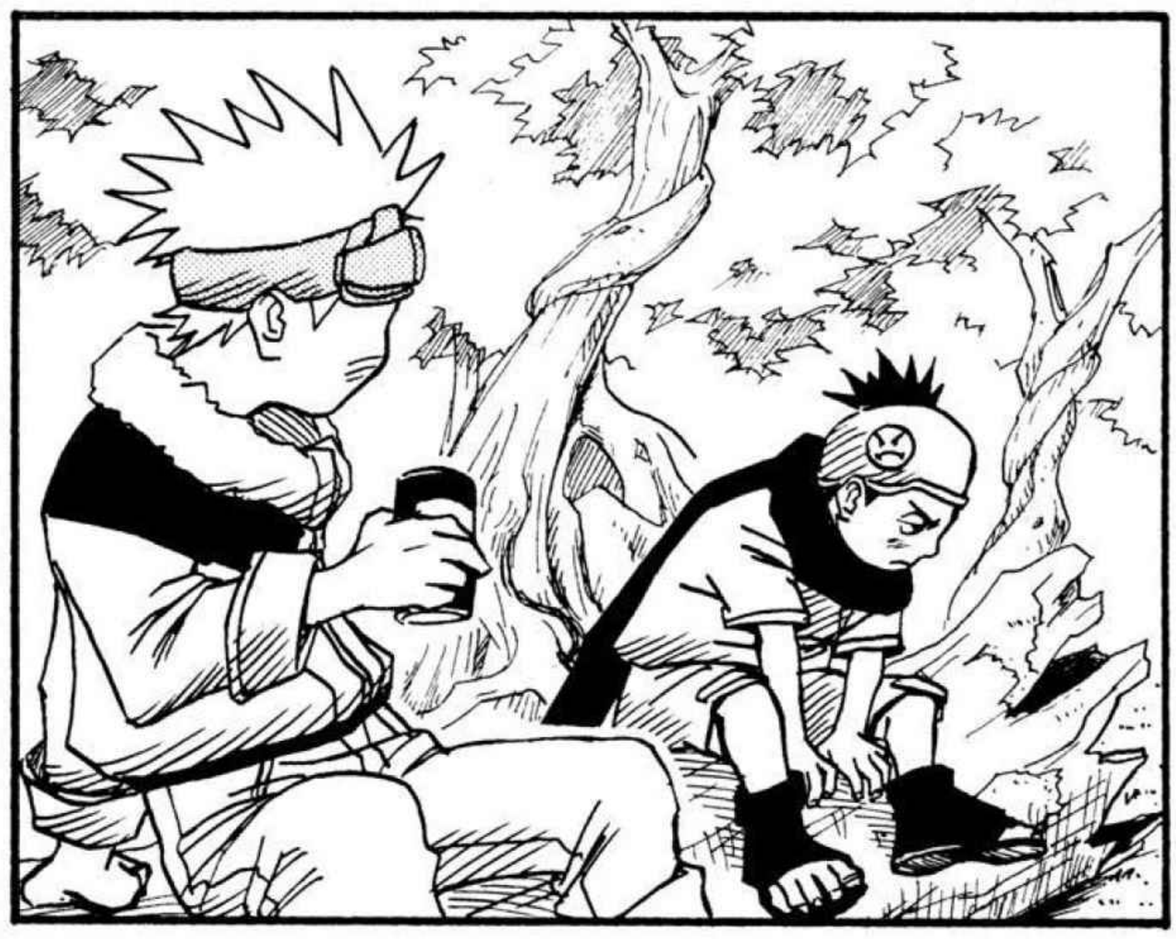
!

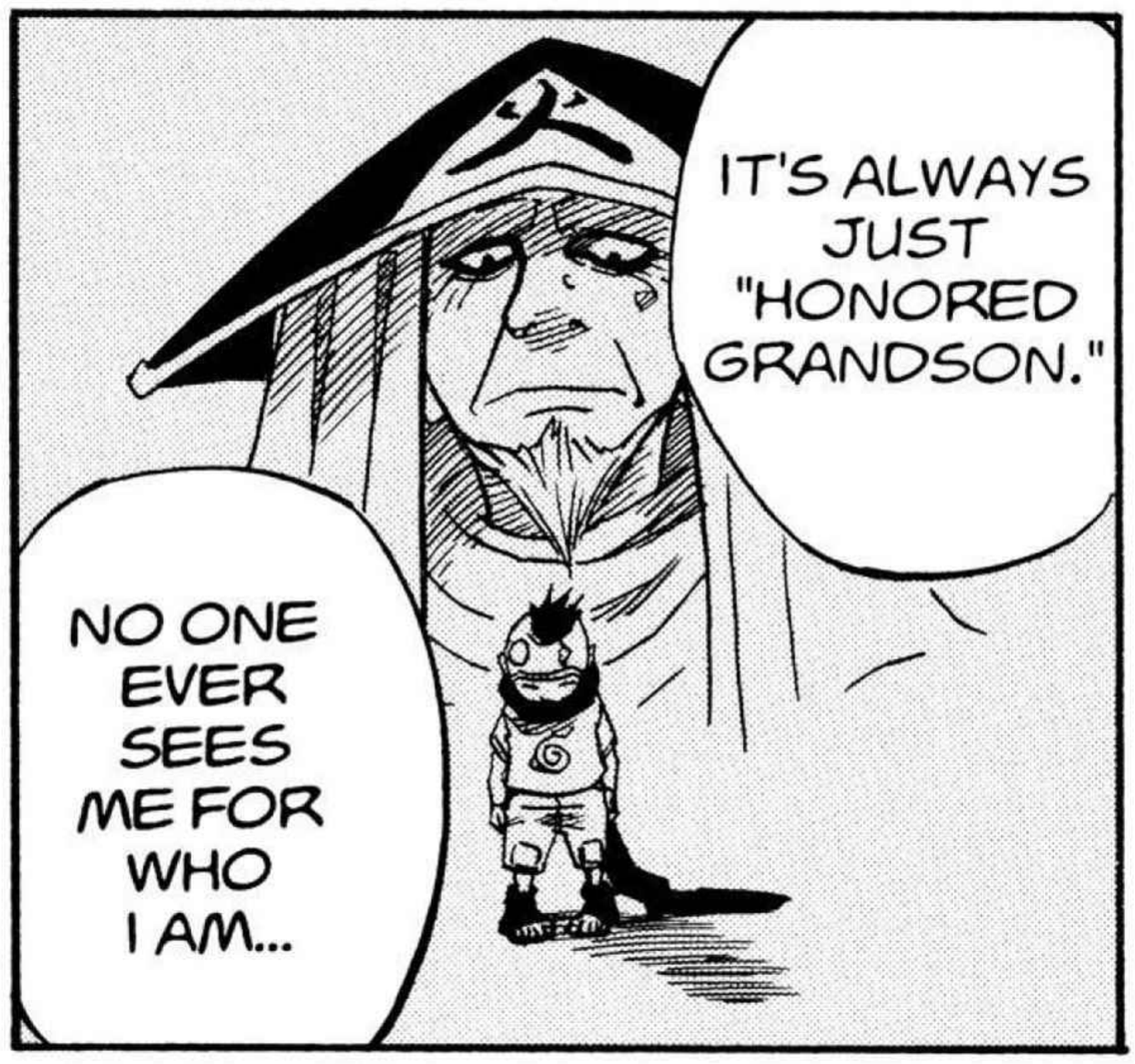
gulp gulp

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH THE OLD MAN?

BY THE WAY....


...MY NAME— KONOHAMARU... MY GRANDFATHER NAMED ME.
LIKE THE VILLAGE, RIGHT? HE SAID IT WOULD BRING ME LUCK...




IT'S ALWAYS JUST "HONORED GRANDSON."
NO ONE EVER SEES ME FOR WHO I AM...

NO ONE EVER CALLS ME THAT!
BUT EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE KNOWS THAT THAT'S WHAT I AM CALLED...
!

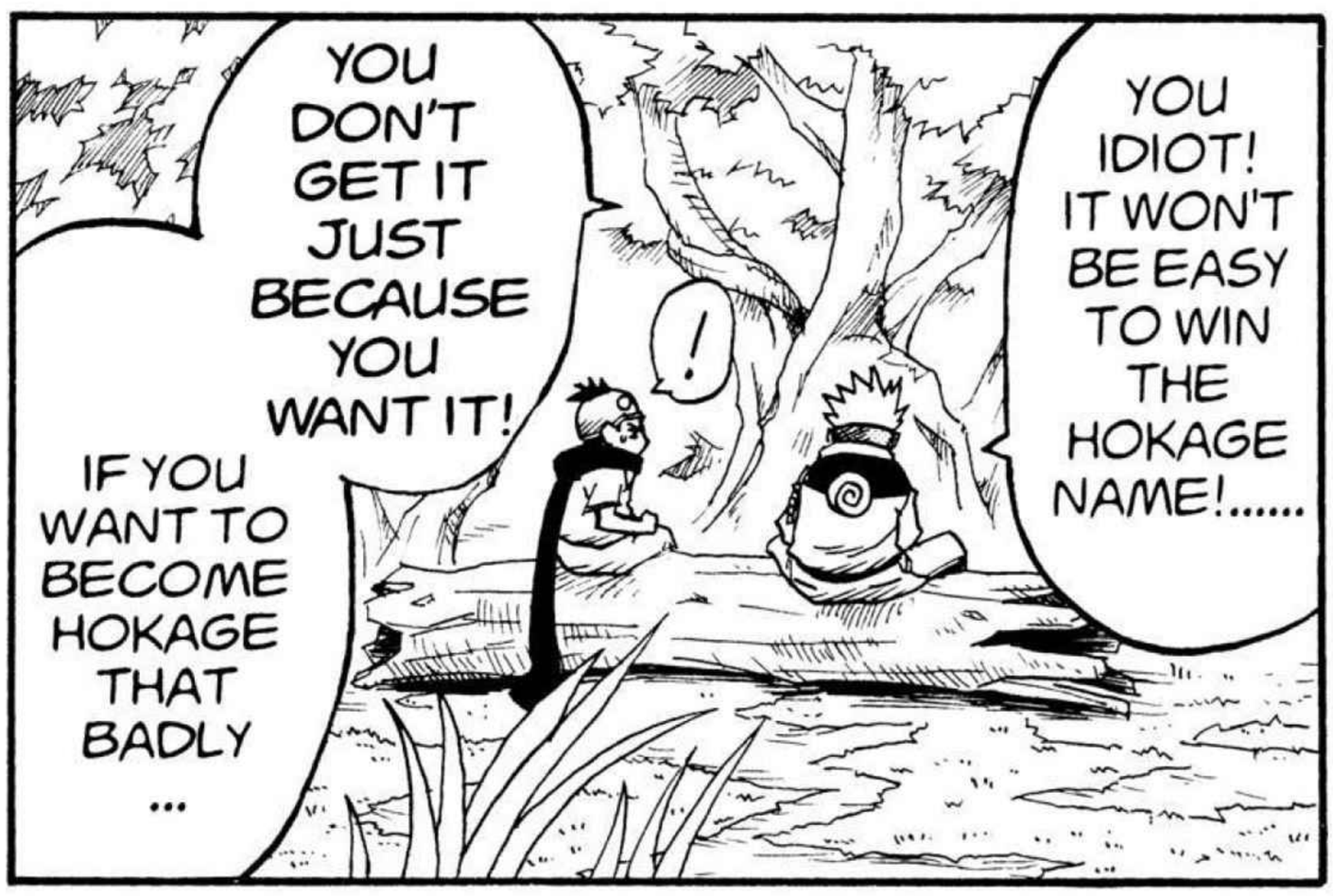
.....

BUT IT'LL BE DIFFERENT WHEN I BECOME LORD HOKAGE, AND THAT'S GONNA BE REAL SOON!!
JUST WHO I'M RELATED TO.
AND I HATE IT!

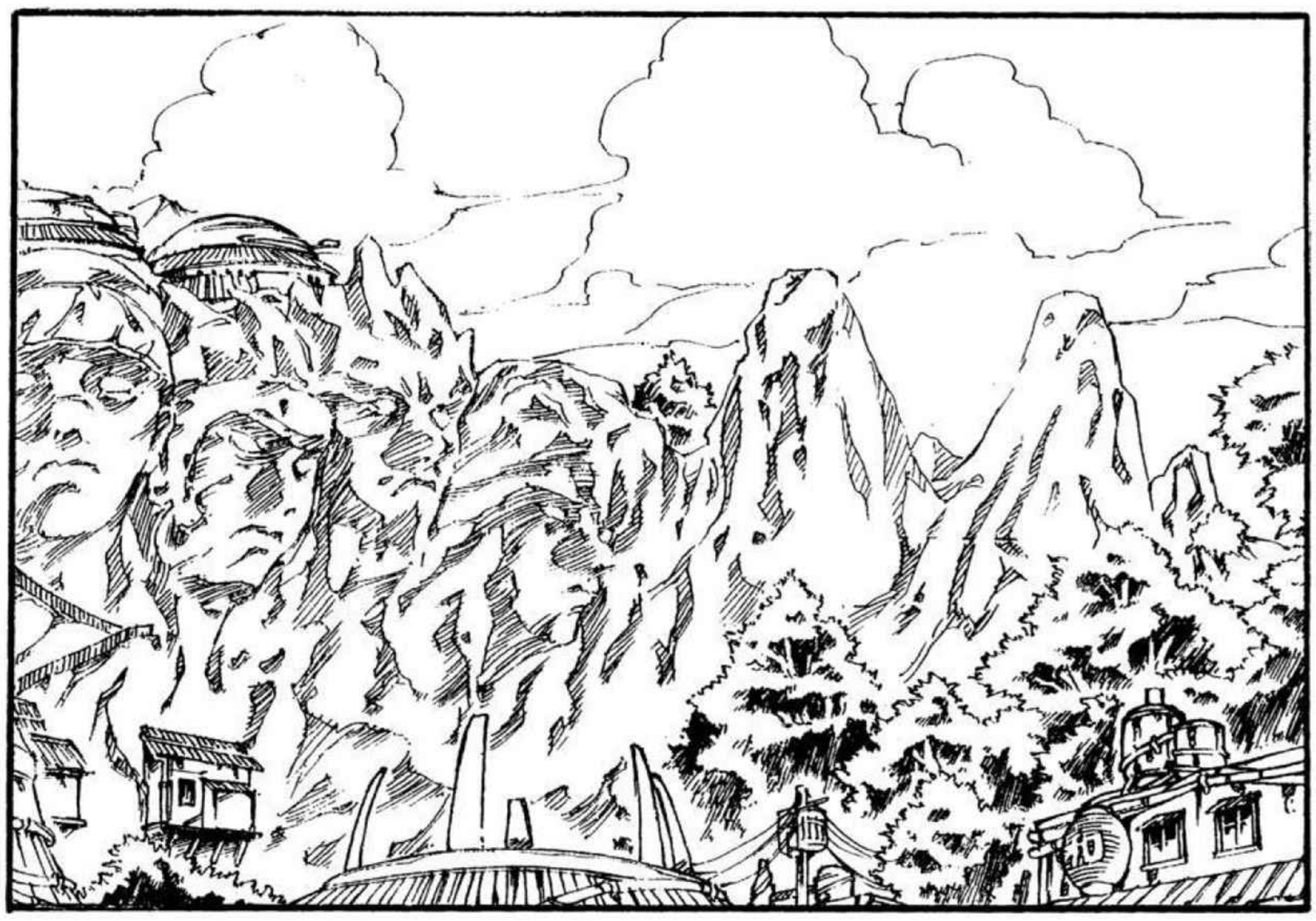
WHAT!?
GRRR!
IT'S TOO BIG A NAME FOR SUCH A LITTLE GUY!

HUNH?
NO WAY! WHO'D RESPECT A HOKAGE LIKE YOU?

WELL ? WHAT ?!


YOU DON'T GET IT JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT IT!
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME HOKAGE THAT BADLY ...
!
YOU IDIOT! IT WON'T BE EASY TO WIN THE HOKAGE NAME!.....

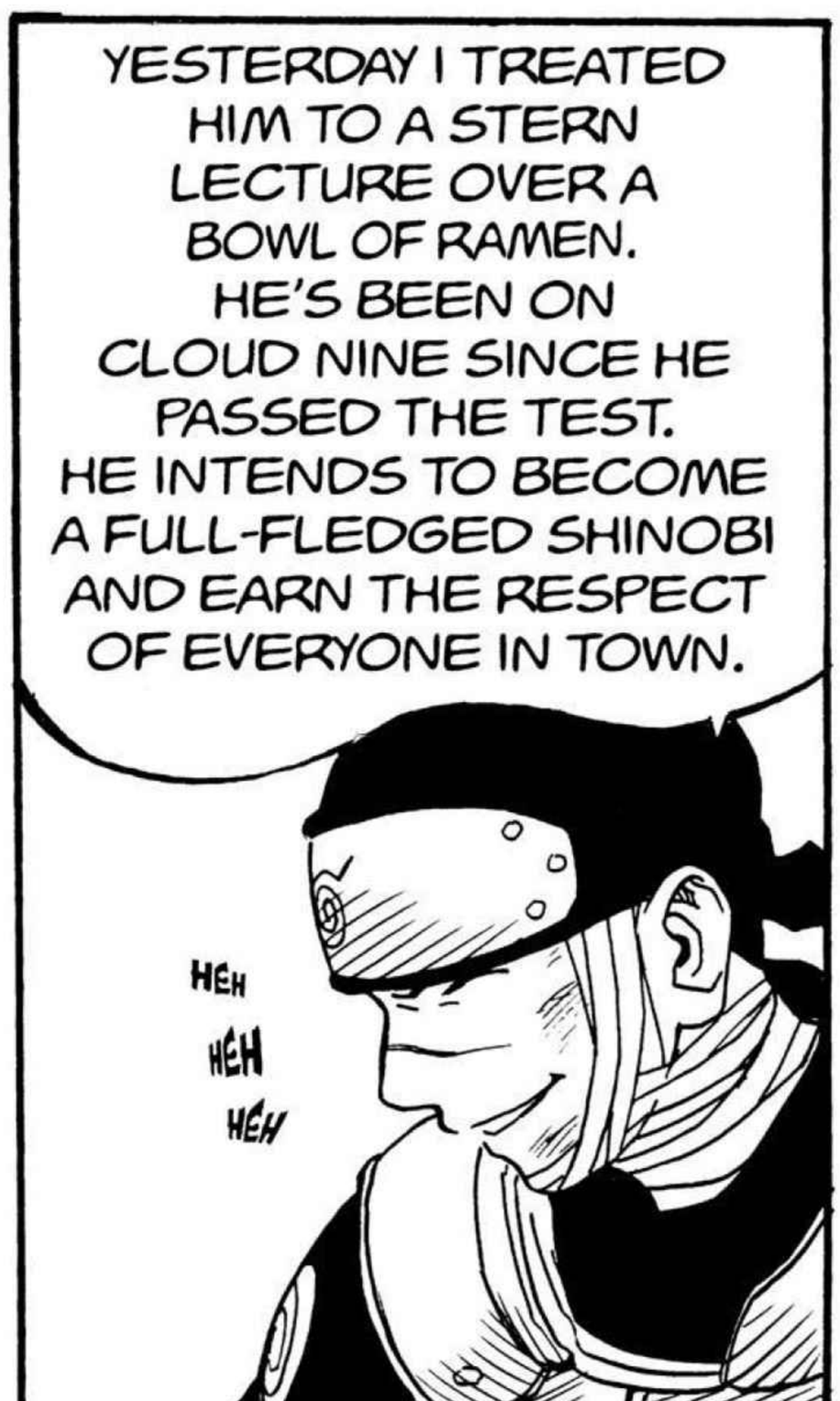
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET PAST ME FIRST!



DID NARUTO SUBMIT HIS NINJA REGISTRATION?
YES.
TMP TMP

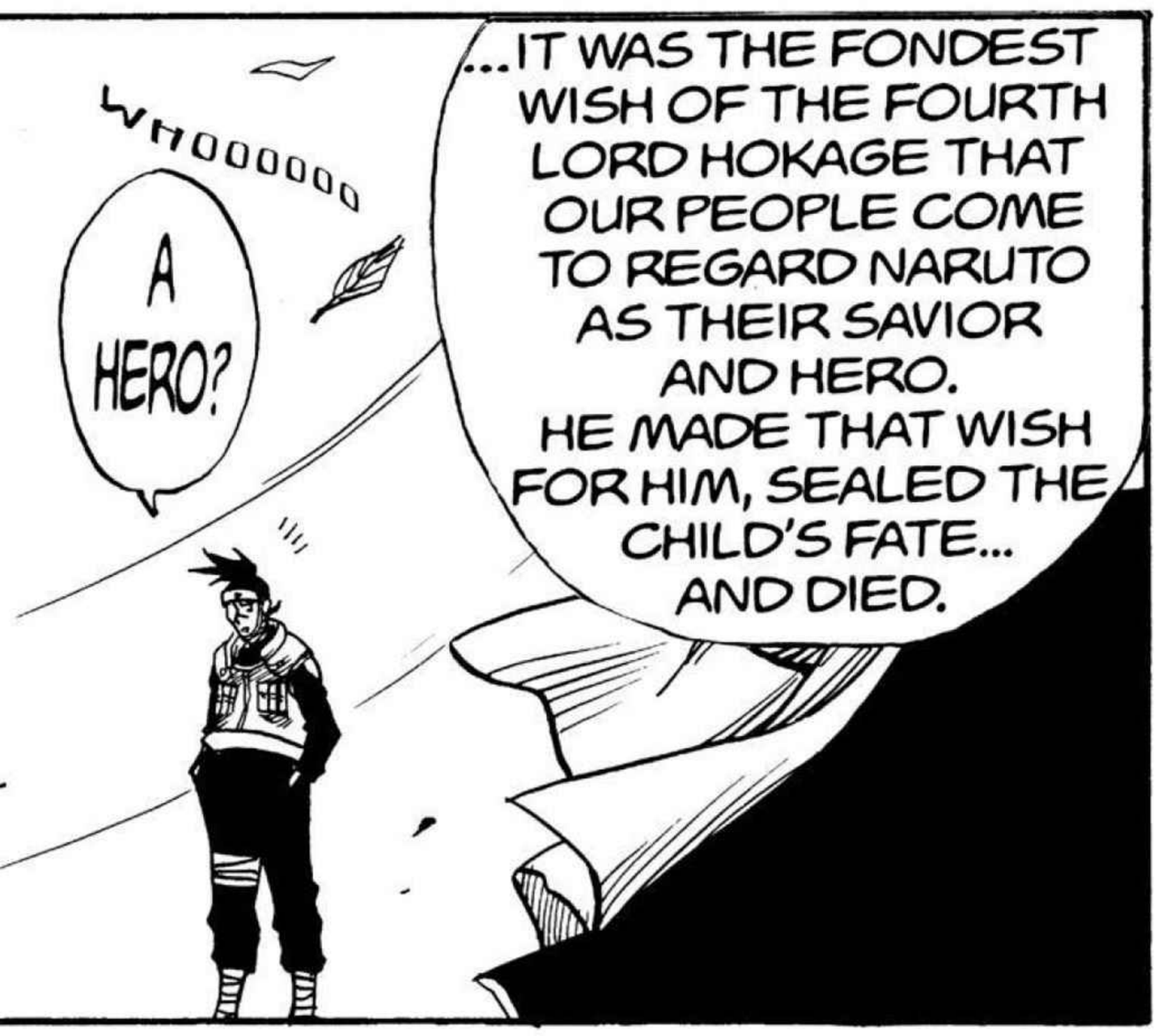
HOP
HELLO, IRUKA.
LORD HOKAGE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.

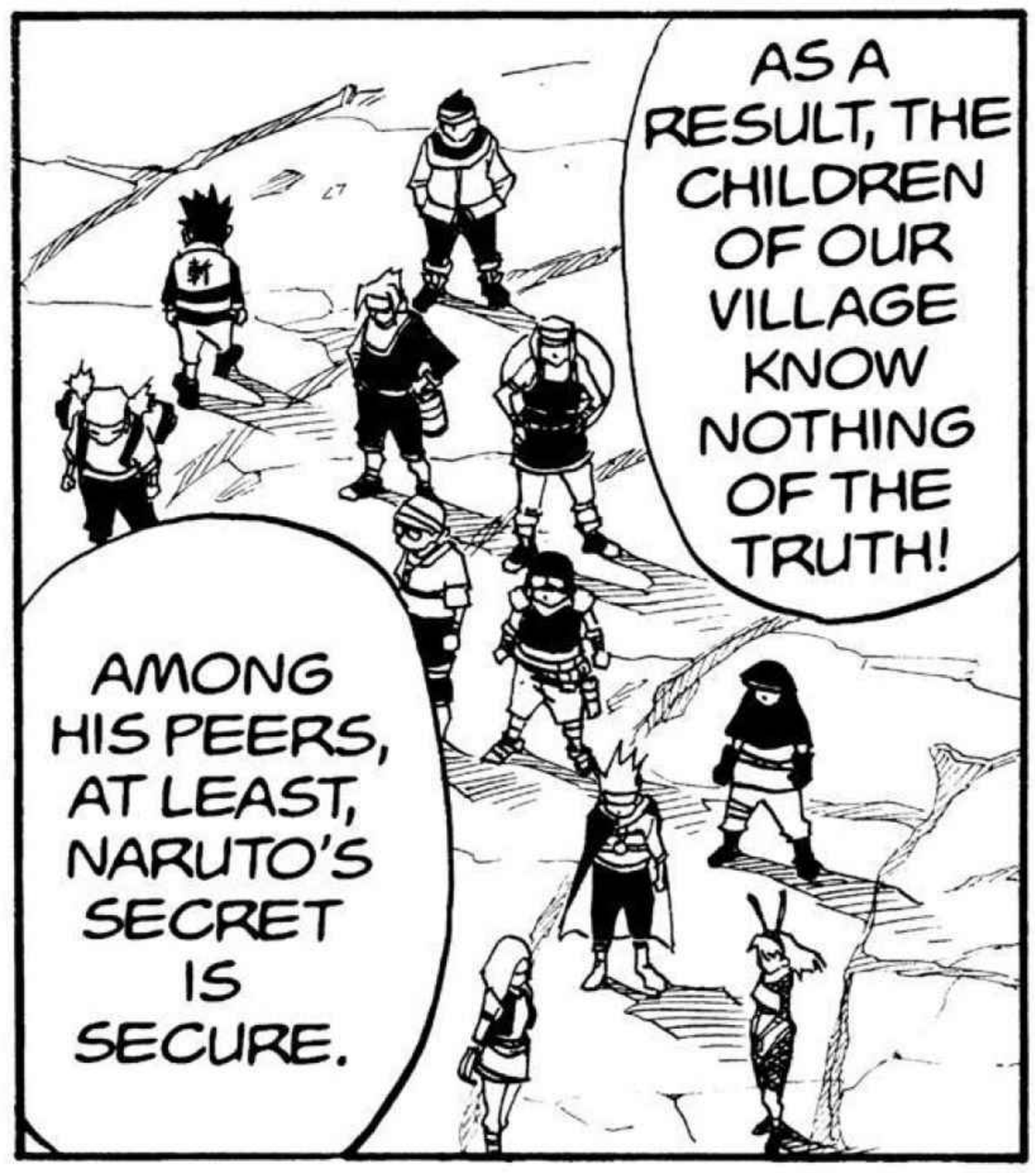
FLAP


YESTERDAY I TREATED HIM TO A STERN LECTURE OVER A BOWL OF RAMEN. HE'S BEEN ON CLOUD NINE SINCE HE PASSED THE TEST. HE INTENDS TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI AND EARN THE RESPECT OF EVERYONE IN TOWN.
HEH HEH HEH

WHAT?
THAT MAY BE A DIFFICULT DREAM FOR HIM TO REALIZE.

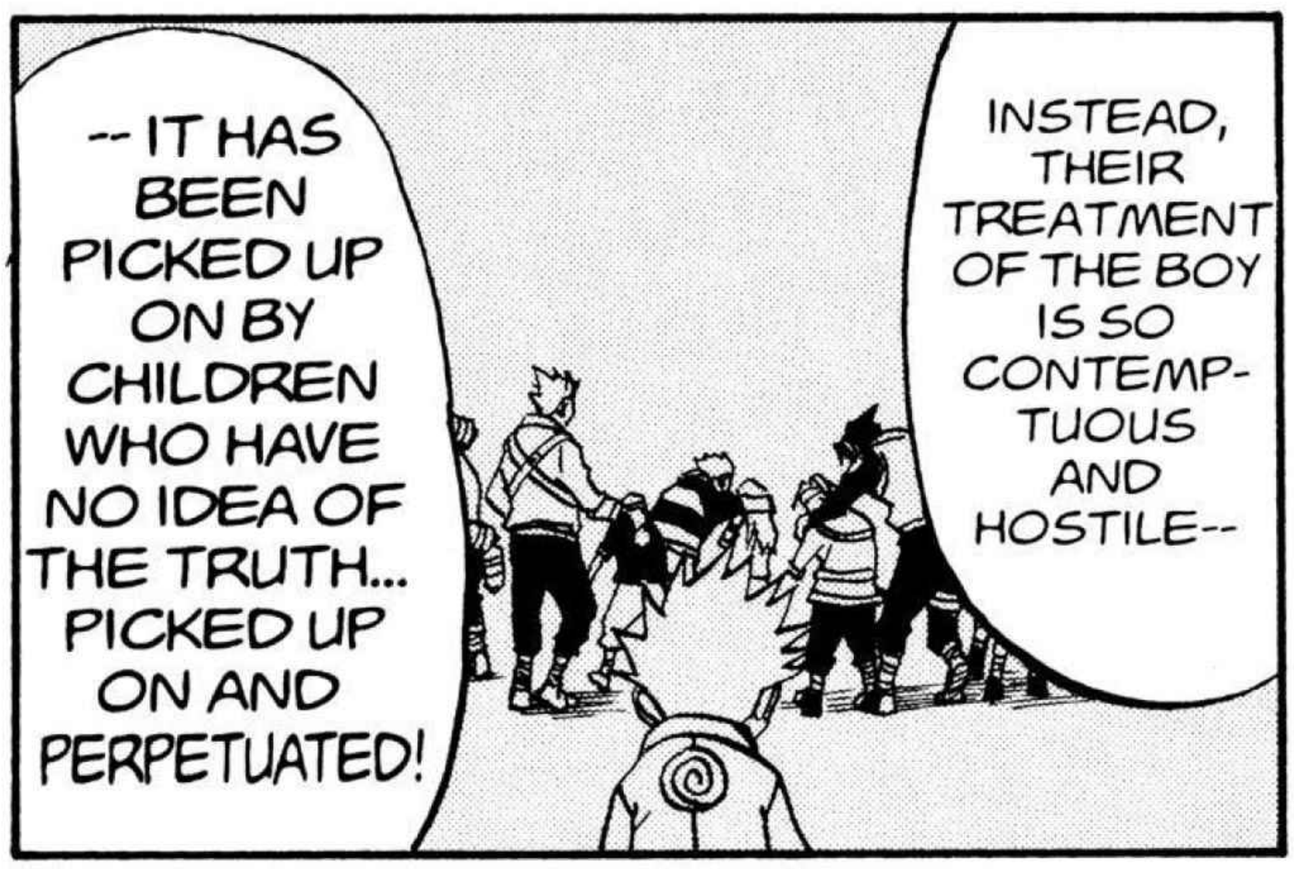
DISCLOSURE OF THAT SECRET IS MOST STRICTLY FORBIDDEN...
...UNDER PAIN OF THE SEVEREST PENALTY OUR LAW CAN INFLICT.
ONLY WE WHO WERE ADULTS AT THE TIME OF THE GREAT BATTLE KNOW THE TRUTH... THAT THE BOY NARUTO IS THE HUMAN FORM OF THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT THAT TORMENTED OUR PEOPLE UNTIL ITS DEFEAT A DOZEN YEARS AGO.

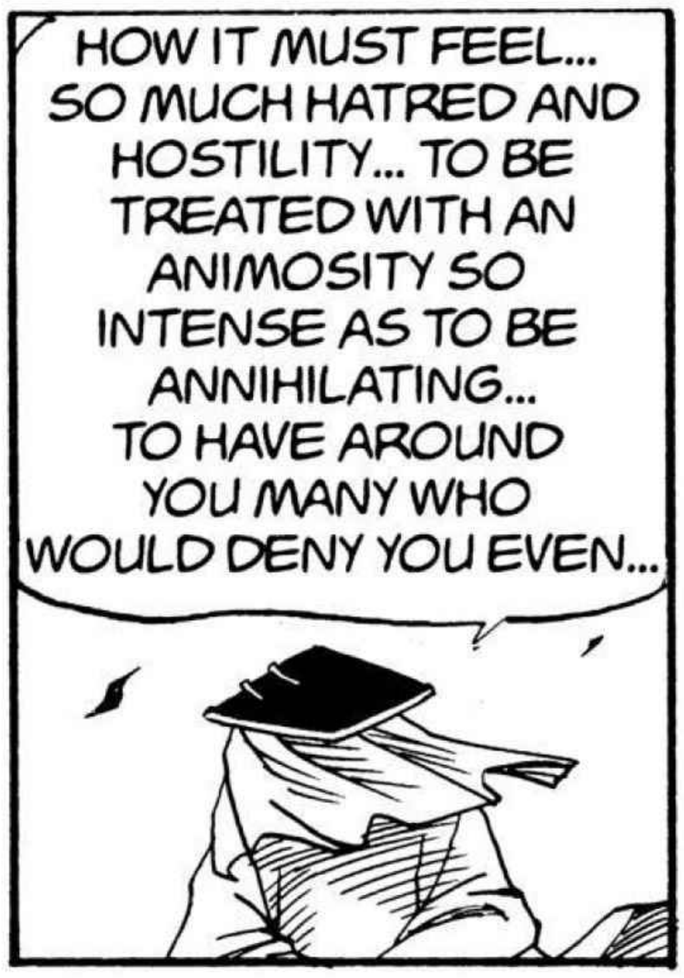

WHOOOOOOO
A HERO?
...IT WAS THE FONDEST WISH OF THE FOURTH LORD HOKAGE THAT OUR PEOPLE COME TO REGARD NARUTO AS THEIR SAVIOR AND HERO. HE MADE THAT WISH FOR HIM, SEALED THE CHILD'S FATE... AND DIED.


AS A RESULT, THE CHILDREN OF OUR VILLAGE KNOW NOTHING OF THE TRUTH!
AMONG HIS PEERS, AT LEAST, NARUTO'S SECRET IS SECURE.

NARUTO WAS SACRIFICED, FOR THE SAFETY OF US ALL, TO BECOME A LIVING VESSEL FOR THE IMPRISONMENT OF THE FOX.

HE SELECTED A NEWBORN CHILD, THE UMBILICAL CORD FRESHLY CUT, AND BOUND UP ALL NINE TAILS OF THE FOX WITHIN THE INFANT'S NAVEL.





!!

EH--?!

THERE YOU ARE!

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE!

THAT LOOK! THAT SAME UGLY LOOK, FROM YET ANOTHER PERSON!

TAK

DAMNED FOX... NARUTO!

FEH...

RRRR

BEHOLD!

NG

YOU HEARD HIM, LOSER!

HE IS MASTER OF OVER ONE THOUSAND ILLUSIONS, AND... EH?!

TAK TAK

THE REVERED LORD HOKAGE KNOW AND UNDERSTANDS THE EIGHT PRINCIPLES THAT ARE THE CORNERSTONE OF ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SHINOBI: VIRTUE, JUSTICE, CEREMONY, WISDOM, LOYALTY, FAITHFULNESS, PRUDENCE, AND FILIAL PIETY!

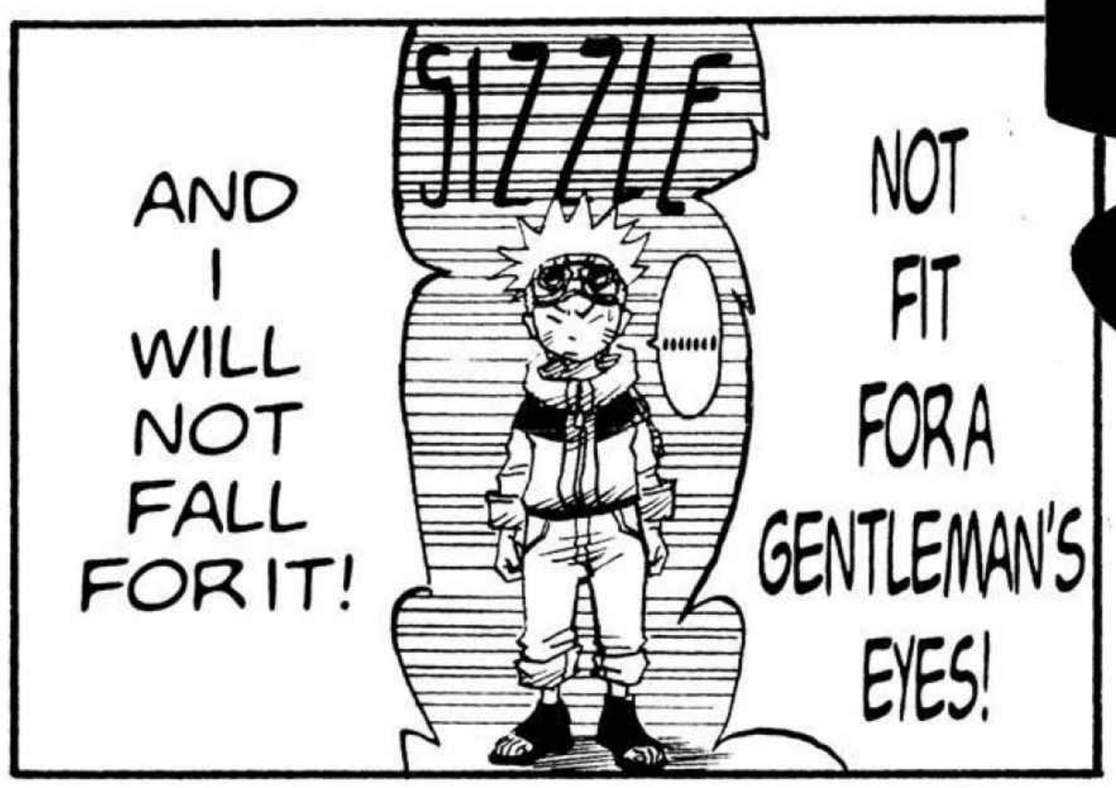
NO WAY!! NOT YET! FIRST I HAVE TO KICK THE OLD MAN'S BUTT AND BECOME THE NEXT LORD HOKAGE. SO GET LOST.

HOP

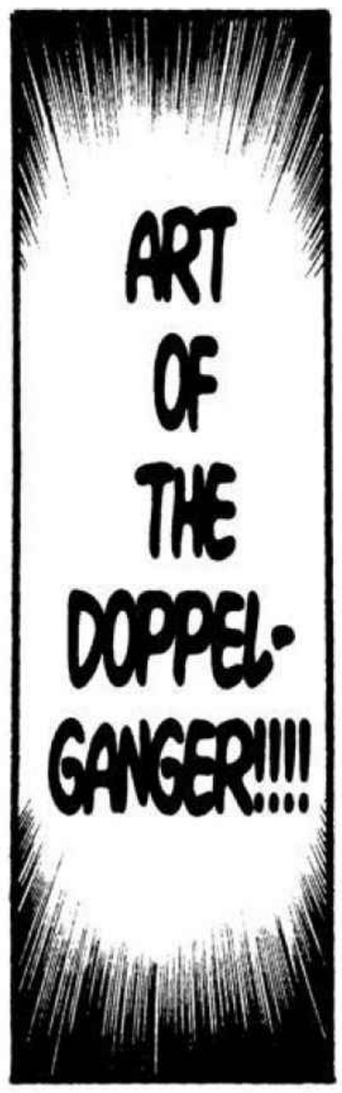
AND NOW, HONORED GRANDSON, IT'S TIME TO RETURN HOME.

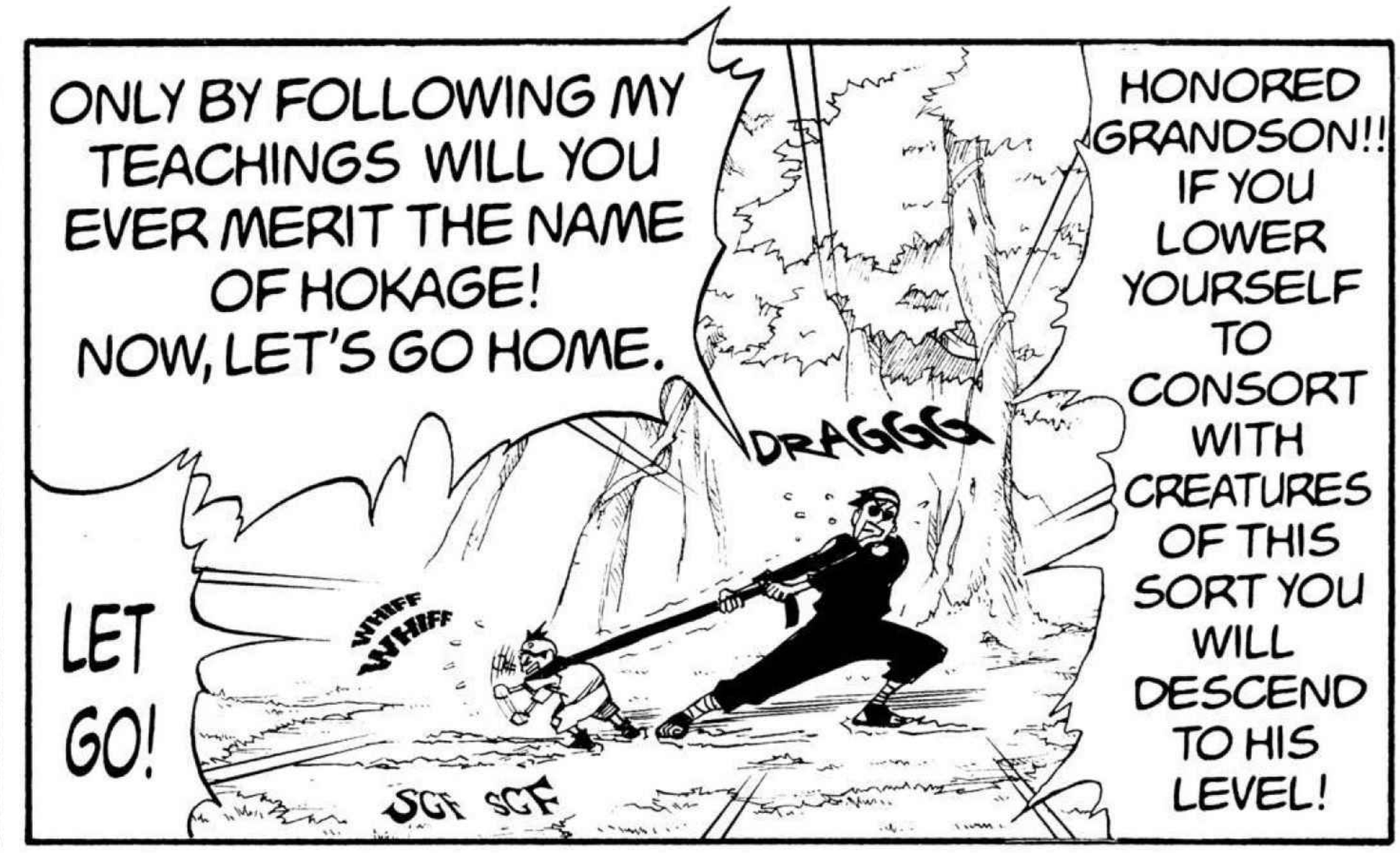
WHY DIDN'T IT WORK--?!
GAAAA!
.....

WHAT A VULGAR DISPLAY!!!
WHA... WHA...!


AND I WILL NOT FALL FOR IT!
SIZZLE
.....
NOT FIT FOR A GENTLEMAN'S EYES!

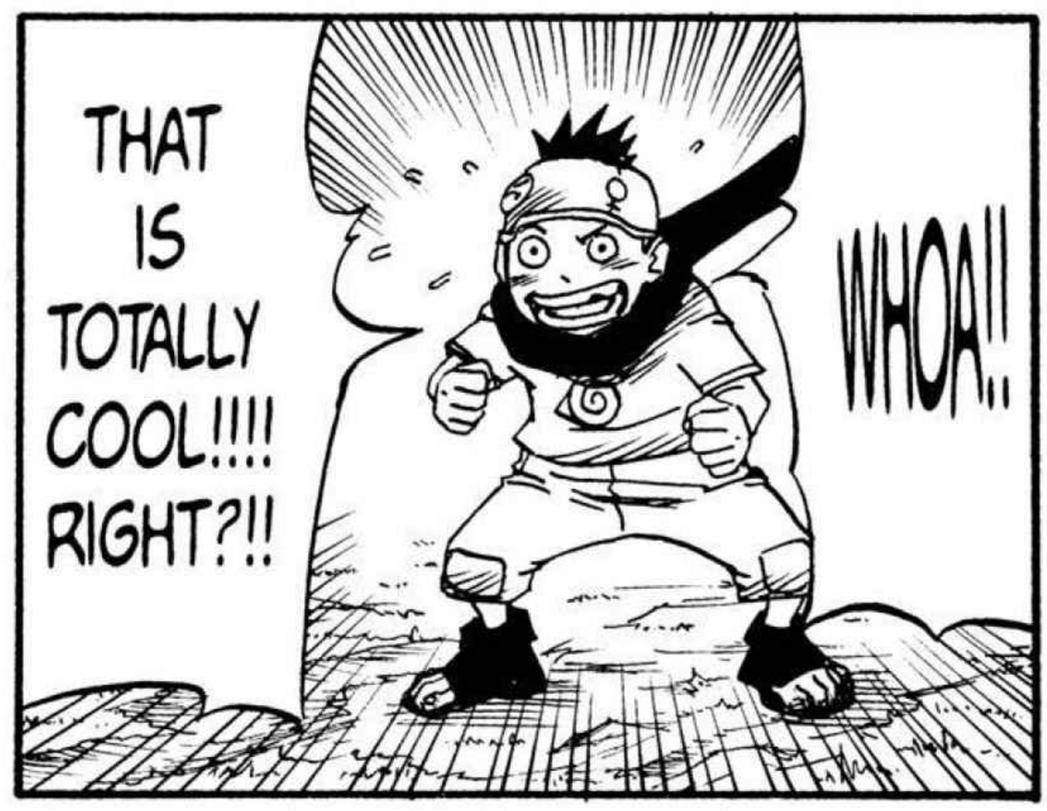
NNNG
TAKE THAT! NINJA CENTER-FOLD!


ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!!!!

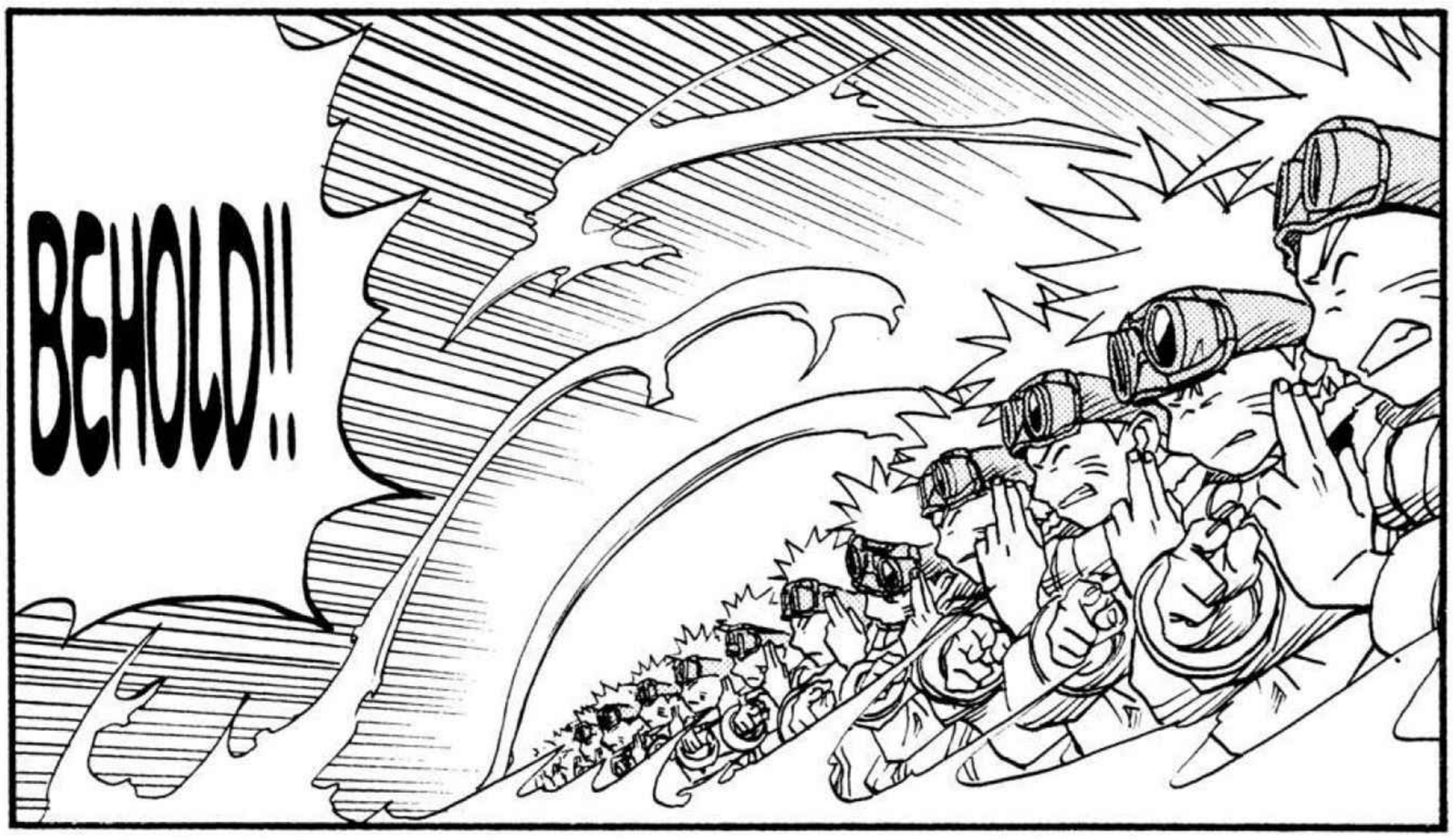

ONLY BY FOLLOWING MY TEACHINGS WILL YOU EVER MERIT THE NAME OF HOKAGE! NOW, LET'S GO HOME.
HONORED GRANDSON!! IF YOU LOWER YOURSELF TO CONSORT WITH CREATURES OF THIS SORT YOU WILL DESCEND TO HIS LEVEL!
DRAGGGG
LET GO!
WHIFF WHIFF
SGF SGF

!
!

IT WOULD ONLY FOOL A WEAK-MINDED IDIOT LIKE MIZUKI!
HAH!
CHILD'S PLAY! NO MATCH FOR A SUPERIOR TEACHER LIKE MYSELF!
SHF


THAT IS TOTALLY COOL!!!! RIGHT?!!
WHOA!!

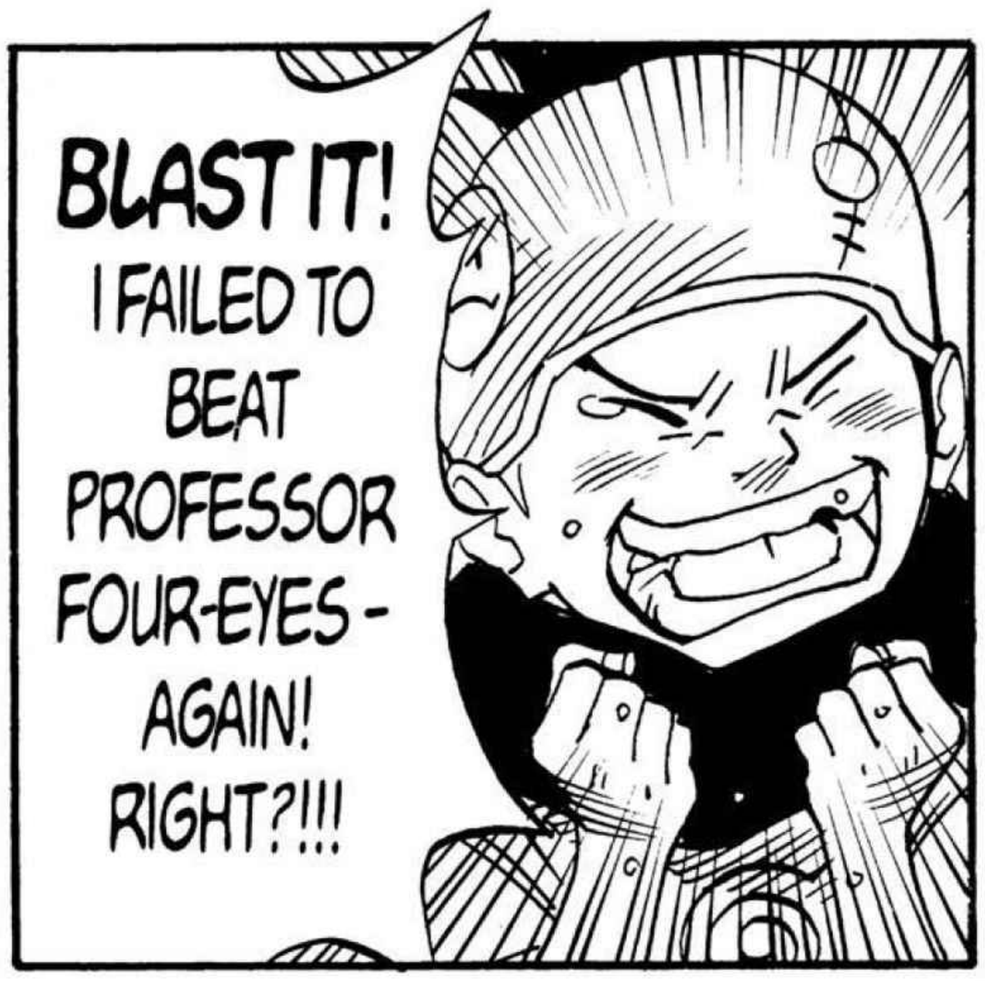
HUNH?
!


BEHOLD!!

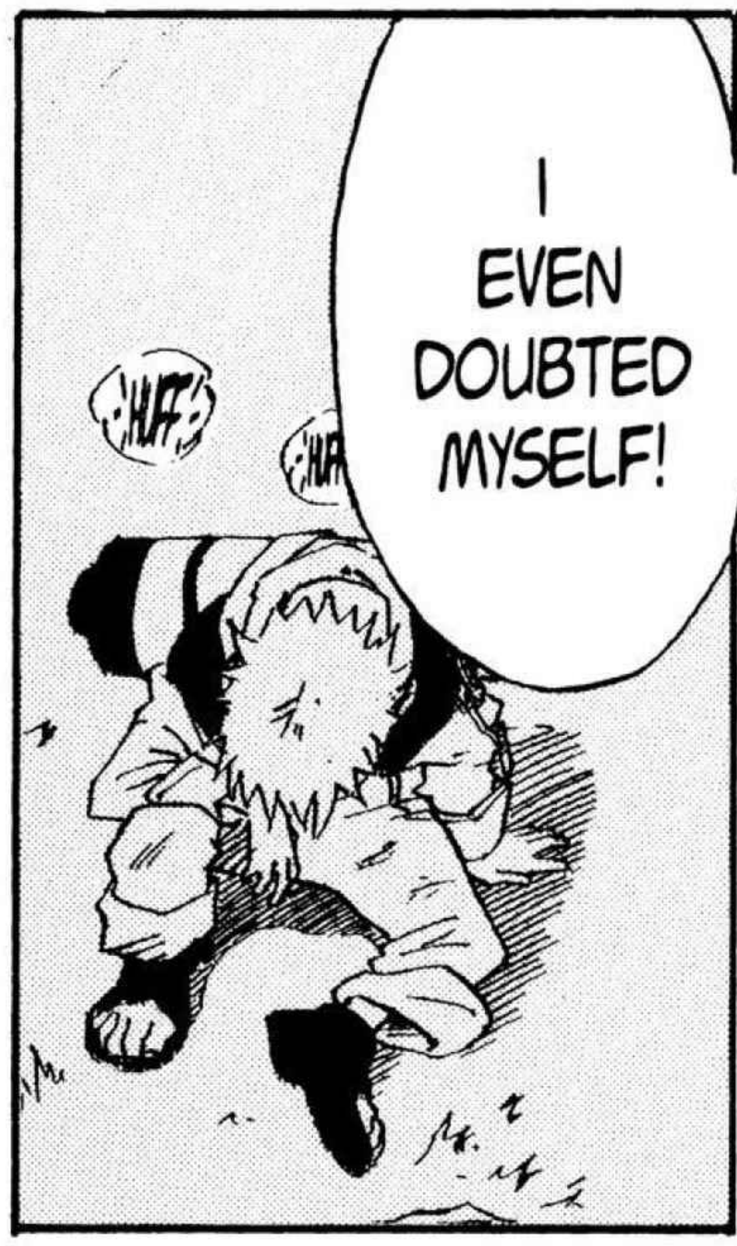
EEP--!

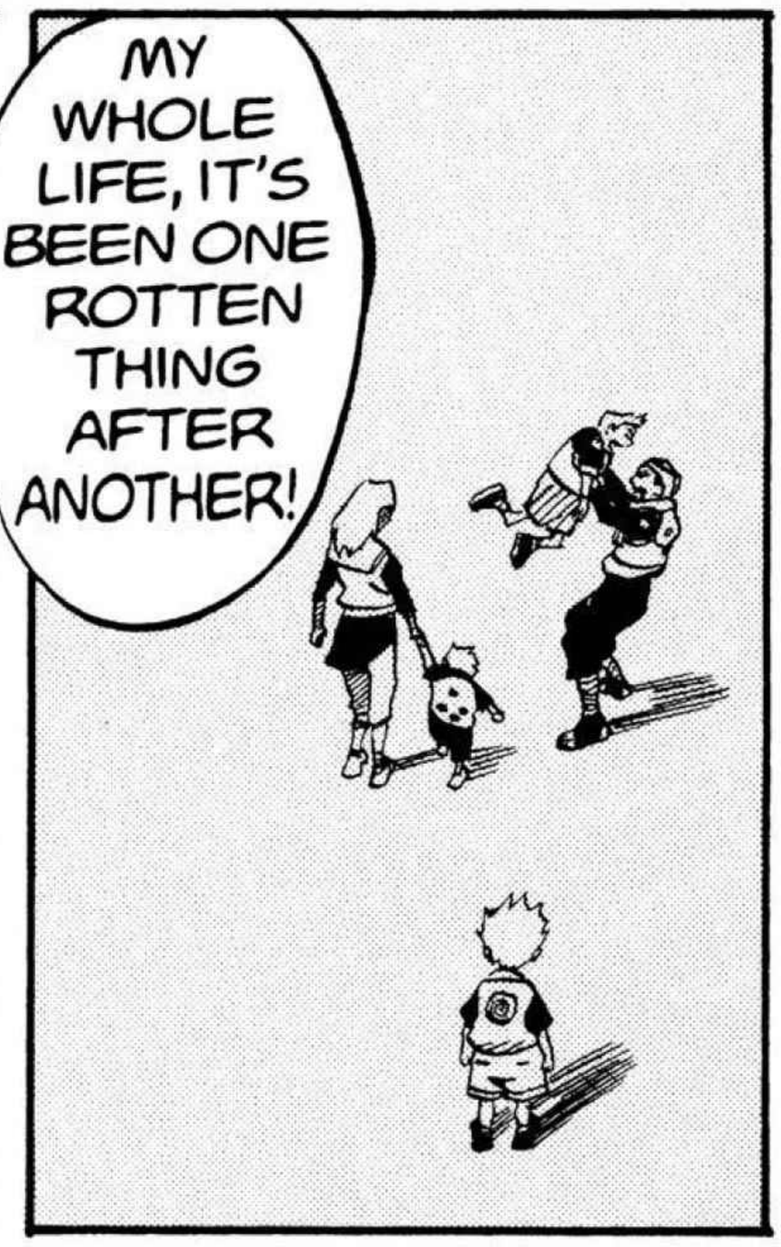
THE NINJA HAREM !!!!!

I CALL THIS ONE...



ONLY ONE PERSON TREATS ME WITH ANY KIND OF RESPECT.
AND EVEN HE...


HUFF
I EVEN DOUBTED MYSELF!

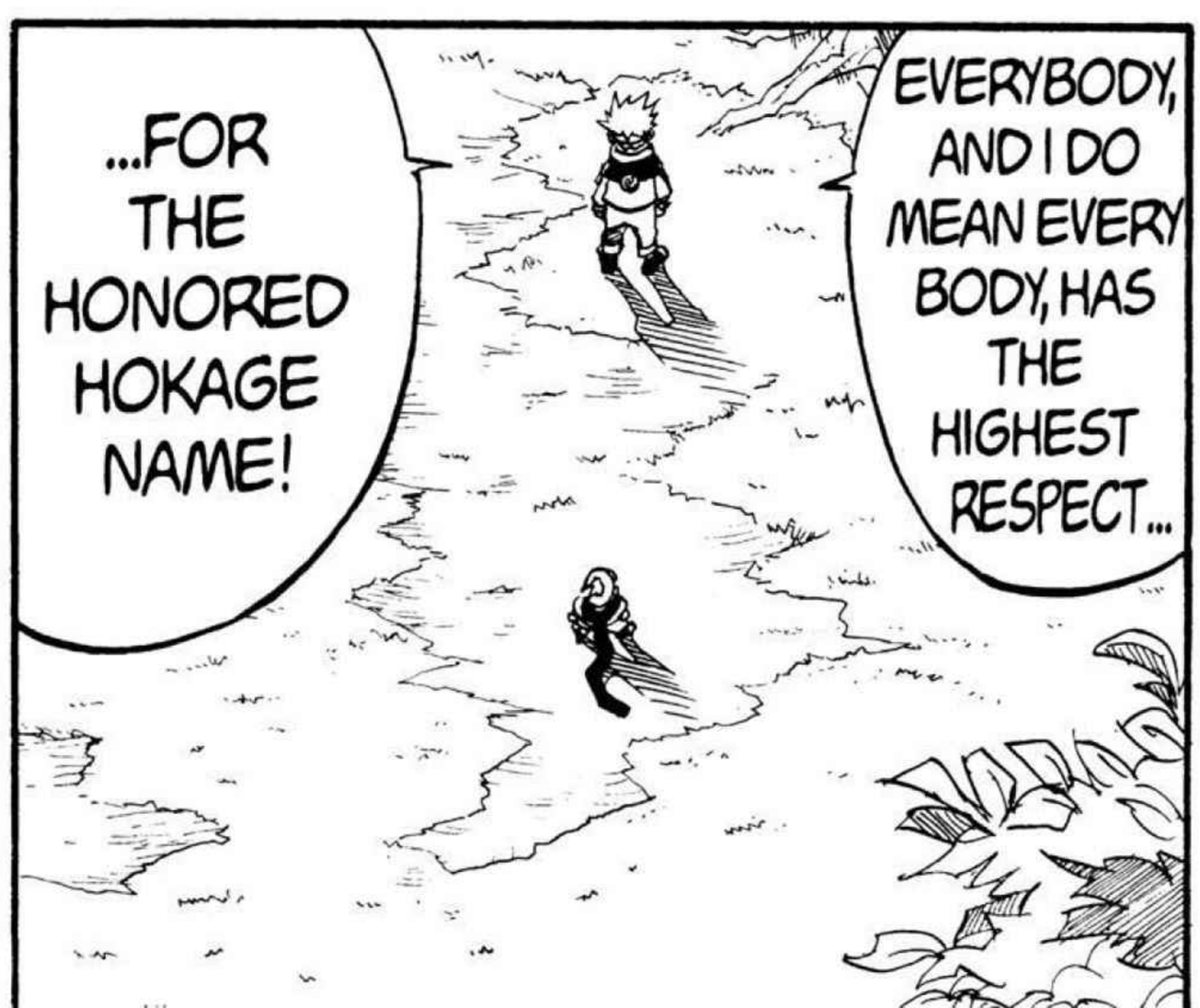

MY WHOLE LIFE, IT'S BEEN ONE ROTTEN THING AFTER ANOTHER!

ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT?
SHFF
.....COMMIT-MENT...?

...WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO WIN OVER!!

WAFT...

!


...FOR THE HONORED HOKAGE NAME!
EVERYBODY, AND I DO MEAN EVERY BODY, HAS THE HIGHEST RESPECT...

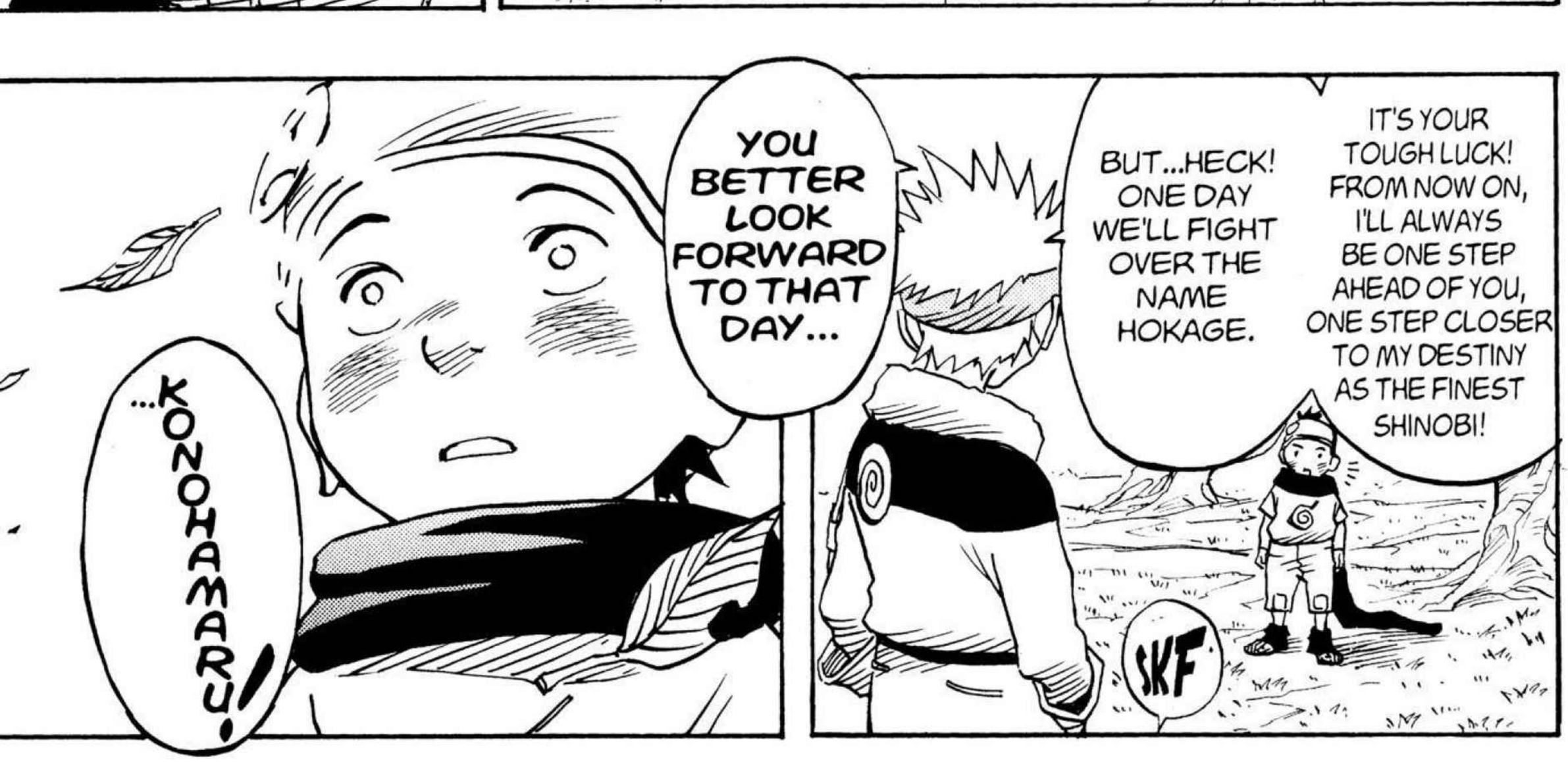
THERE ARE NO SHORT CUTS!!

DO YOU GET IT?

HEH-
HEH-
HEH!

WE WILL BE ARCH-RIVALS!
FROM THIS DAY FOR-WARD .....

HA


YOU BETTER LOOK FORWARD TO THAT DAY...
...KONOHAMARU!
BUT...HECK! ONE DAY WE'LL FIGHT OVER THE NAME HOKAGE.
IT'S YOUR TOUGH LUCK! FROM NOW ON, I'LL ALWAYS BE ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU, ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY DESTINY AS THE FINEST SHINOBI!
SKF

...HE SAW THE DREAM, AND THE CHALLENGES, THAT LAY AHEAD FOR THE YOUNG NARUTO...
THEY HAD A LONG WAY TO GO TO BECOME TRUE SHINOBI. BUT AS LORD HOKAGE WATCHED OVER THEM AND SMILED...

Konohagakure Basics:

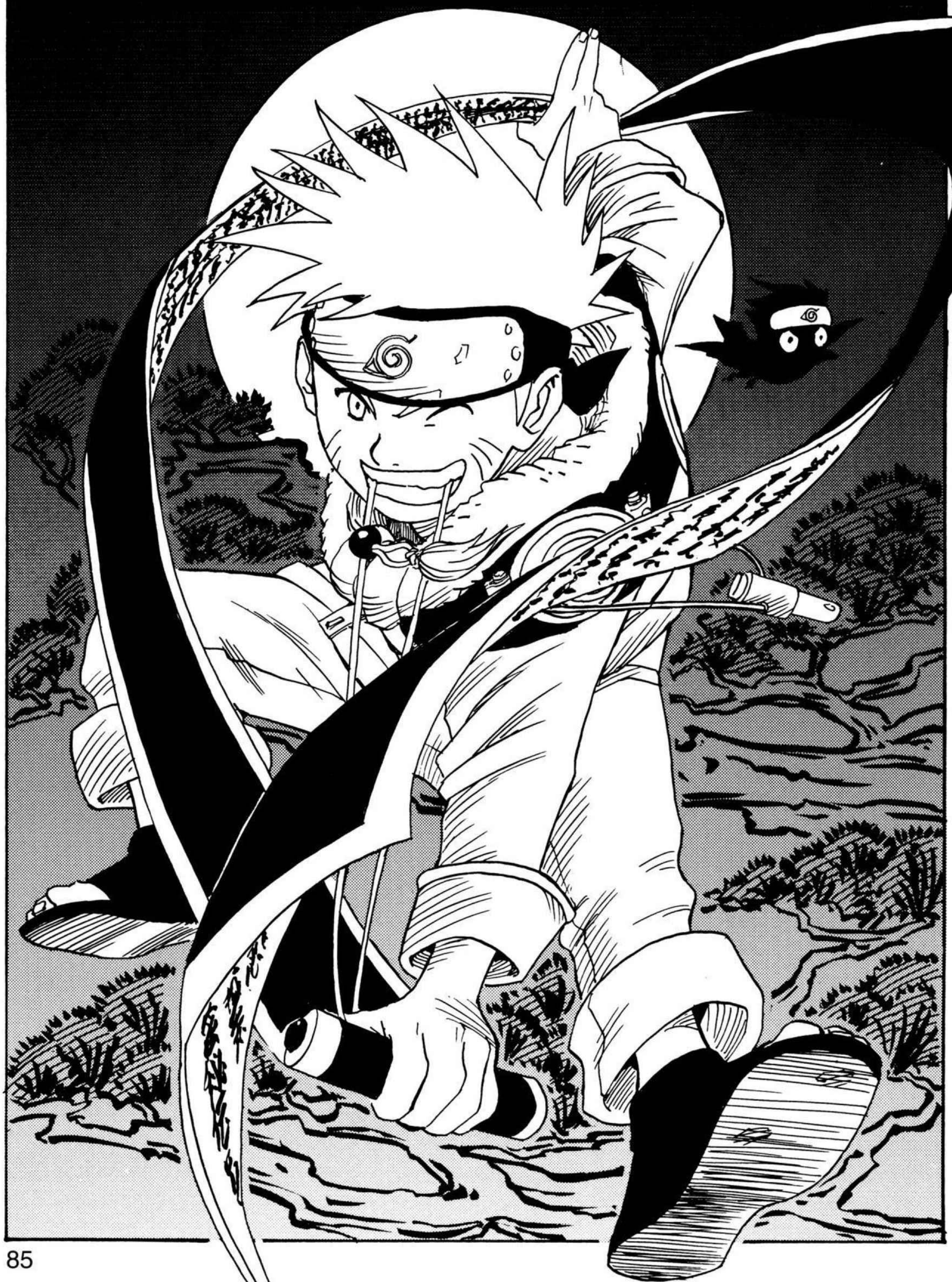
SHINOBI STYLE

***Hitai-ate* (Forehead Band)**
Can be worn either as a headband, or a cover for the entire head.

***Makimono* Pouch (Scroll Pouch)**
The classic Konohagakure pouch, worn on both the right and left sides of the vest. Scrolls, medicine and ninja tools are extracted from the bottom of the pouches.

***Shuriken* Holster**
Worn in a spot which allows the *shuriken* to be drawn quickly.

number 3:
Enter Sasuke!



YAA-AWN
CREEAK
STRETCH
丹
質屋
魚

GLUG
GLUG

DO YOUR BEST!
#42-2
MUNCH
MUNCH

MILK

MASASHI KISHIMOTO
木ノ葉隠れの里
栗栗栗
だんご
HAPPY
HA-HA-HA-HA....

EXCUSE ME, MAY I PASS?

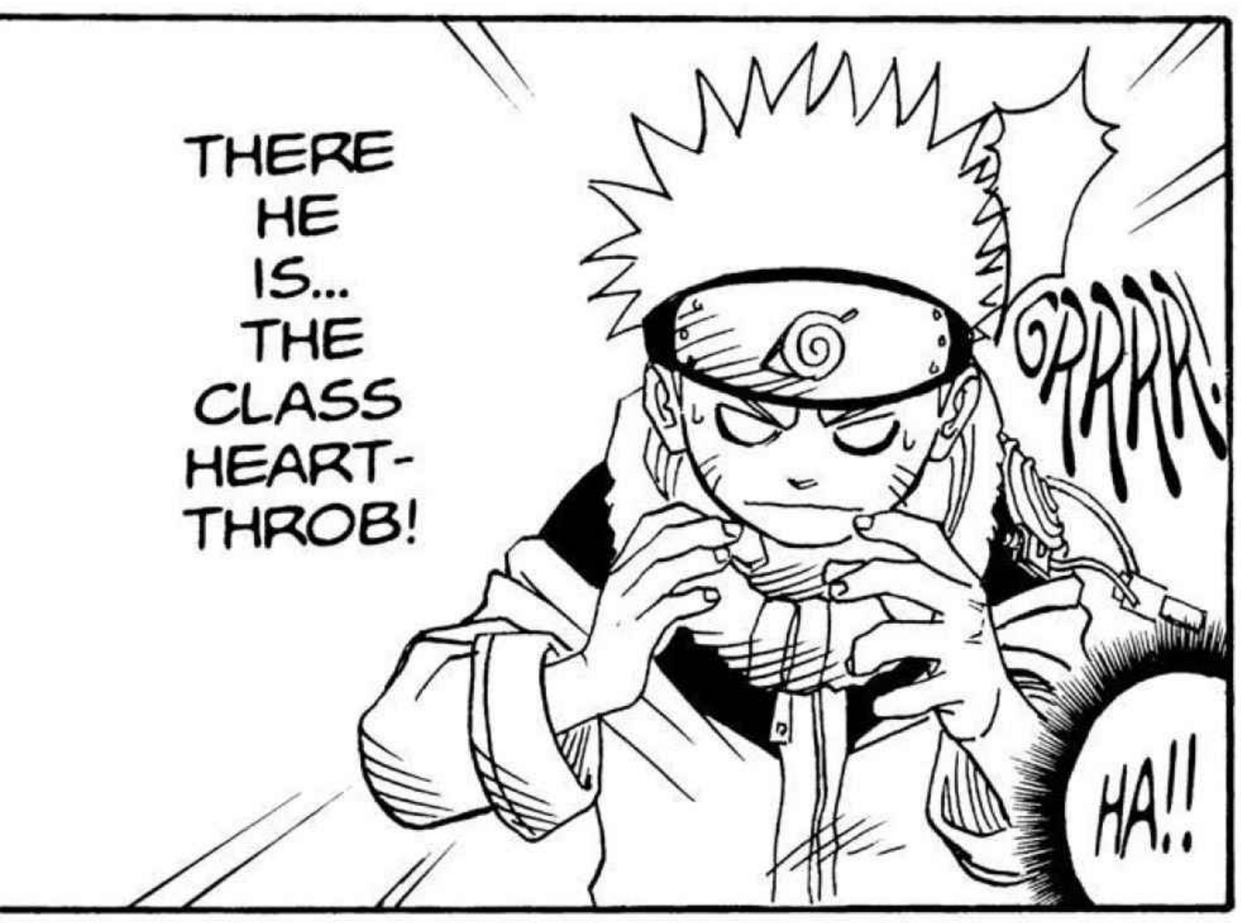
CLASS TODAY IS ONLY FOR THE STUDENTS WHO DIDN'T FAIL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NARUTO!
WHAT?! CAN'T YOU SEE THE HEADBAND?!

SA... SAKURA!!
LUB DUB ♡
!

SHE WANTS TO SIT NEXT TO ME?
LUB DUB LUB DUB
NO WAY...

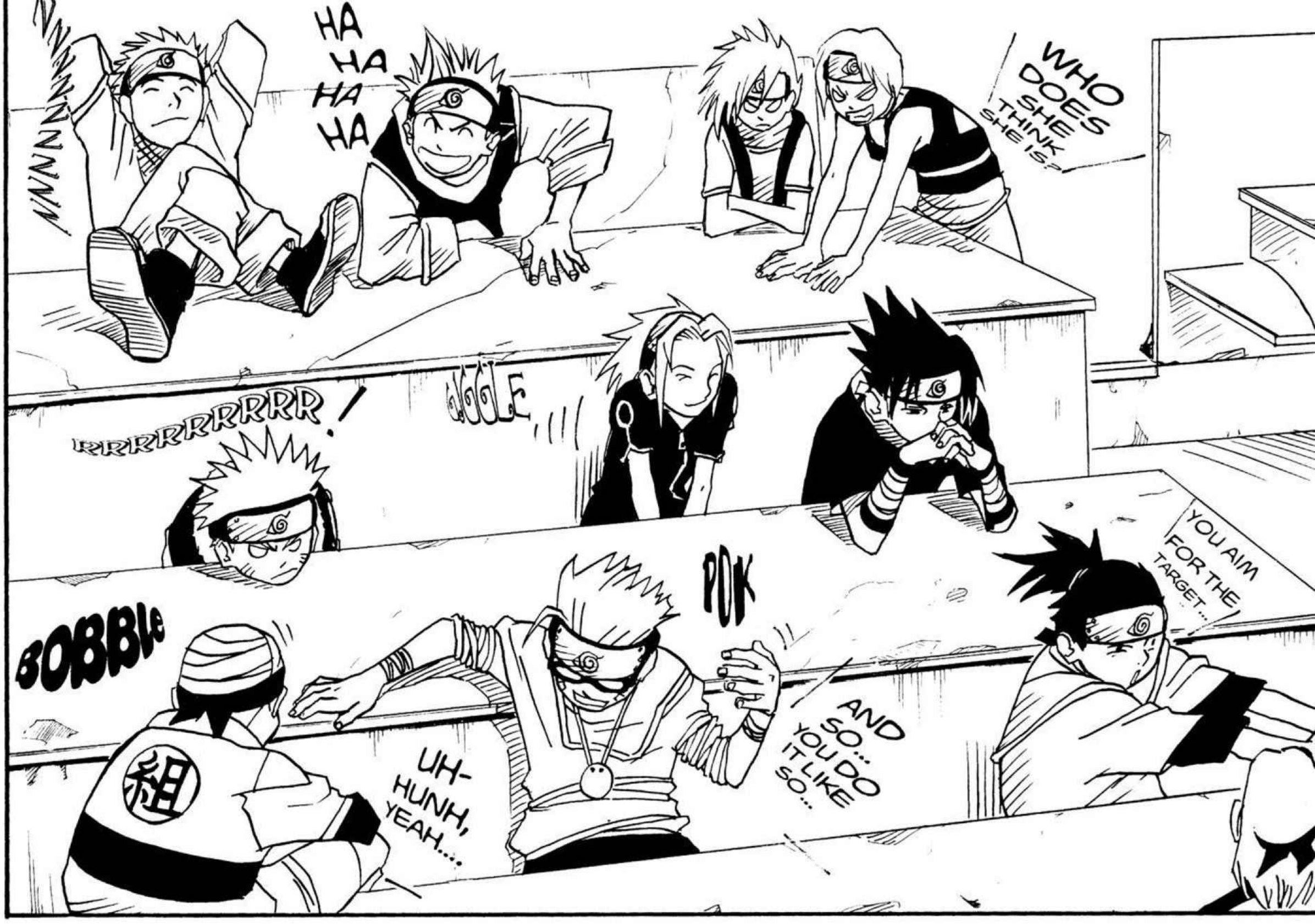
OH, YEAH!
NARUTO, MOVE IT! I'M TRYING TO GET AROUND YOU!
OH...

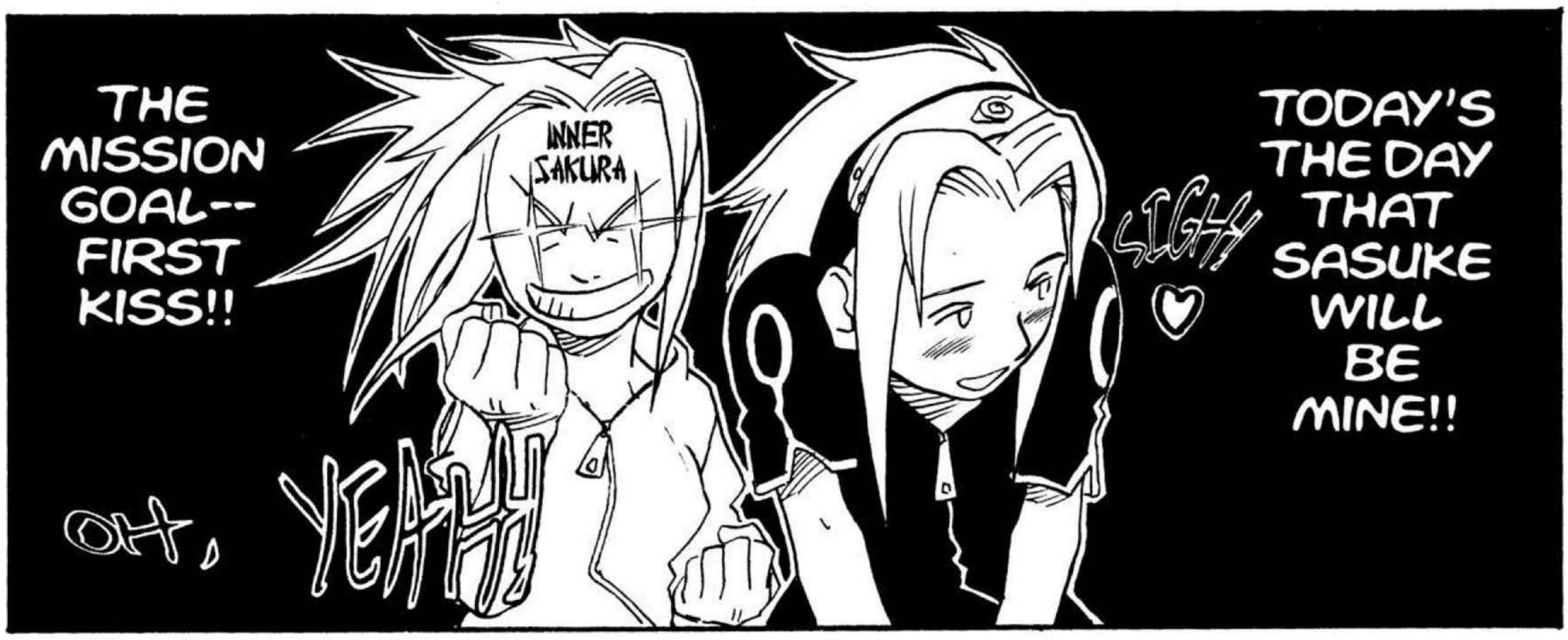
HARUNO SAKURA. A TOTAL BABE, BUT THAT'S THE PROBLEM...

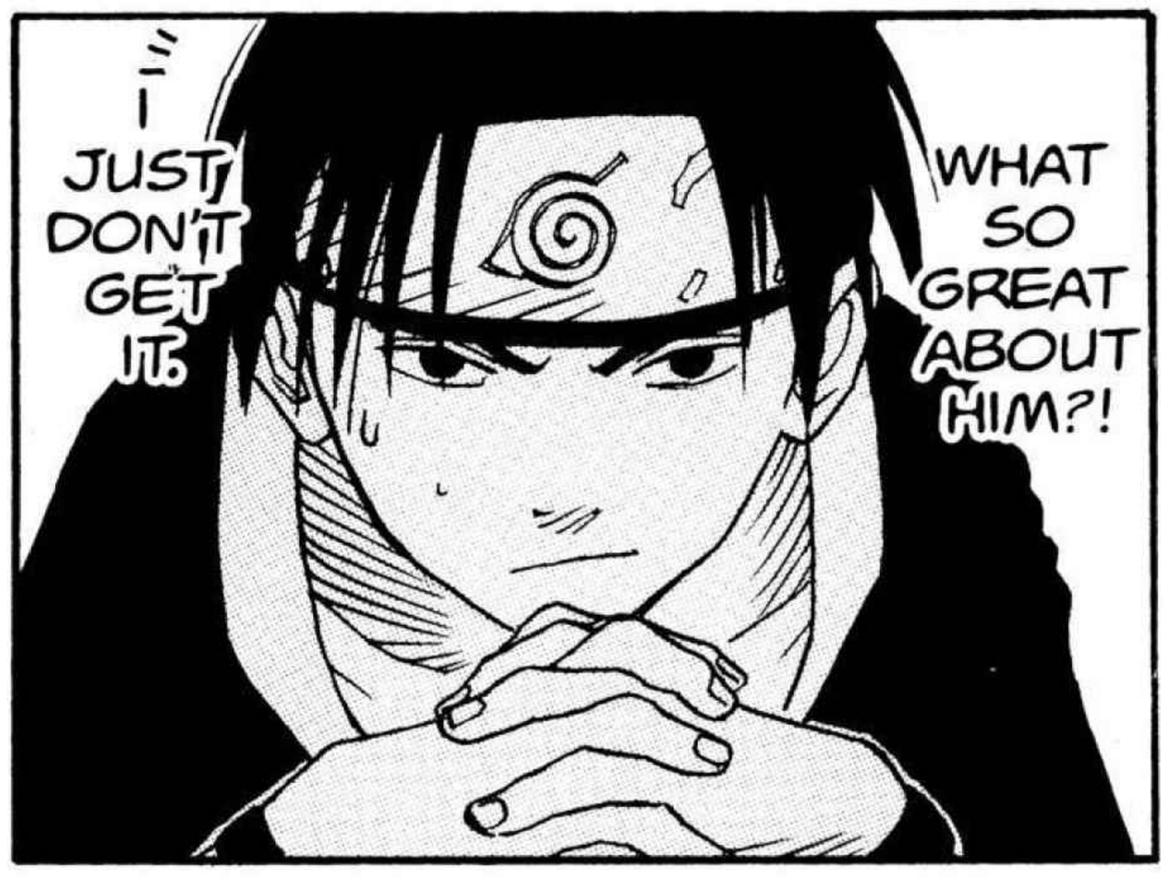

THERE HE IS... THE CLASS HEART-THROB!
GRRRR!
HA!!

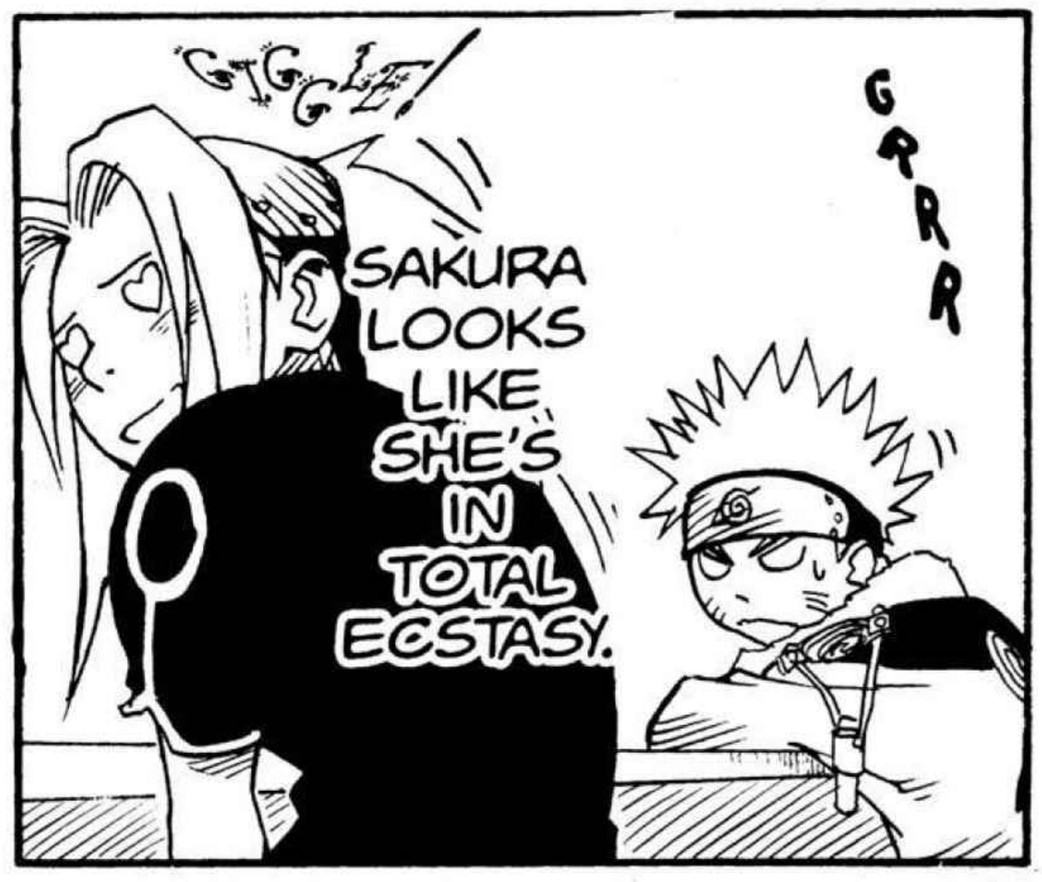
HMMM

UCHIHA SASUKE! THINKS HE'S SO COOL. I HATE THAT GUY!
TRAMPLE
AAKK!!!
GOOD MORNING, SASUKE. IS THIS SEAT TAKEN...? ♡
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? ARE YOU TALKIN' TO ME?!
YOU WANT SOME-THING?!
KRAK


NNNNNN
HA HA HA HA
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
RRRRRRRRRRR!
GGGLE
BOBBLE
POK
UH-HUNH, YEAH....
AND SO... YOU DO IT LIKE SO...
YOU AIM FOR THE TARGET...


THE MISSION GOAL-- FIRST KISS!!
INNER SAKURA
OH, YEAH!
SIGH
TODAY'S THE DAY THAT SASUKE WILL BE MINE!!


I JUST DON'T GET IT.
WHAT SO GREAT ABOUT HIM?!


GIGGLE!
SAKURA LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN TOTAL ECSTASY.
GRRR

GLARE~~~!!

YEAH DO IT
POW
HIT HIM, SASUKE...
POW

GET LOST!
HMF!

LEAVE SASUKE ALONE!!
NARUTO, YOU JERK!

UM... UM...

OH! SORRY!

WHAP
OOPS.
HUNH?

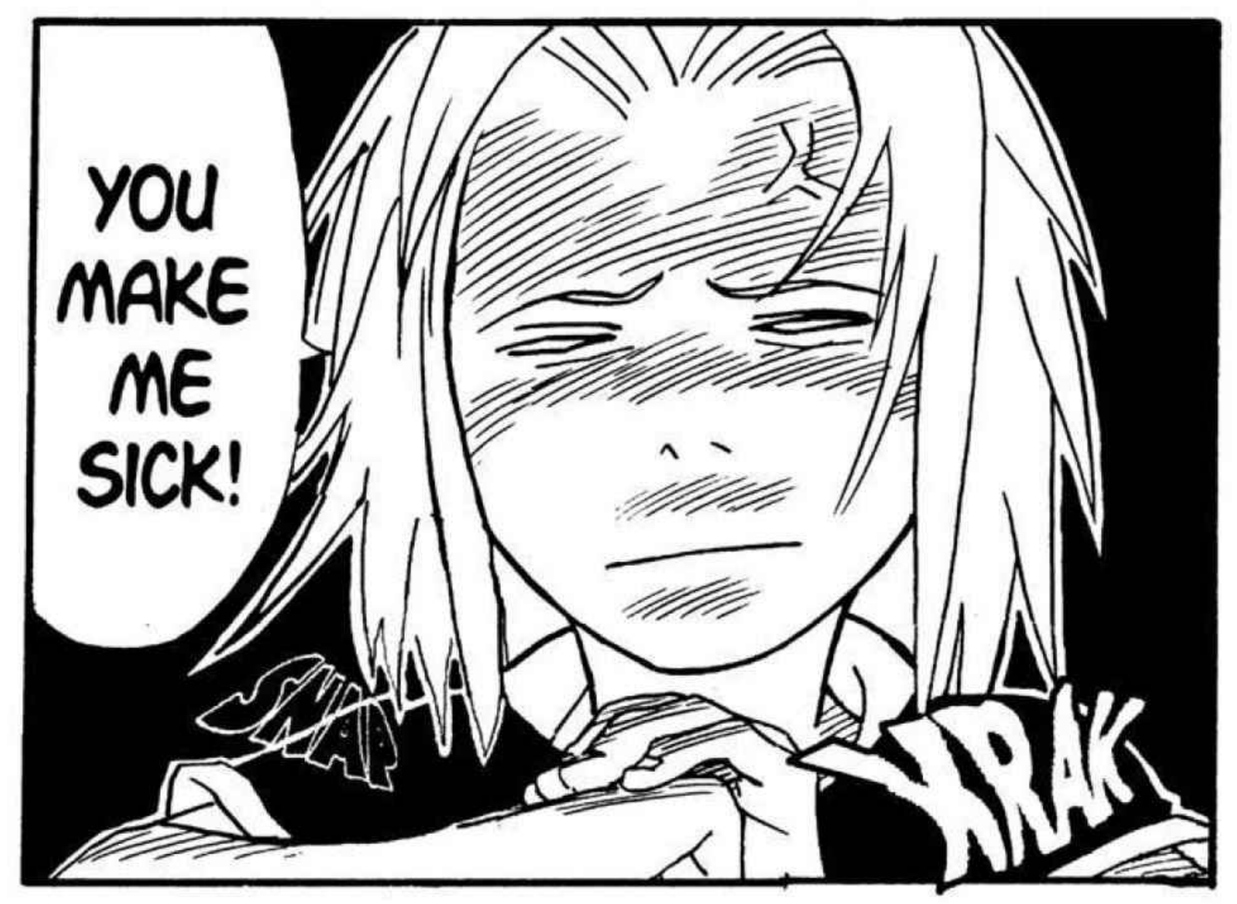
SMOOCHHH

YAAA

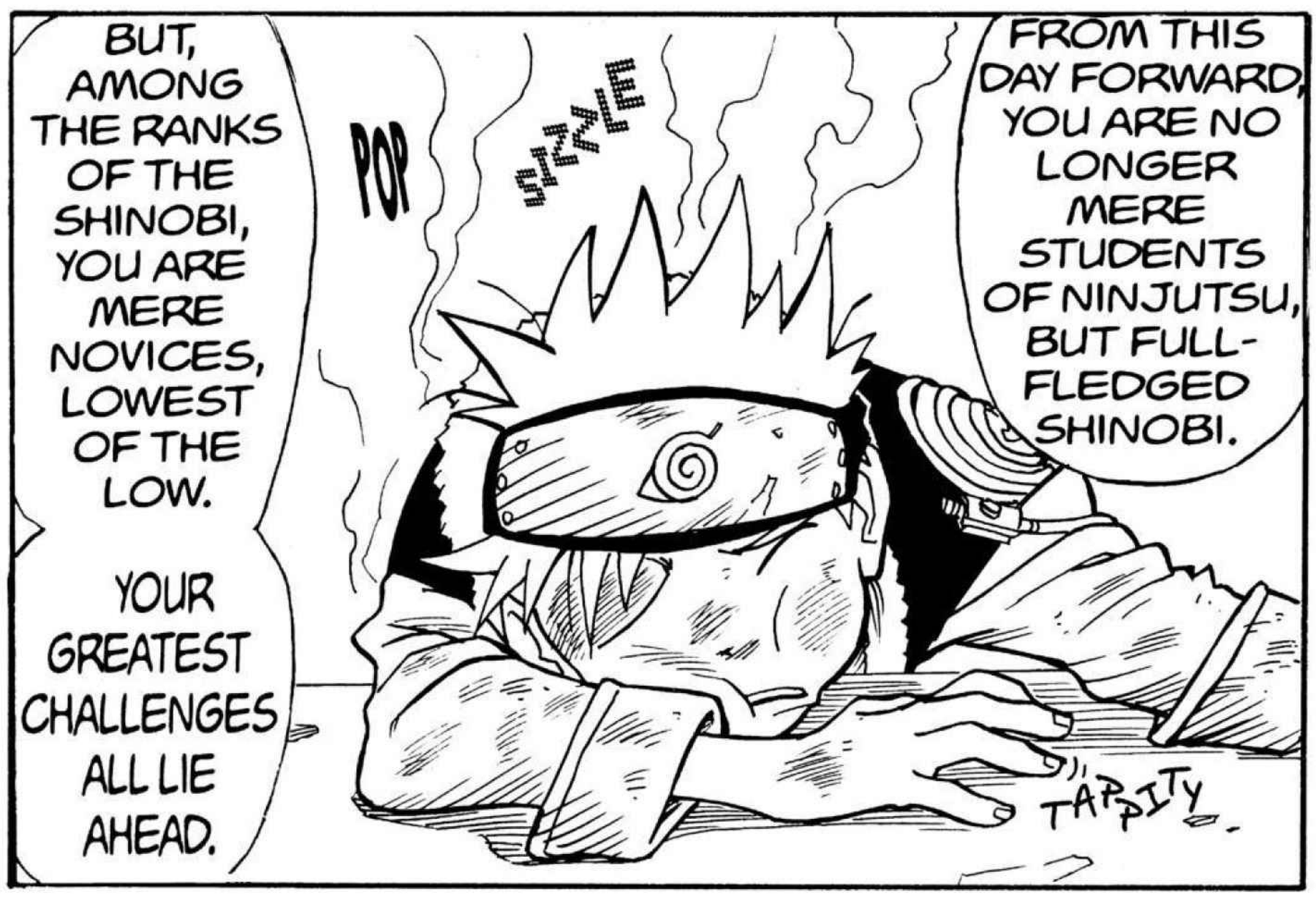
AAA

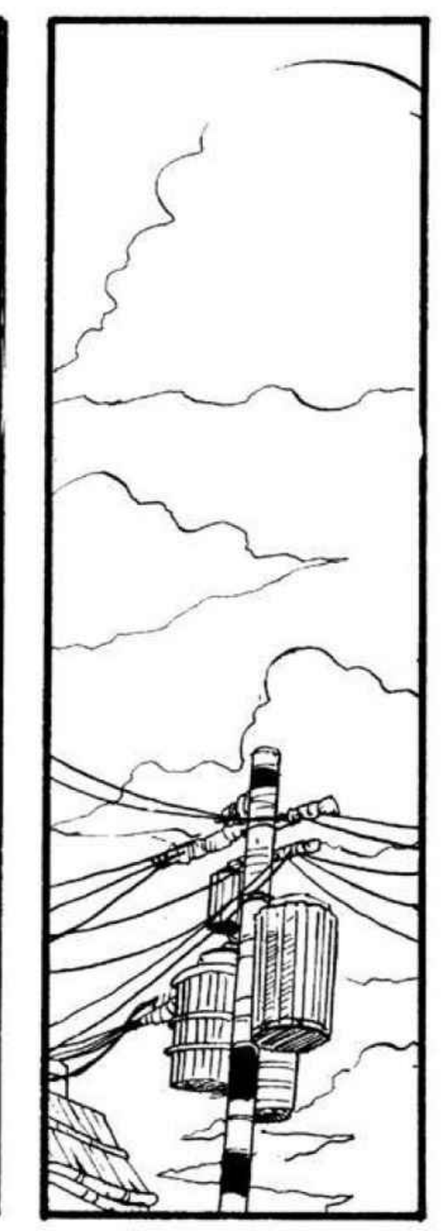
CH!

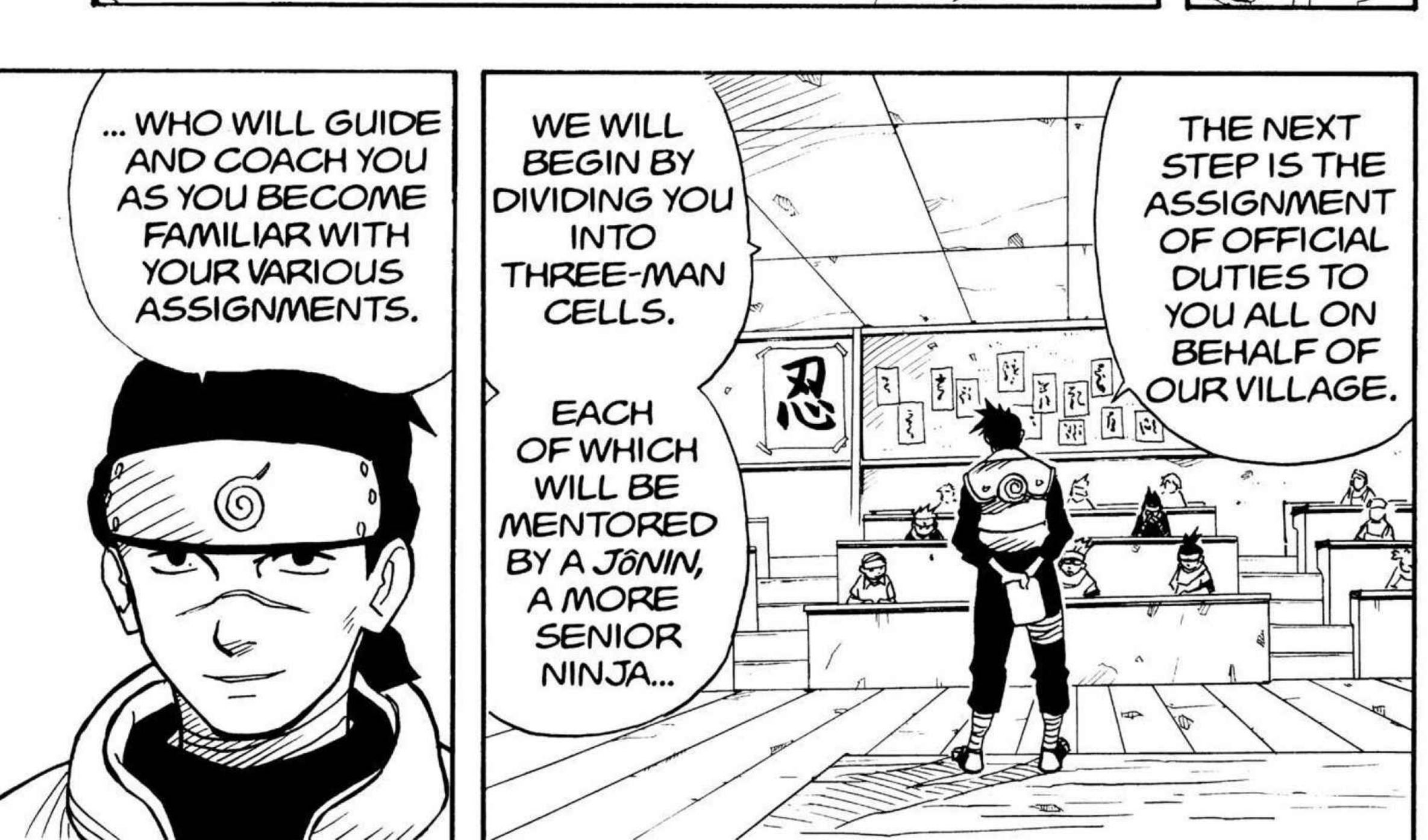
WHY ARE YOU...?

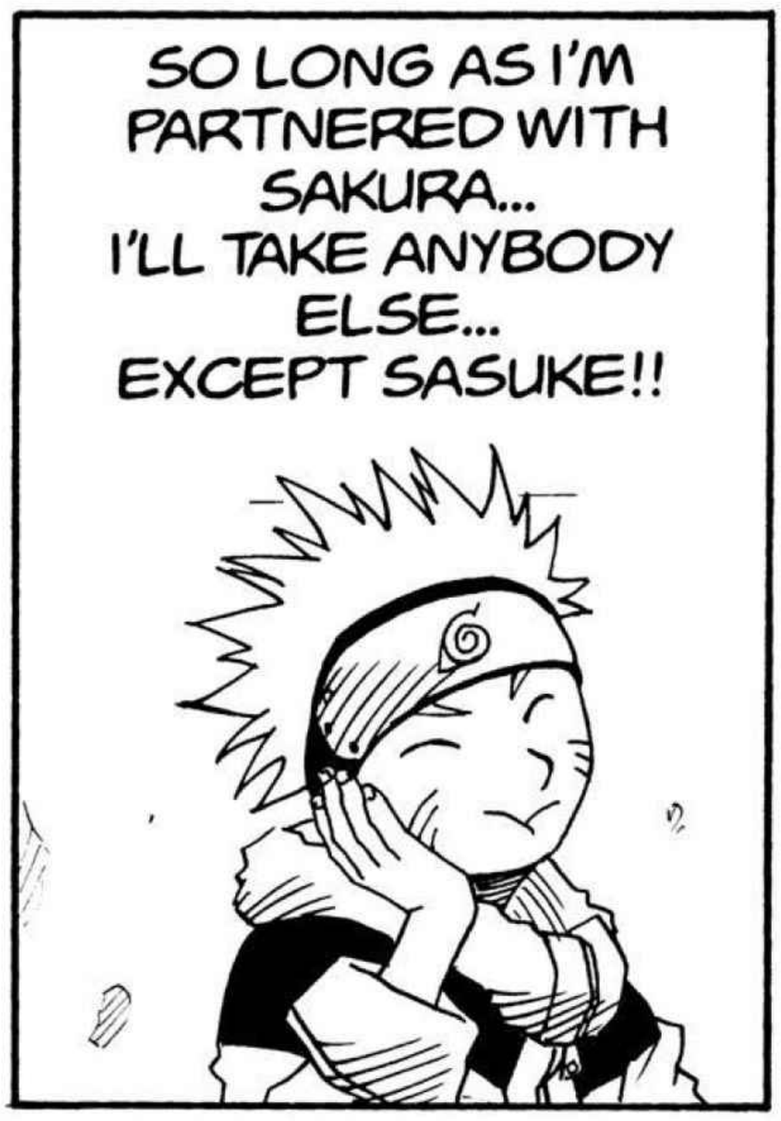

YOU MAKE ME SICK!
SNAP
KRAK

NARUTO...
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!! I SWEAR!
SHUDDER
SWEAT
SWEAT


BUT, AMONG THE RANKS OF THE SHINOBI, YOU ARE MERE NOVICES, LOWEST OF THE LOW.
YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGES ALL LIE AHEAD.
POP
SMASH
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, YOU ARE NO LONGER MERE STUDENTS OF NINJUTSU, BUT FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI.
TAP PITY

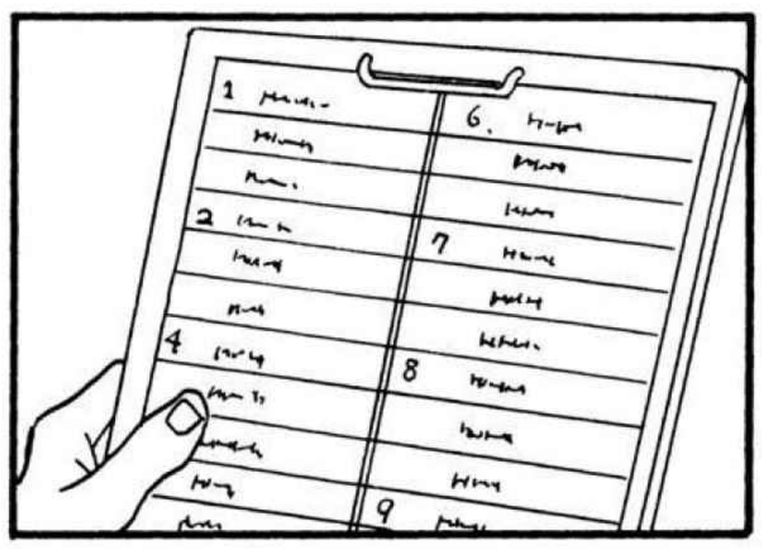


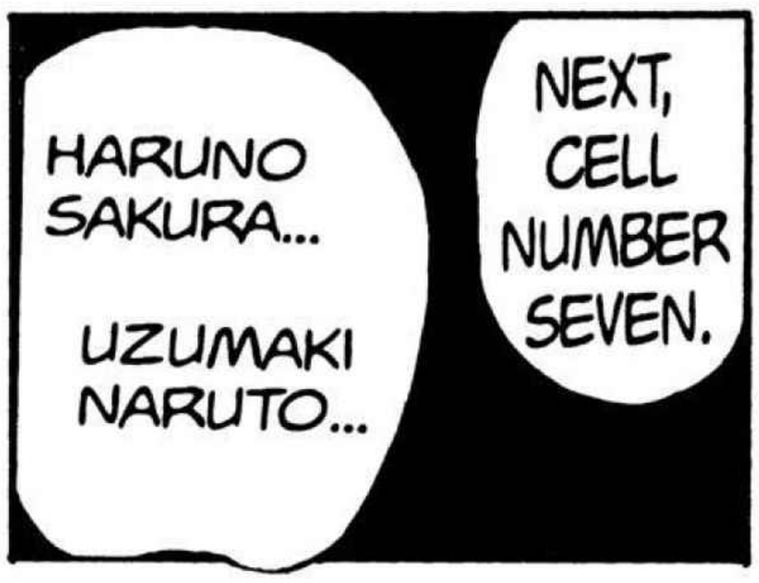

... WHO WILL GUIDE AND COACH YOU AS YOU BECOME FAMILIAR WITH YOUR VARIOUS ASSIGNMENTS.
WE WILL BEGIN BY DIVIDING YOU INTO THREE-MAN CELLS.
EACH OF WHICH WILL BE MENTORED BY A JÔNIN, A MORE SENIOR NINJA...
THE NEXT STEP IS THE ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIAL DUTIES TO YOU ALL ON BEHALF OF OUR VILLAGE.
忍

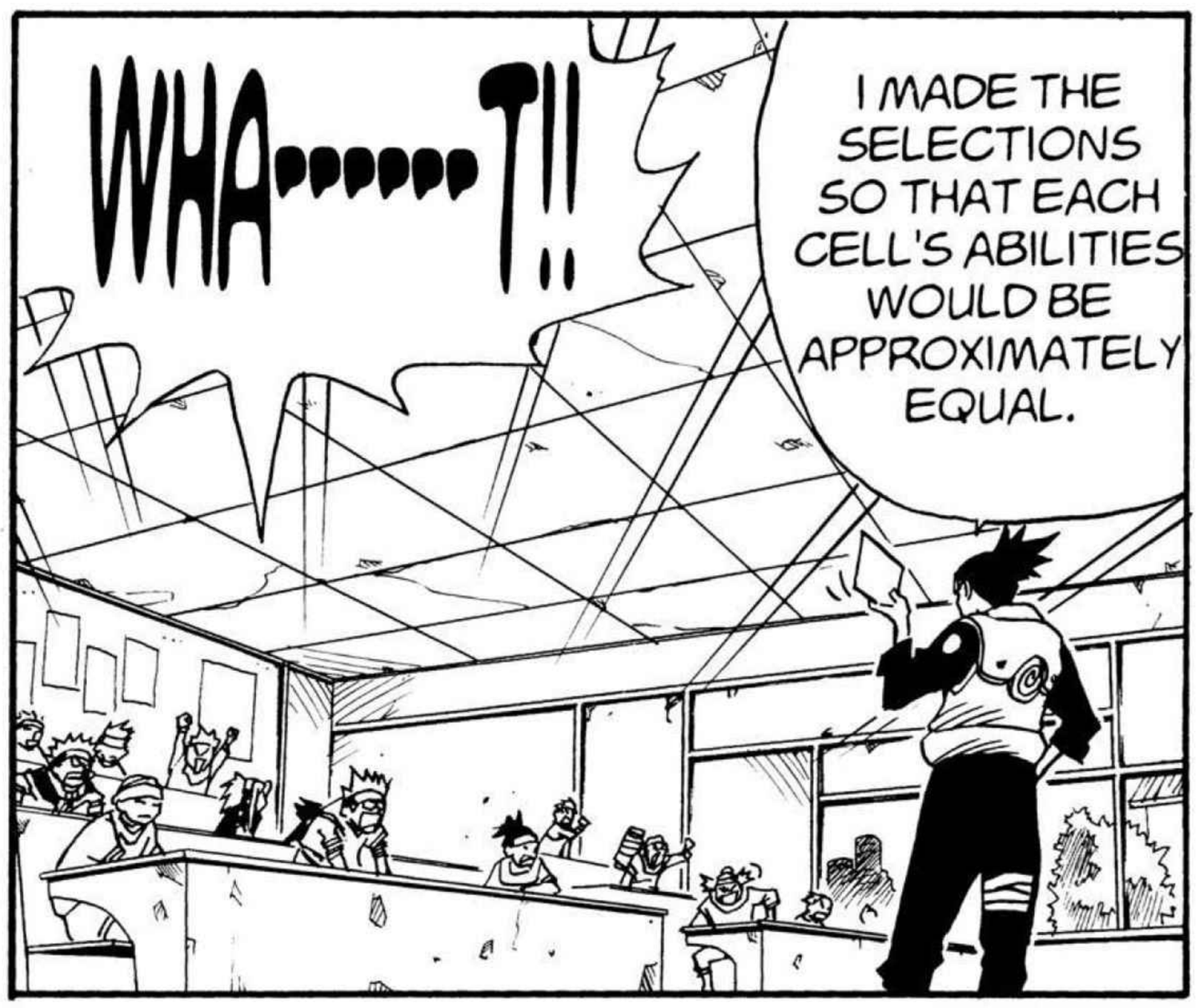

SO LONG AS I'M PARTNERED WITH SAKURA... I'LL TAKE ANYBODY ELSE... EXCEPT SASUKE!!

IT'S PERFECT! I KNOW THEY'LL TEAM ME UP WITH SASUKE!

THREE MAN CELLS? SOUNDS LIKE TWO TOO MANY...

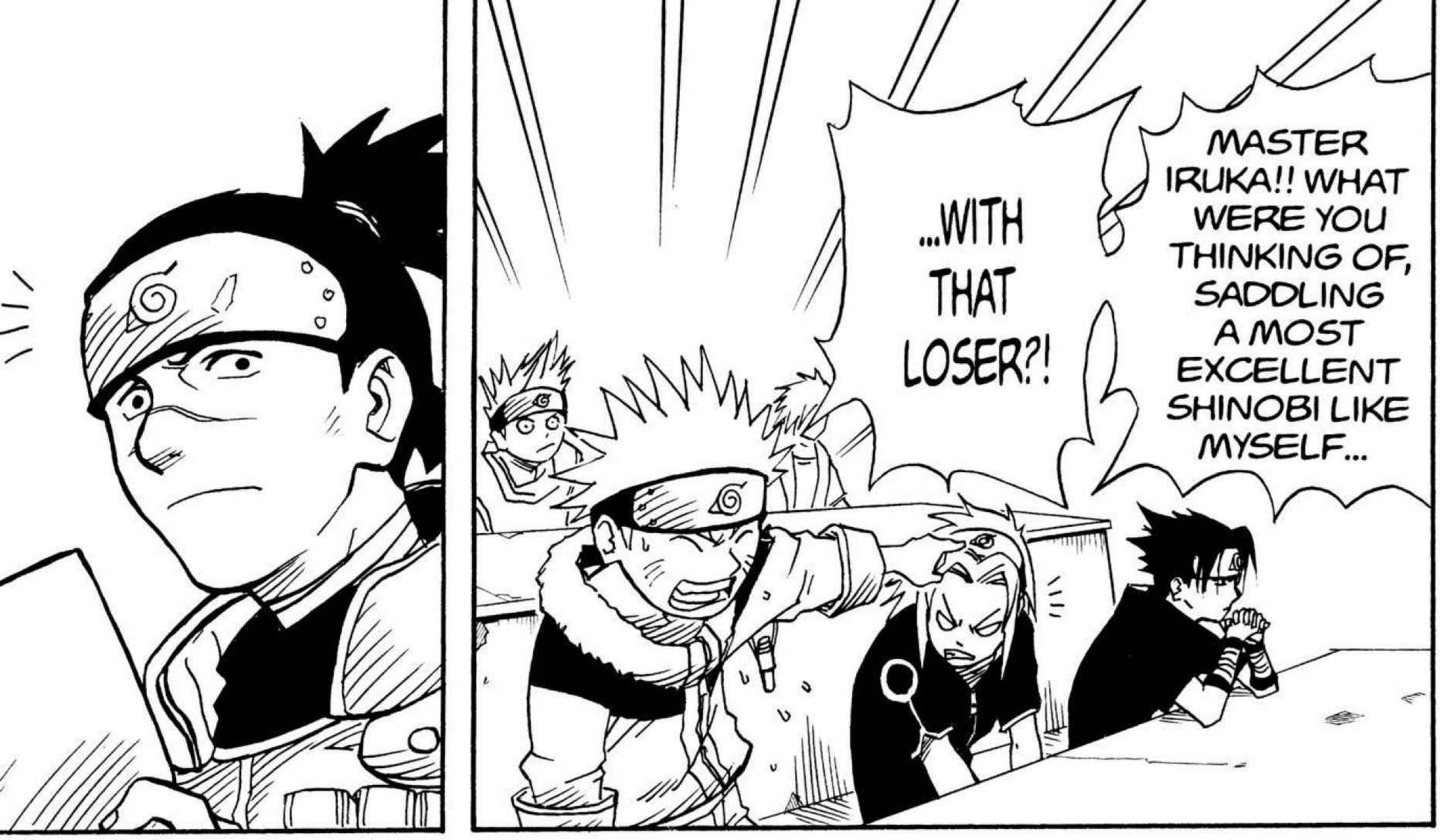


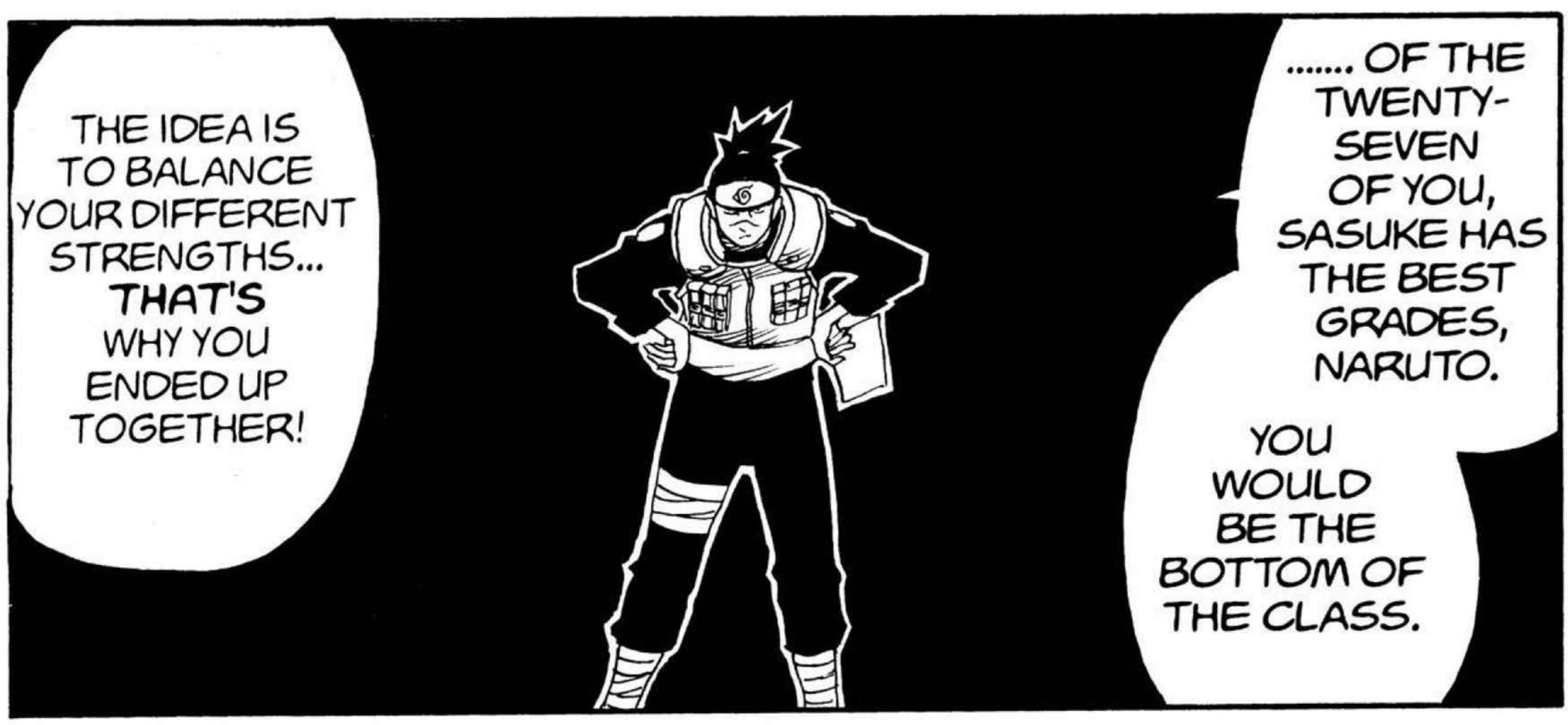

HARUNO SAKURA...
UZUMAKI NARUTO...
NEXT, CELL NUMBER SEVEN.


WHA------T!!
I MADE THE SELECTIONS SO THAT EACH CELL'S ABILITIES WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL.

OH, YEAH!!
AND... UCHIHA SASUKE!
BUMMER!

WOO-HOO!
RATS


...WITH THAT LOSER?!
MASTER IRUKA!! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING OF, SADDLING A MOST EXCELLENT SHINOBI LIKE MYSELF...


THE IDEA IS TO BALANCE YOUR DIFFERENT STRENGTHS... THAT'S WHY YOU ENDED UP TOGETHER!
..... OF THE TWENTY-SEVEN OF YOU, SASUKE HAS THE BEST GRADES, NARUTO.
YOU WOULD BE THE BOTTOM OF THE CLASS.

JUST KNOCK IT OFF, NARUTO!
WHAT'D YOU CALL ME?!
SIGH

SIZZLE
...DUNCE!
WHY, YOU--!

HMM...
JUST DON'T DRAG ME DOWN ...

EVEN NARUTO...

OW OW OW OW

POW POW POW POW

... AWW... THEY'LL WORK IT OUT.

AND SAKURA...

SA-SUKE IS SUCH A JERK !!!

OK, EVERYONE. I'LL BE INTRODUCING YOUR SENIOR NINJUTSU INSTRUCTORS THIS AFTERNOON.

UNTIL THEN, YOU'RE DIS-MISSED!

MUNCH

GRIN

.....

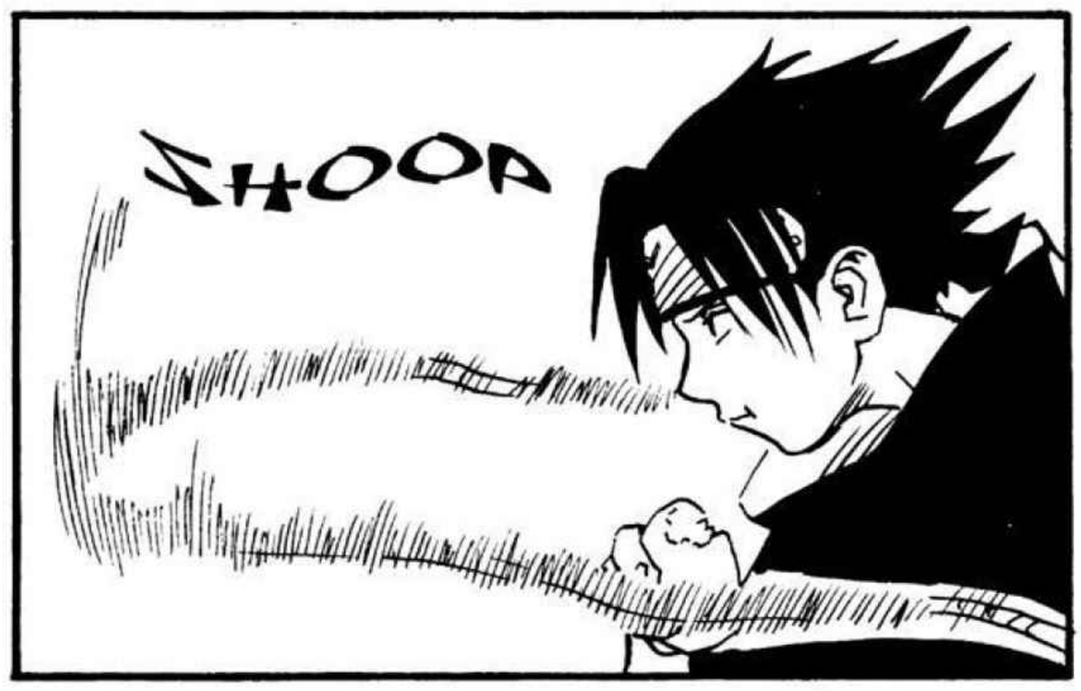
I'VE GOT IT!!

THIS SUCKS!

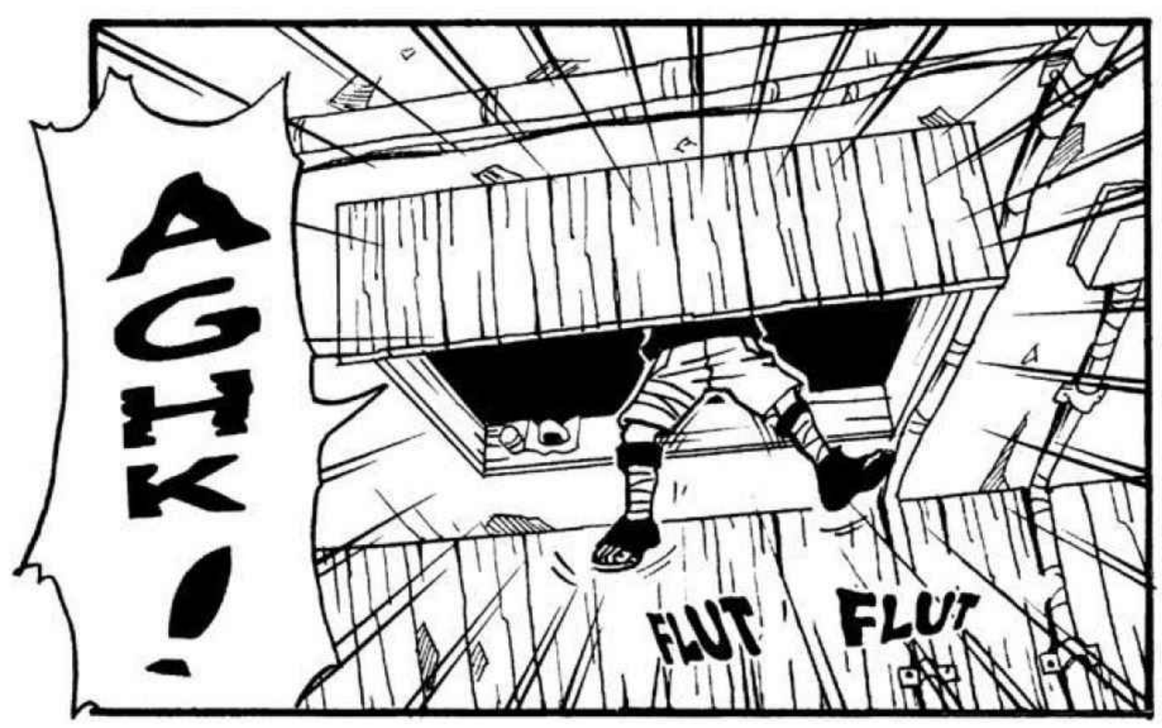
THIS SUCKS!

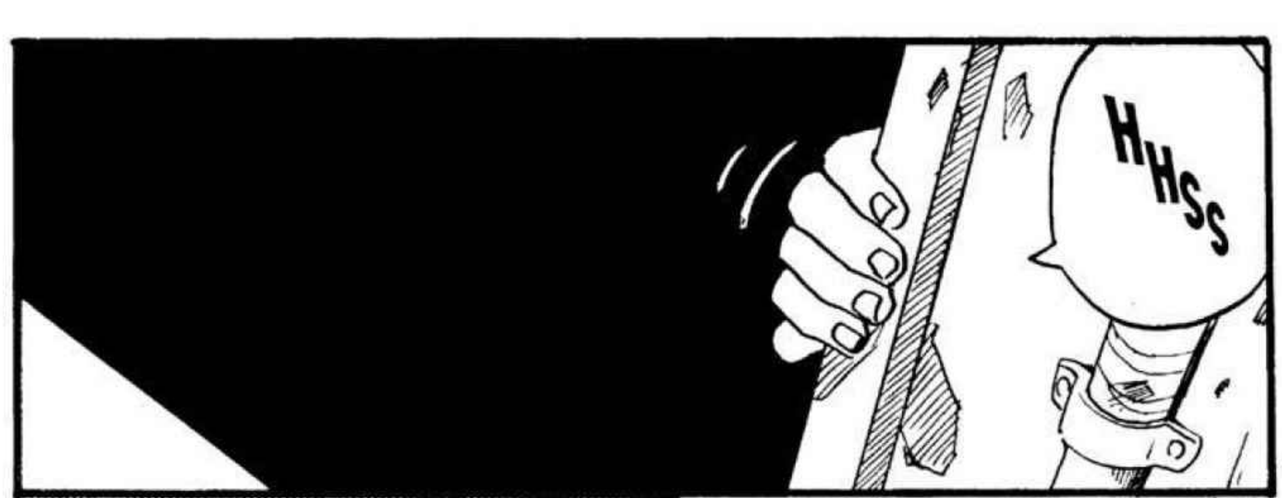
SIGH

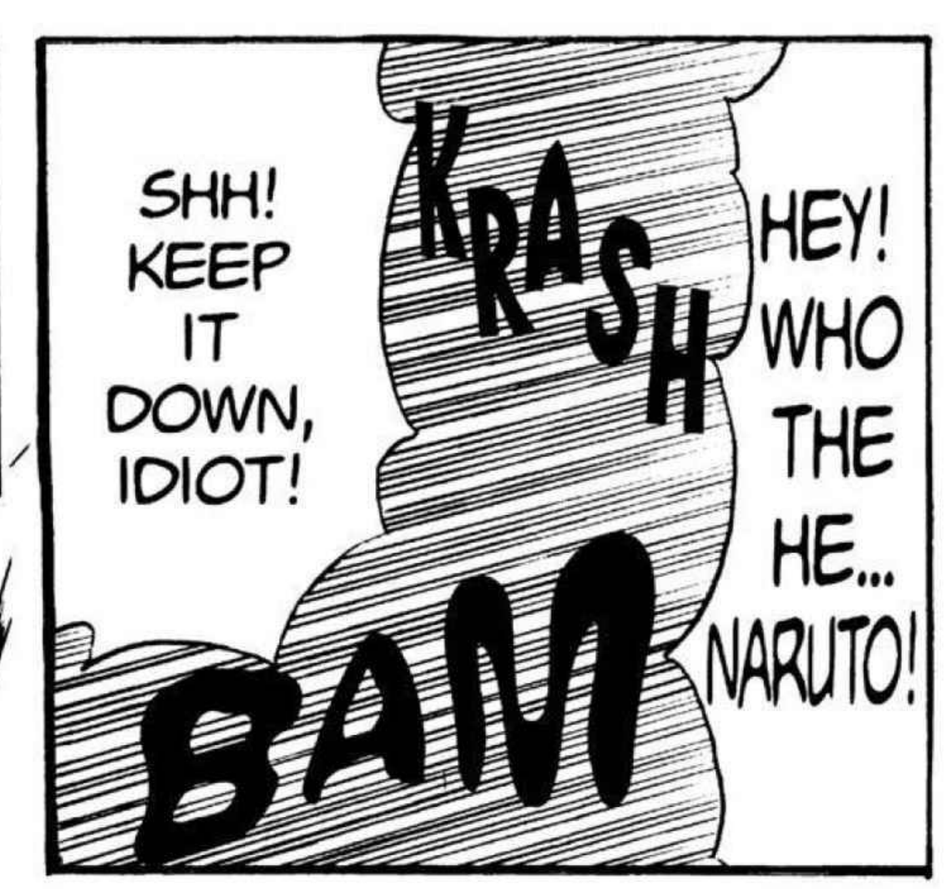
THERE HAS TO BE AN UP-SIDE...


SHOOP

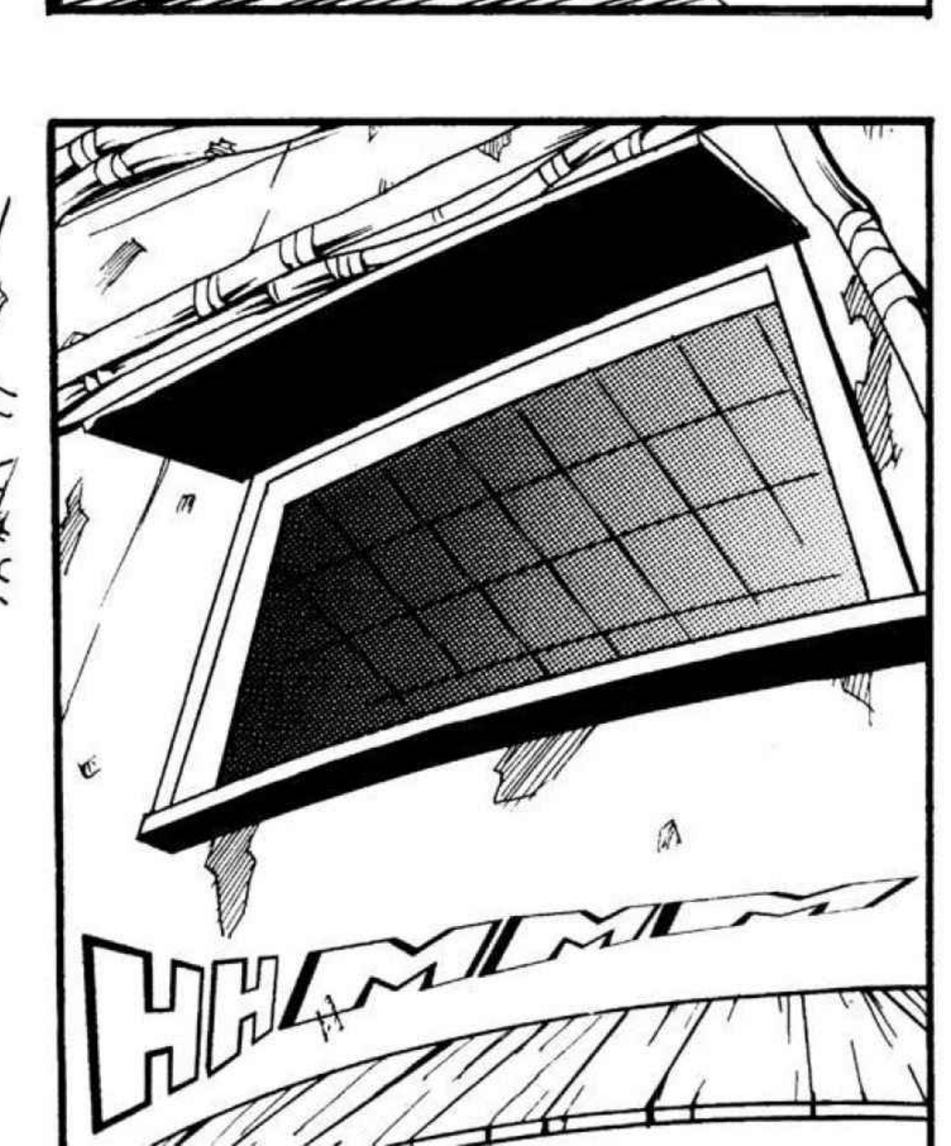
SASUKE LETS HIS GUARD DOWN WHEN HE'S EATING...
FFFFFF

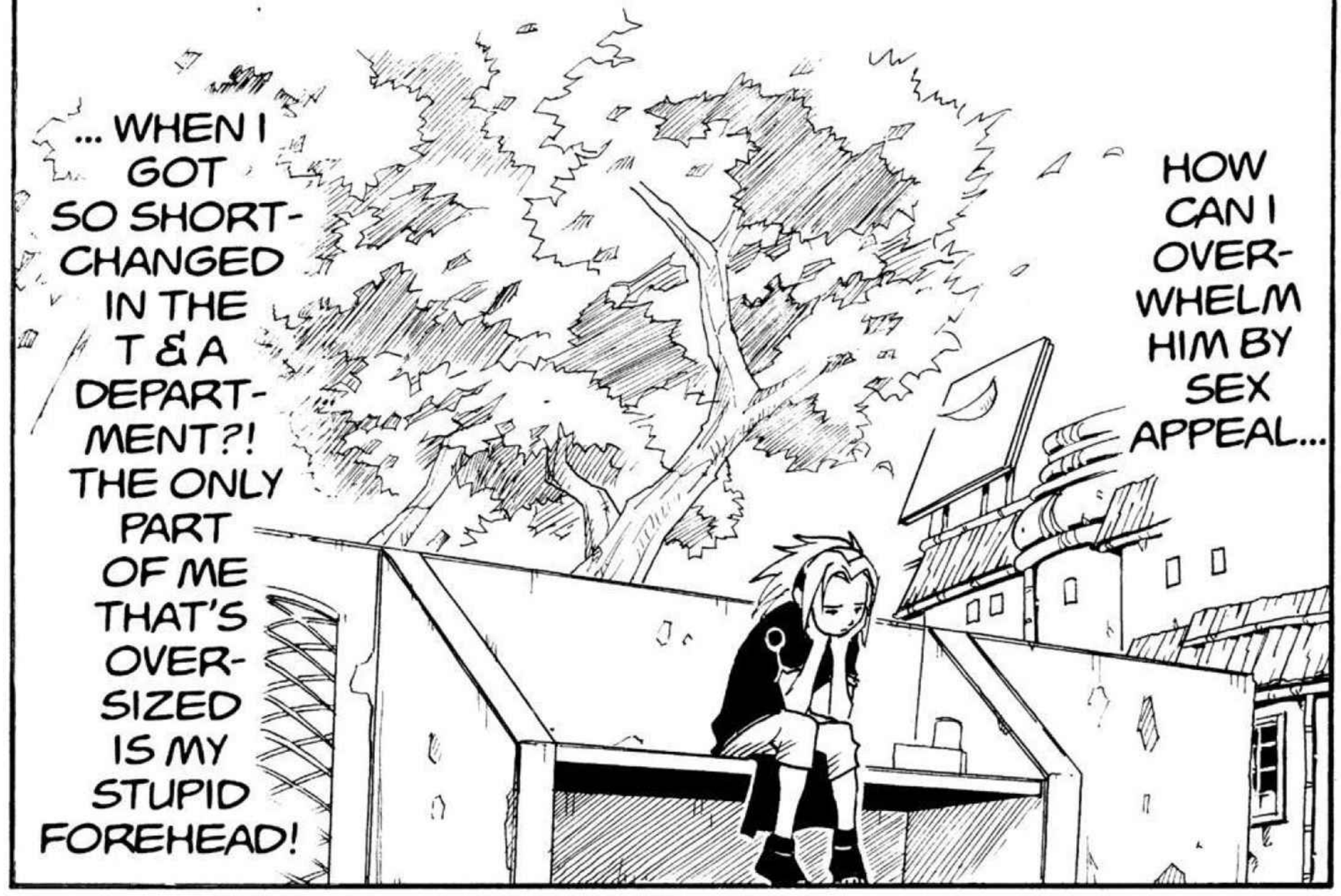

AGHK!
FLUT FLUT


HHSS

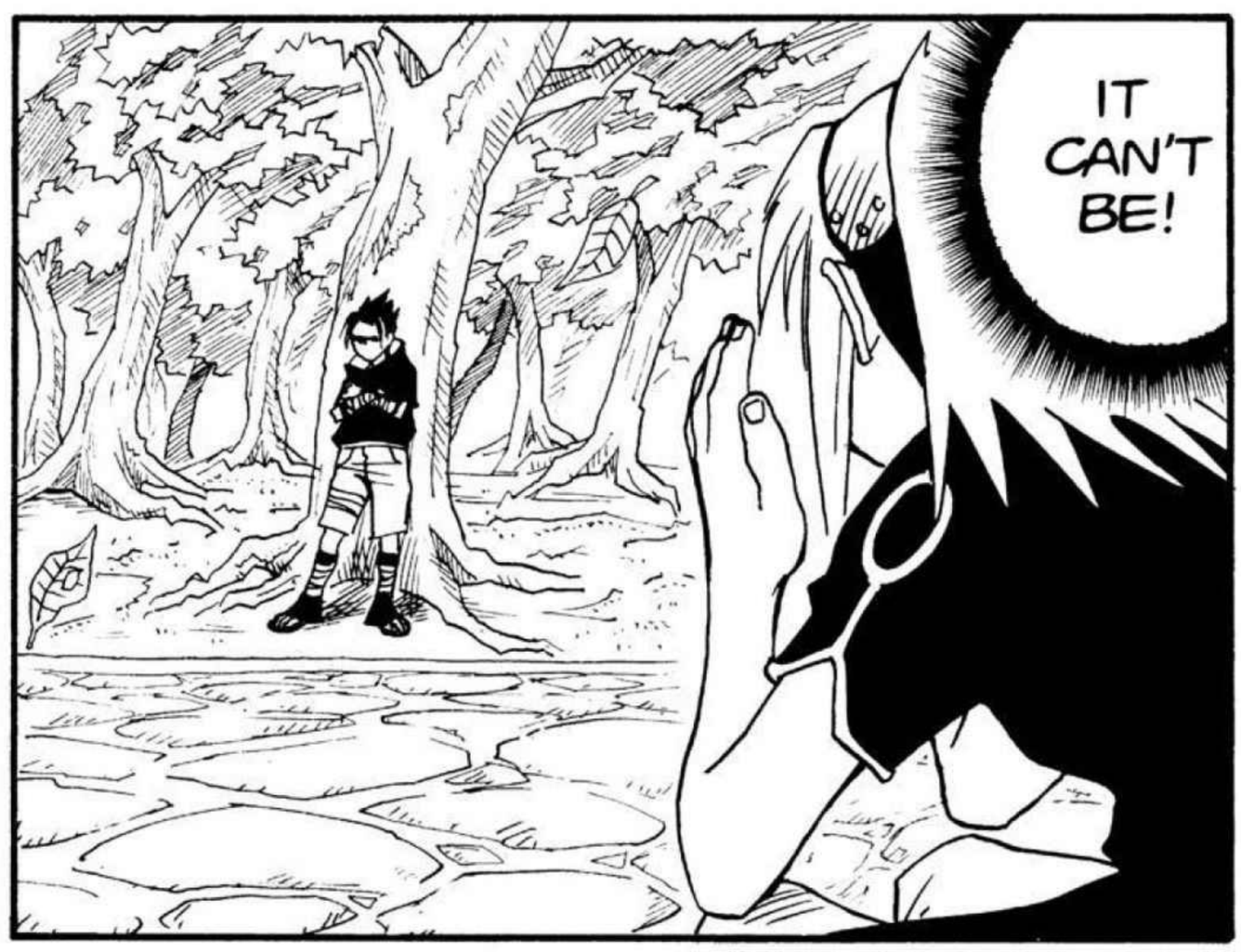

SHH! KEEP IT DOWN, IDIOT!
KRASH
BAM
HEY! WHO THE HE... NARUTO!

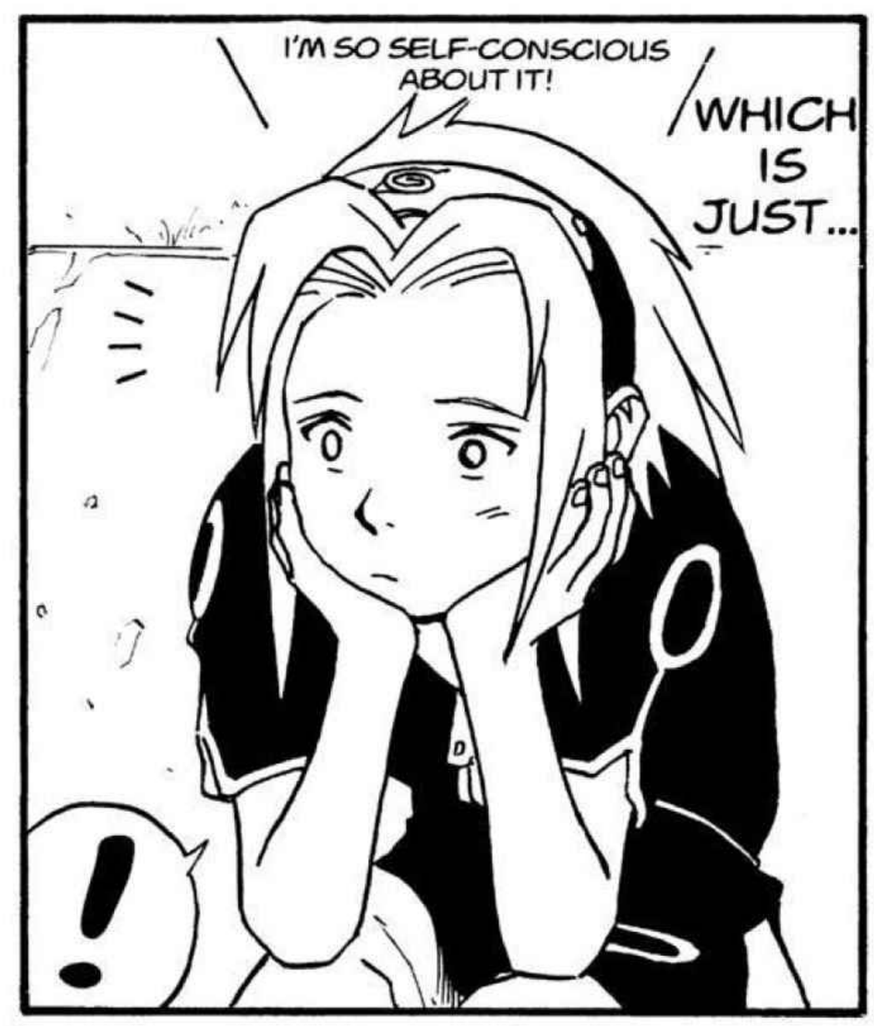
SSH...
FOOL..


HHMMM

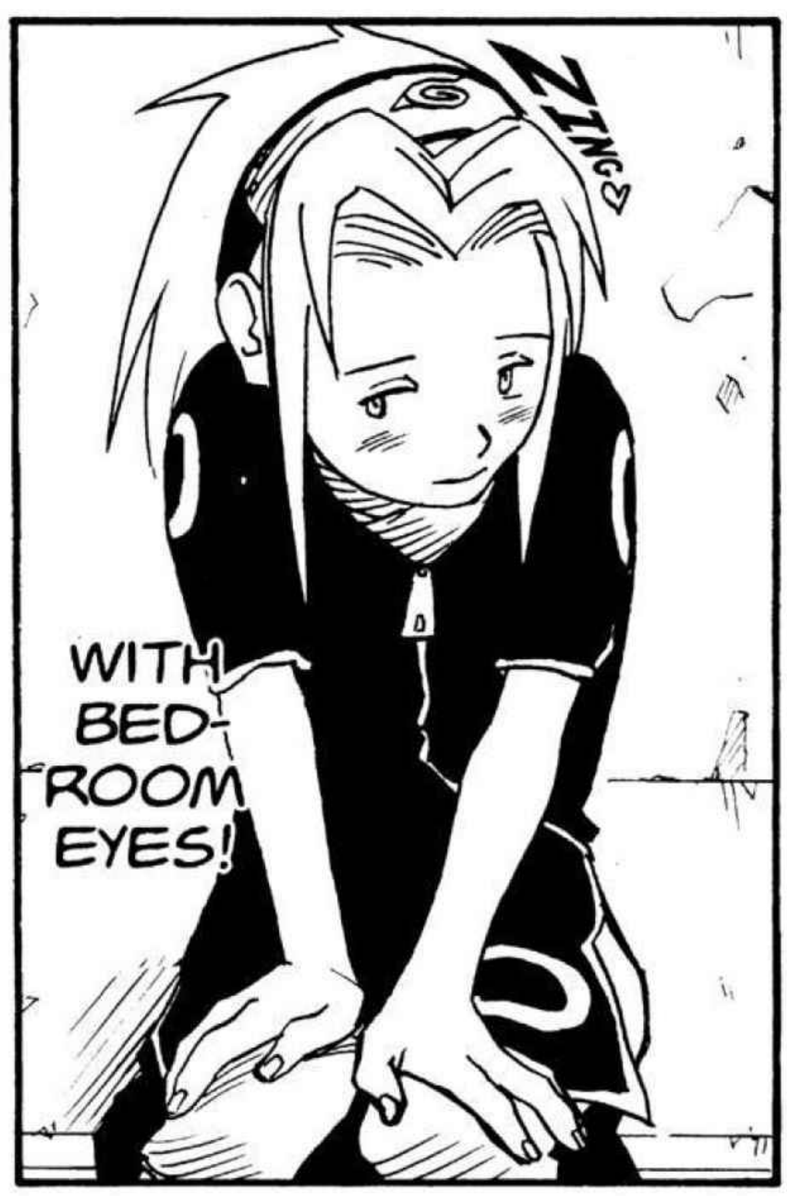

... WHEN I GOT SO SHORT-CHANGED IN THE T & A DEPART-MENT?! THE ONLY PART OF ME THAT'S OVER-SIZED IS MY STUPID FOREHEAD!
HOW CAN I OVER-WHELM HIM BY SEX APPEAL...

SIGH


IT CAN'T BE!

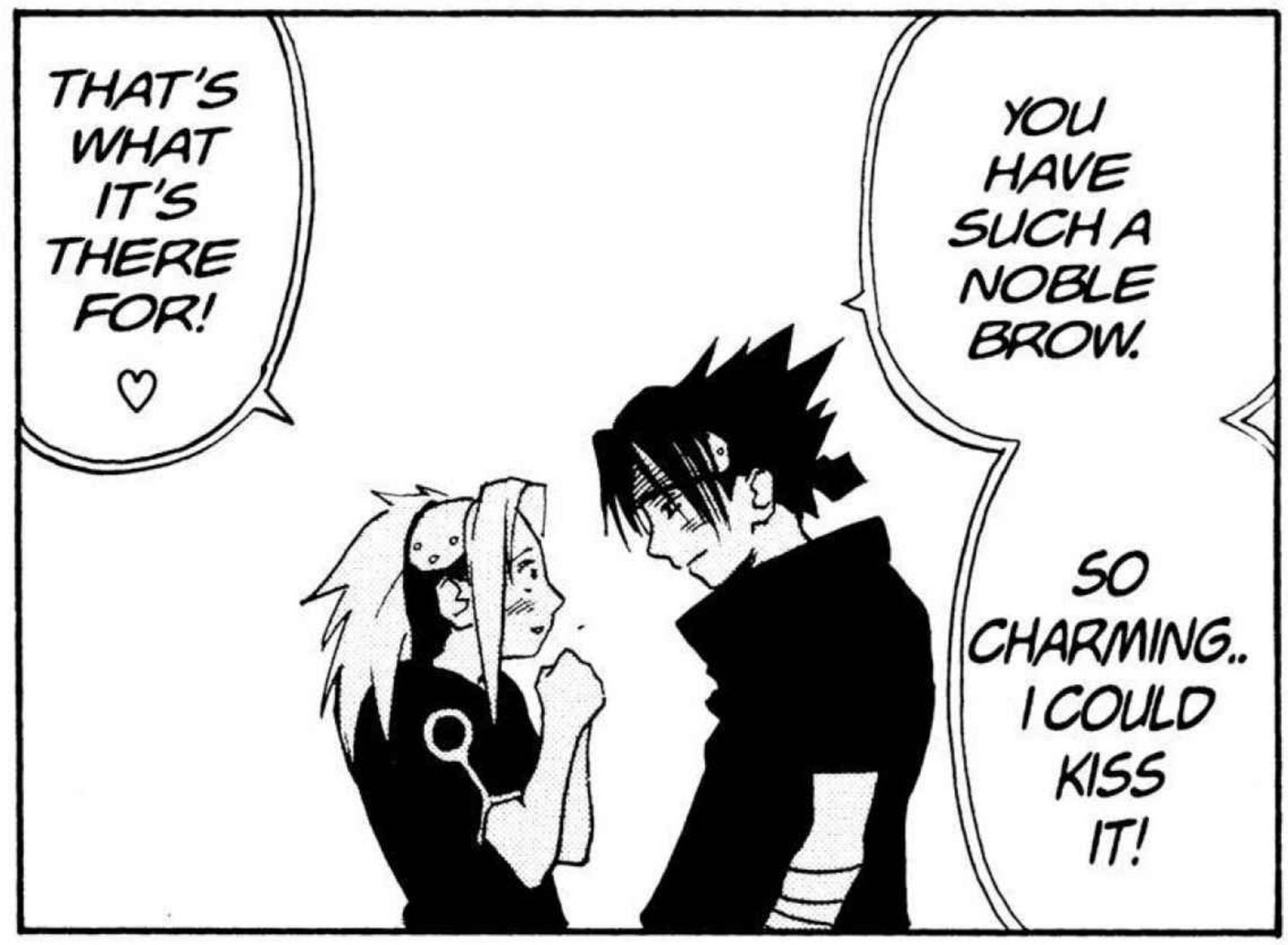

I'M SO SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT IT!
WHICH IS JUST...
!

LIKE HE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME!

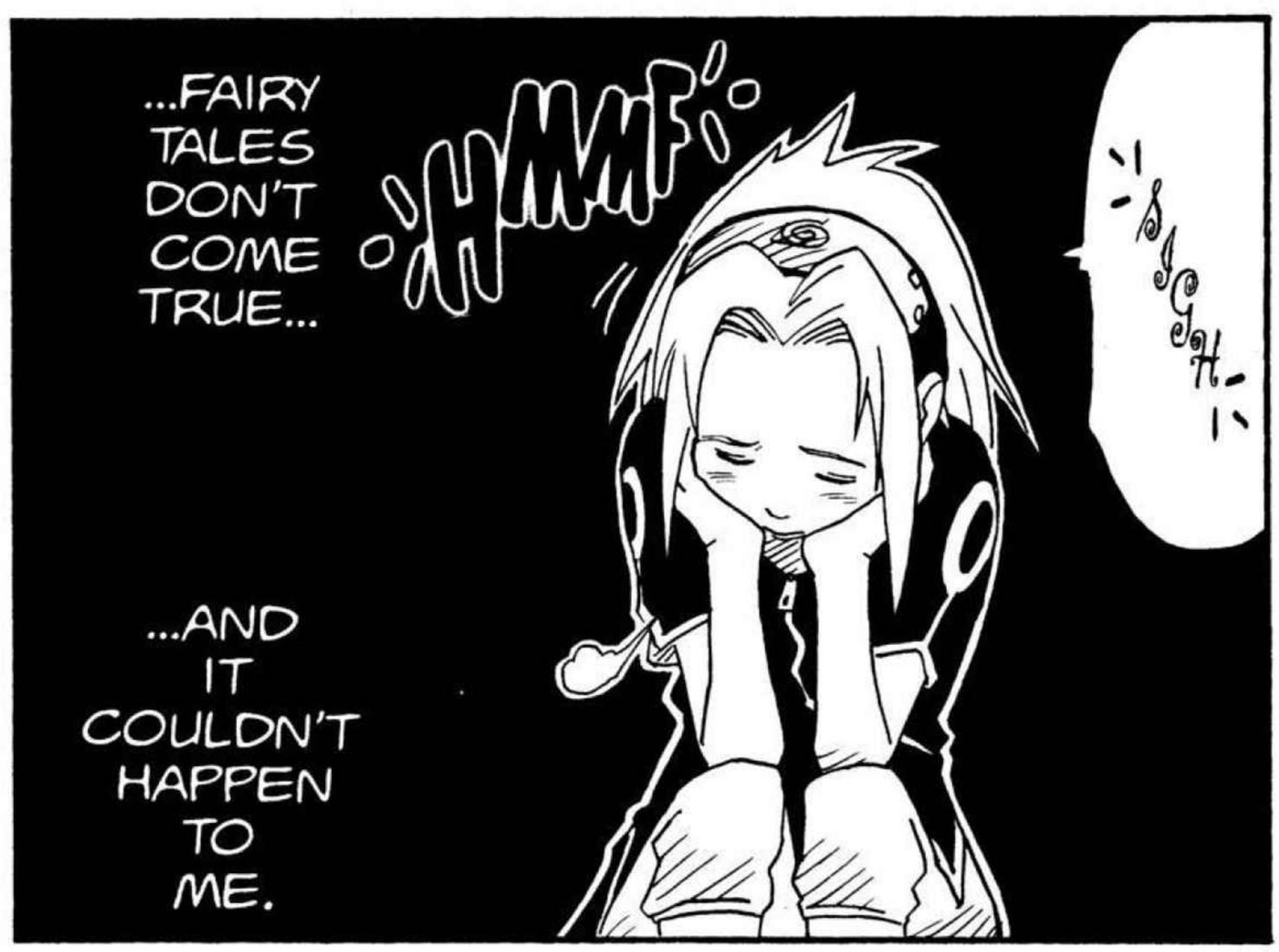

ZING
WITH BED-ROOM EYES!

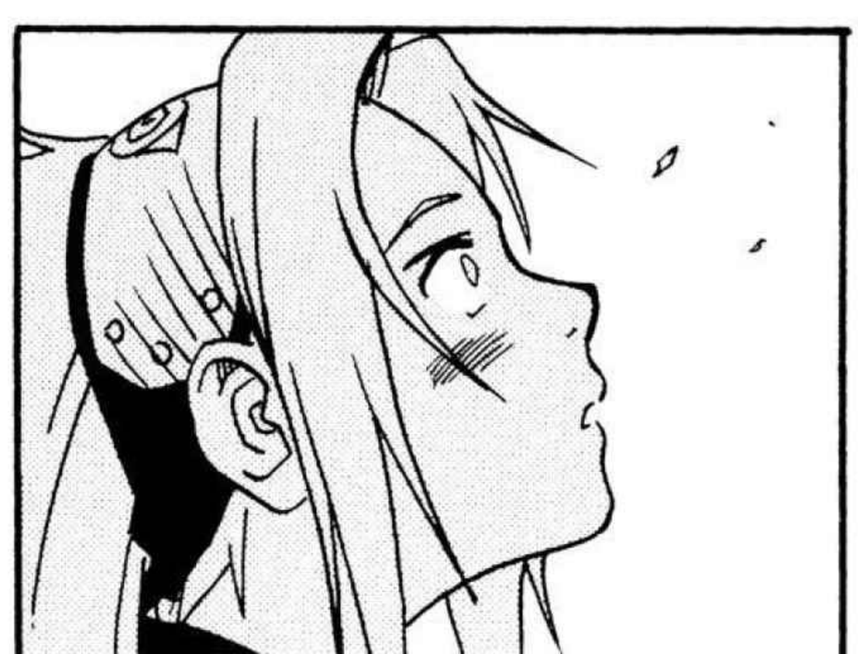
BUT IT IS! SASUKE-HE'S LOOKING AT ME!!

TAK
OH--!


THAT'S WHAT IT'S THERE FOR! ♡
YOU HAVE SUCH A NOBLE BROW.
SO CHARMING.. I COULD KISS IT!

!!!?
YOU HAVE SUCH A NOBLE BROW.
WHAT!


...FAIRY TALES DON'T COME TRUE...
HMMF
...AND IT COULDN'T HAPPEN TO ME.
SIGH-

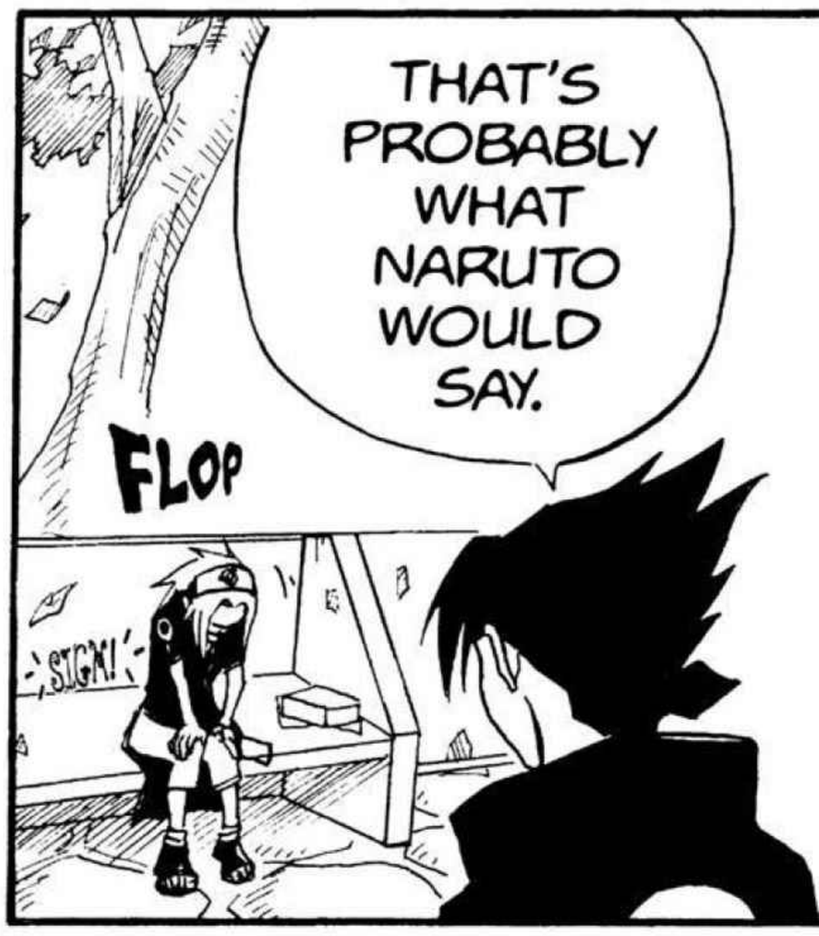


SO CHARMING... I COULD KISS IT!

OH YEAH!!
DREAMS DO COME TRUE!
INNER SAKURA
IF I'M DREAMING, DON'T WAKE ME...

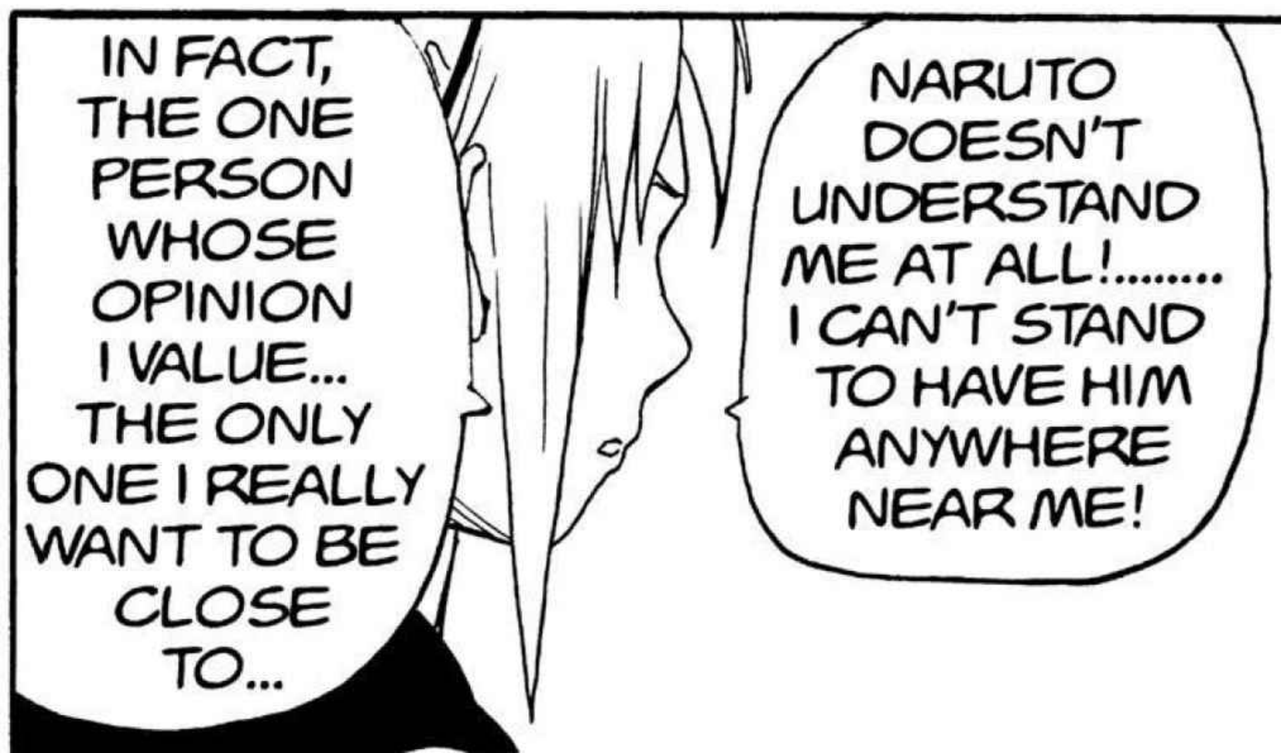
.....

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF... NARUTO?
YES?
SAKURA, I HAVE TO KNOW...
TMP!


THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT NARUTO WOULD SAY.
FLOP
SIGH!

...IS YOU, SASUKE.

HE RUINS EVERY-THING... HE ENJOYS TORMENT-ING ME!
...IF HE HAD HIS WAY, I'D NEVER FIND LOVE OR HAPPINESS...


IN FACT, THE ONE PERSON WHOSE OPINION I VALUE... THE ONLY ONE I REALLY WANT TO BE CLOSE TO...
NARUTO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ME AT ALL!..... I CAN'T STAND TO HAVE HIM ANYWHERE NEAR ME!

READ THIS WAY

DUB...DUB

!BLUSH!

I'M... DESPERATE.

... THE ONLY ONE I REALLY WANT TO BE CLOSE TO...

... ONLY YOU.

BECAUSE I HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU...

I'D DO ALMOST ANYTHING TO WIN YOUR ATTENTION... YOUR RESPECT...

DUB...DUB

DUB...DUB

DUB...DUB

DUB...DUB

MMM

-UHN-

RRB

...WHAT I LOVE ABOUT SAKURA!

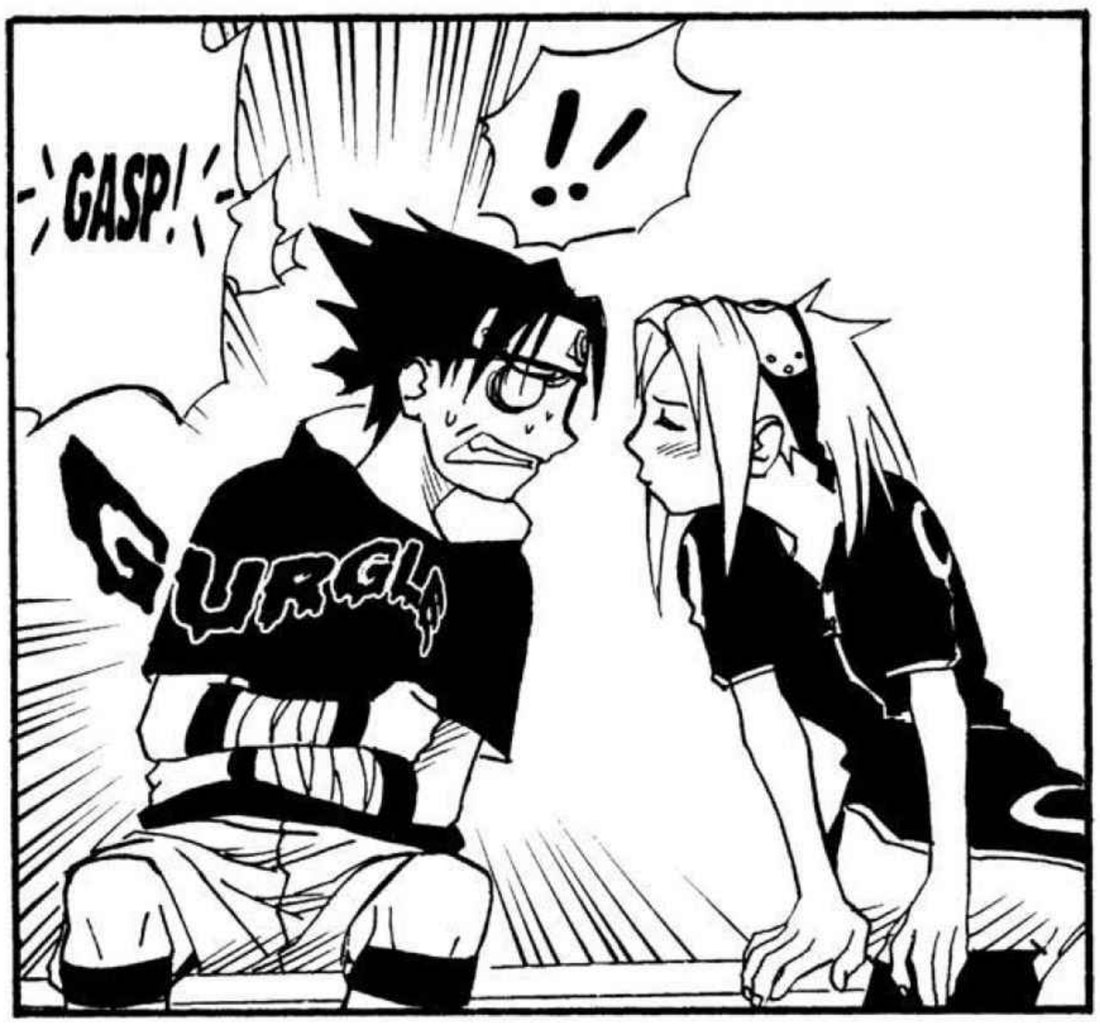
I'M FINALLY STARTING TO UNDER-STAND...

USED HIS SHINOBI ILLUSIONS TO PASS AS ME!...

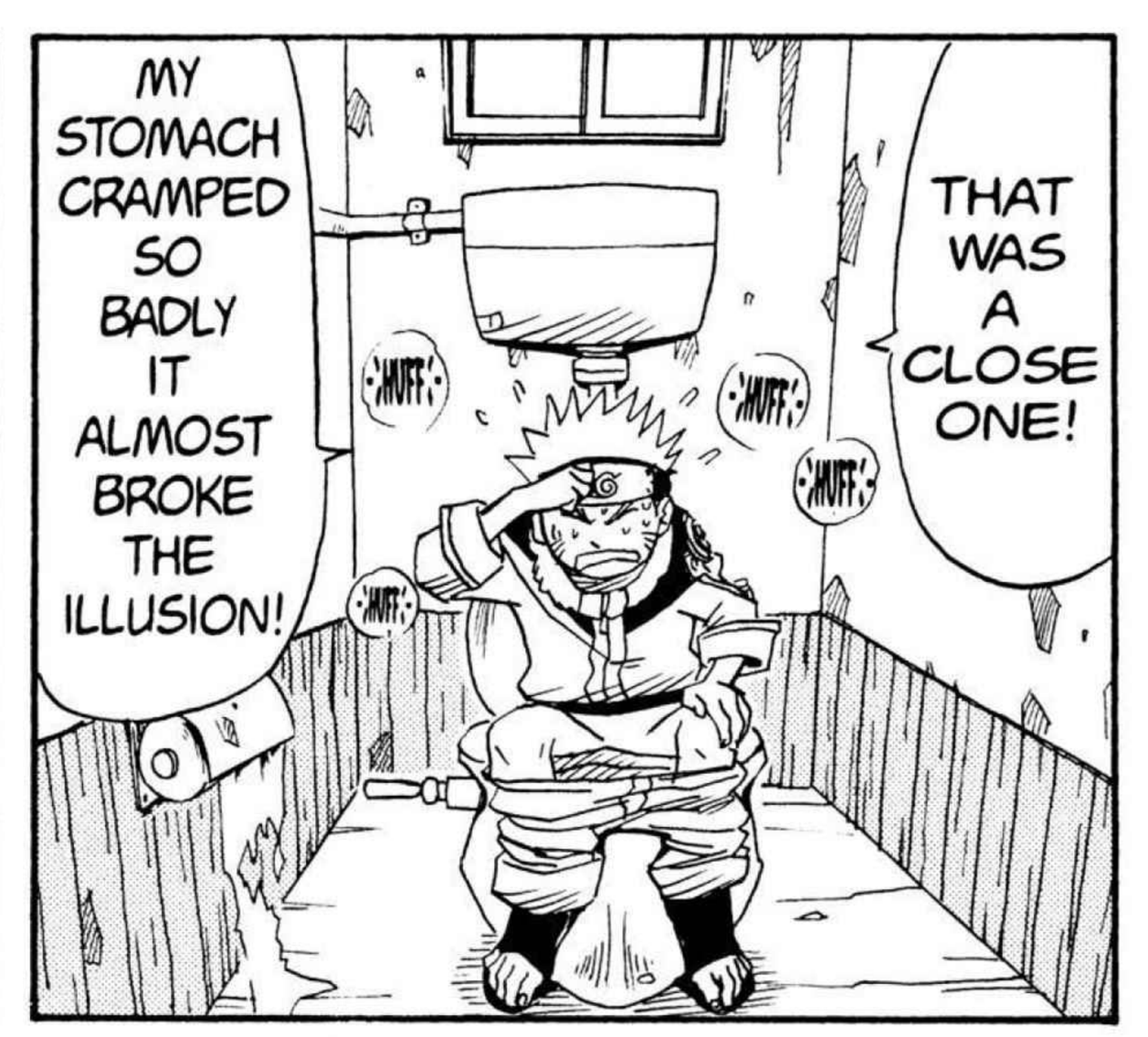
WHAT'S HE UP TO?!

HRRN

DAMN NARUTO!



READ THIS WAY
I HAD TO POSE AS PIN-UP BOY SASUKE...
... SO I COULD FIND OUT HOW SAKURA REALLY FEELS.
BUT NOT BEFORE SHE SAID IT— SHE CAN'T STAND ME!

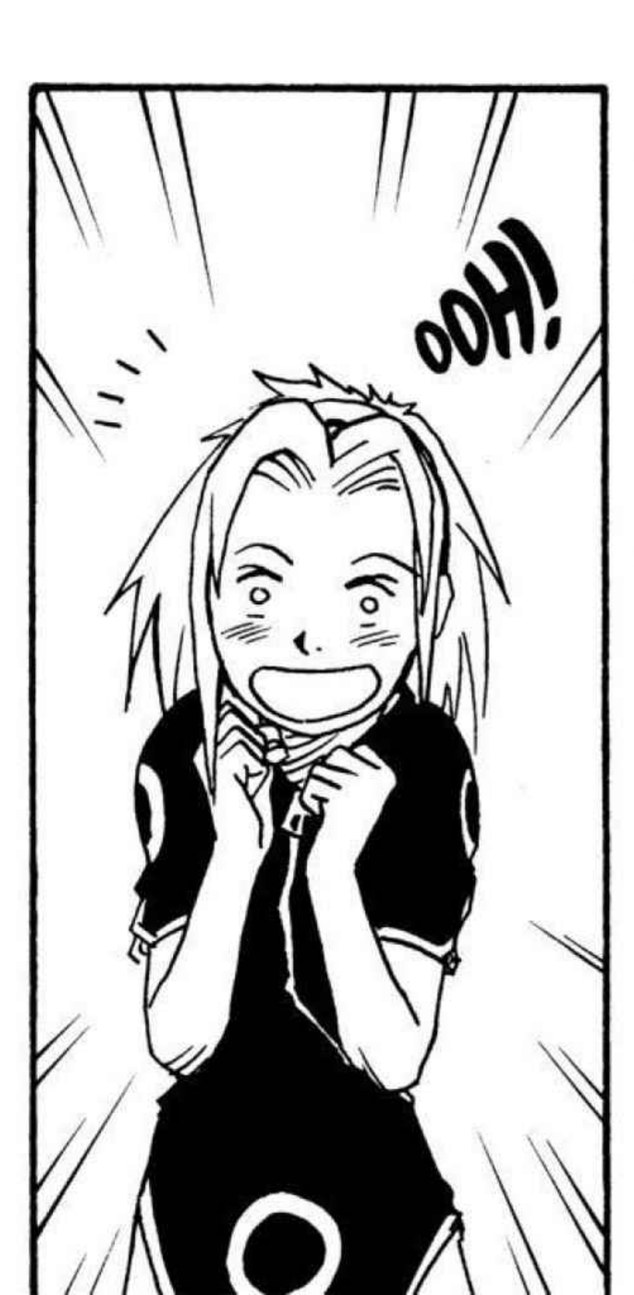

MY STOMACH CRAMPED SO BADLY IT ALMOST BROKE THE ILLUSION!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

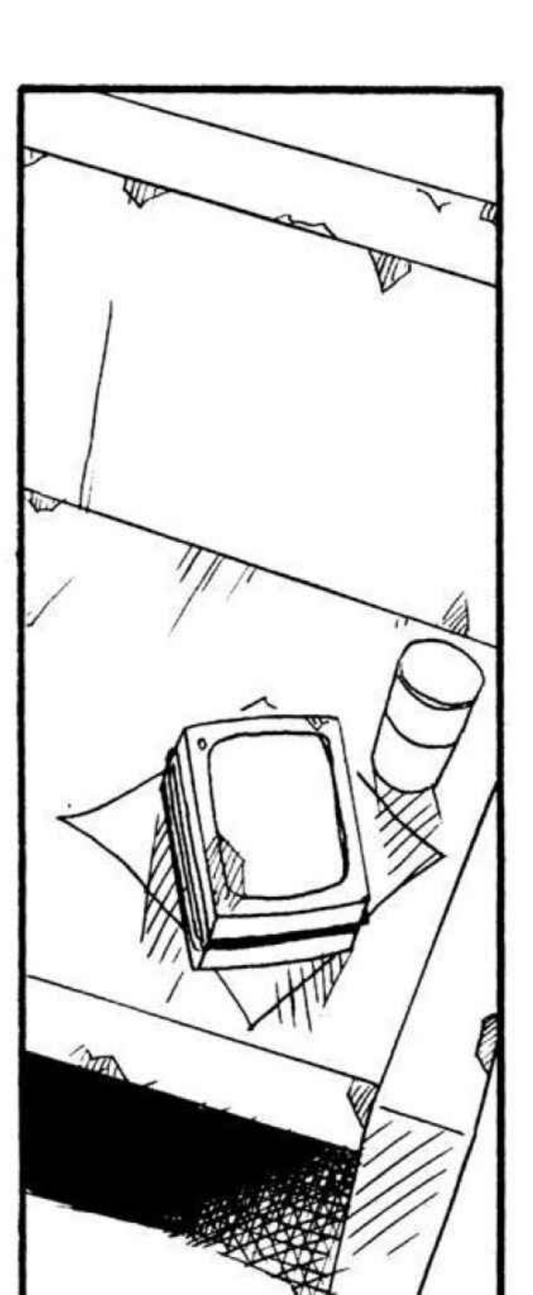
HEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH!
THAT COULD WORK!

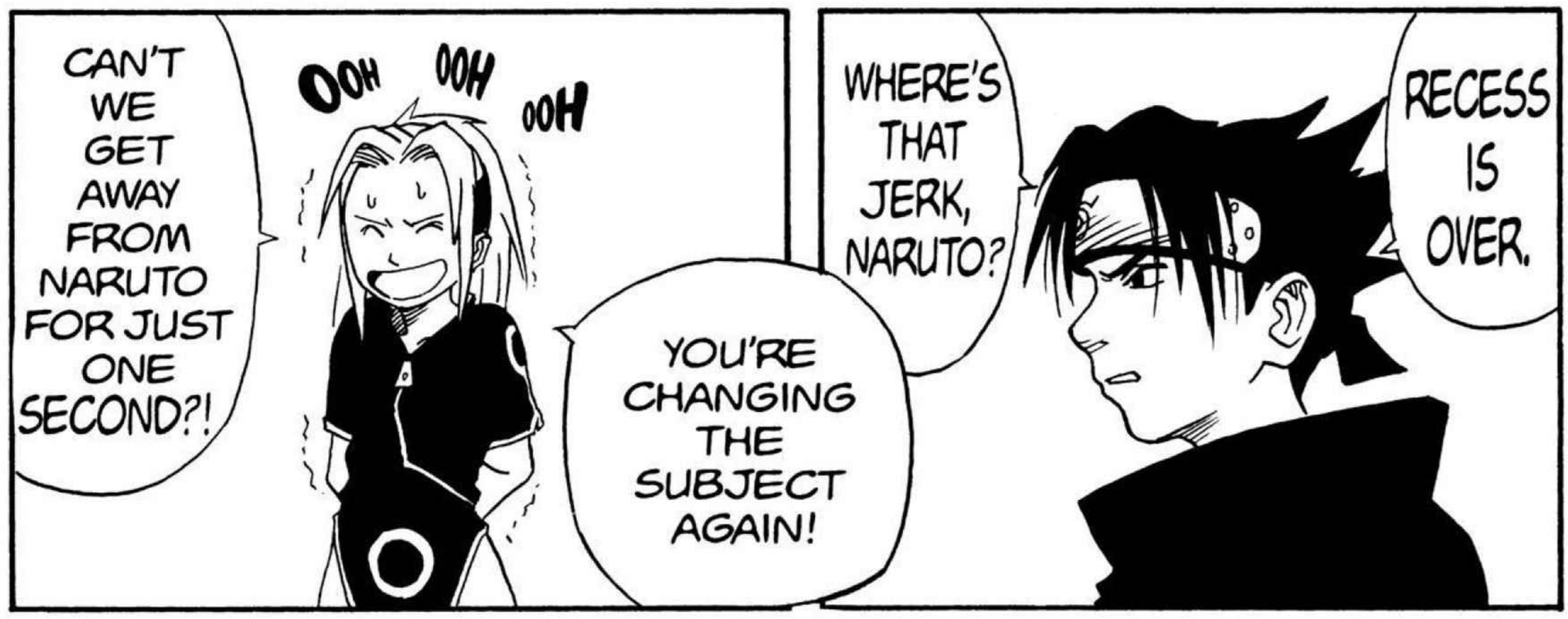
I COULD MAKE SAKURA HATE SASUKE...

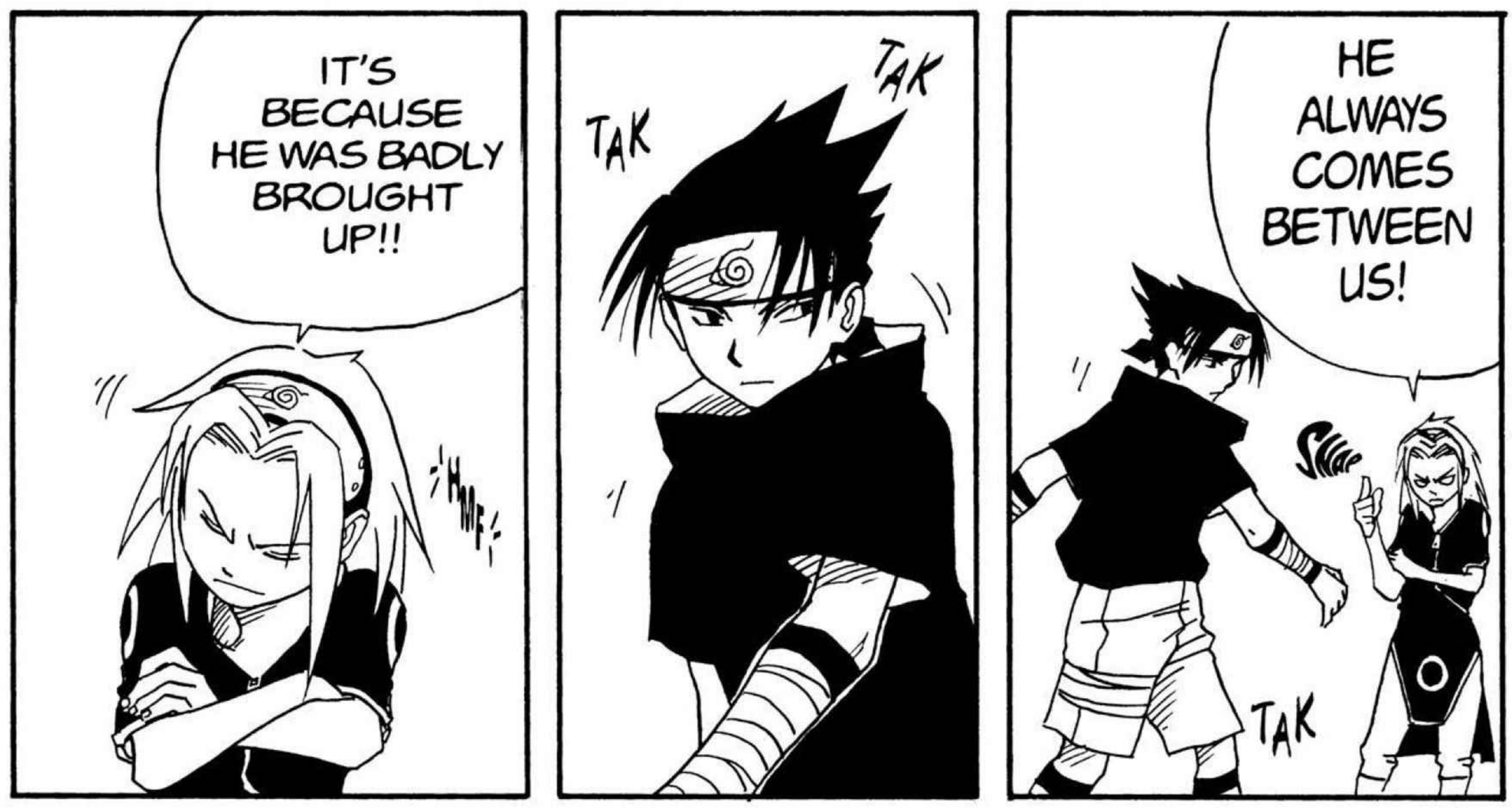
WAIT A MINUTE!!
HEY!

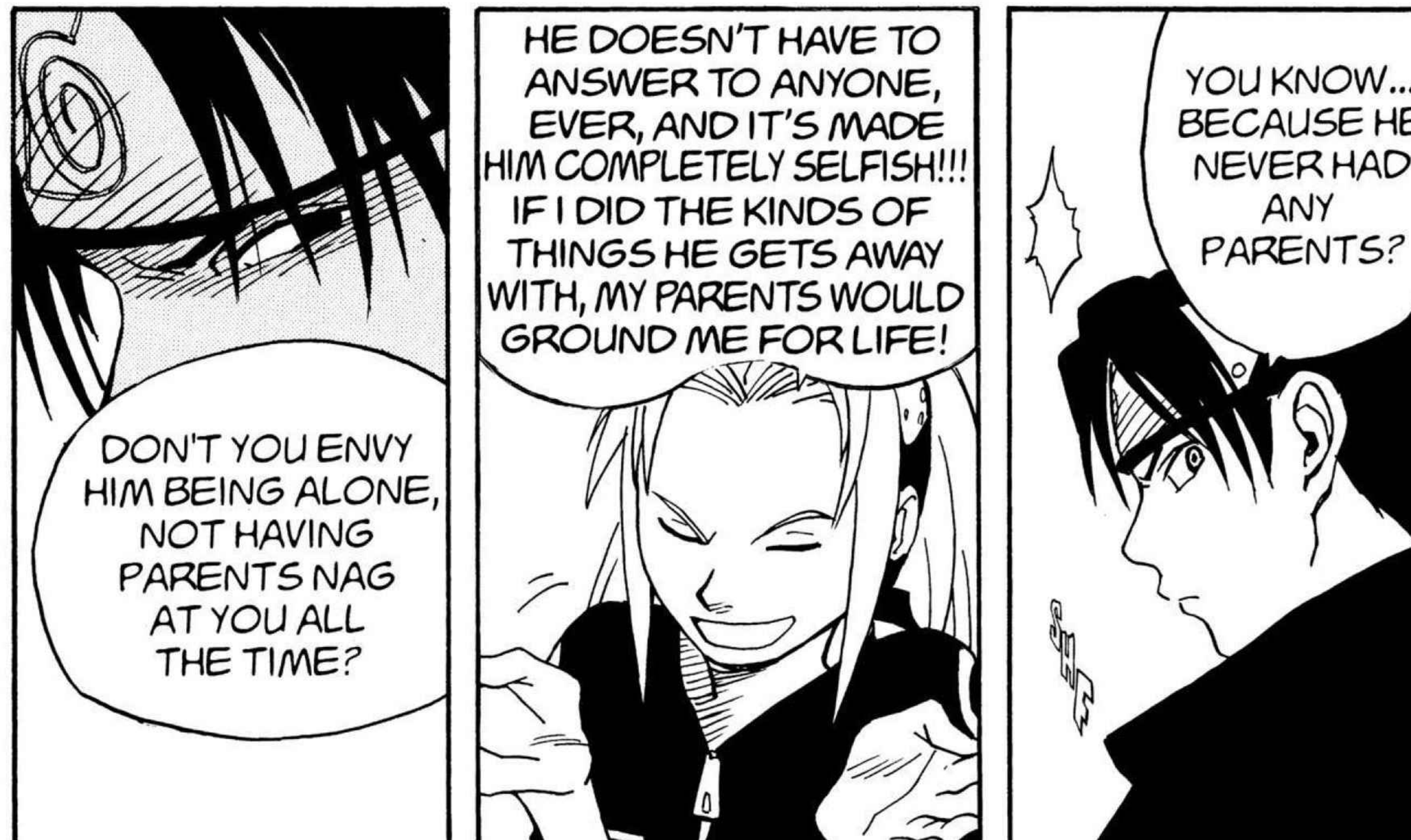
DID YOU SUMMON UP YOUR NERVE?! I'M RIGHT HERE, READY AND WAITING!!
SASUKE! MY SWEET, OLD-FASHIONED BOY! ♡


OOH!



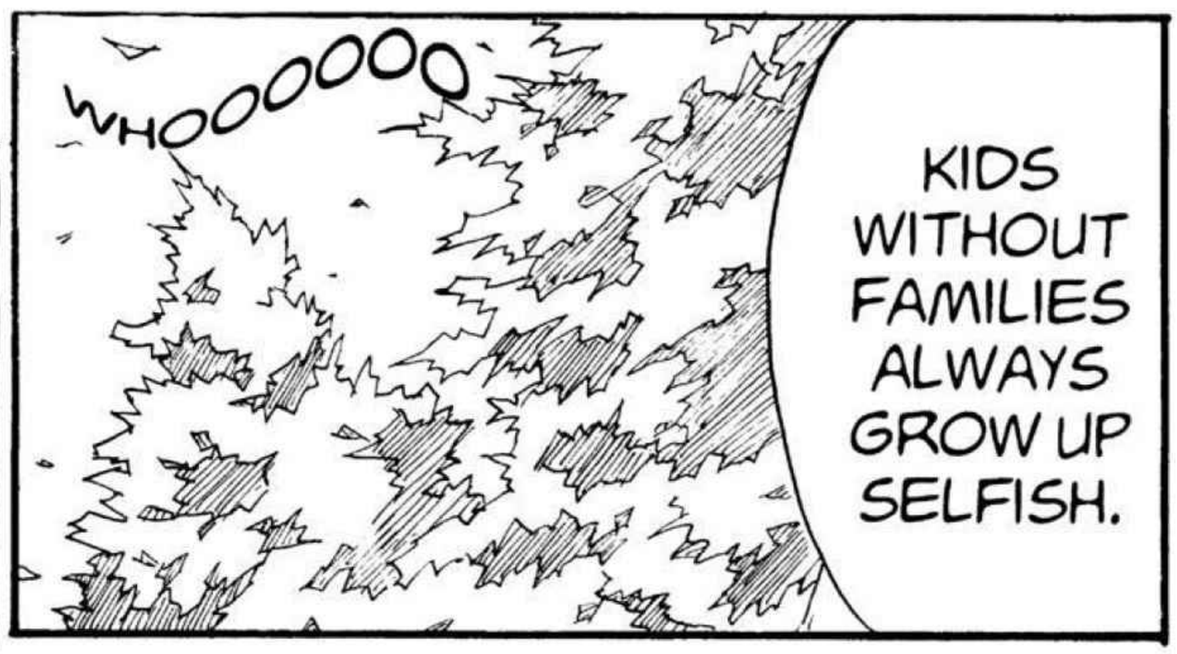

CAN'T WE GET AWAY FROM NARUTO FOR JUST ONE SECOND?!
OOH OOH OOH
YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT AGAIN!
WHERE'S THAT JERK, NARUTO?
RECESS IS OVER.

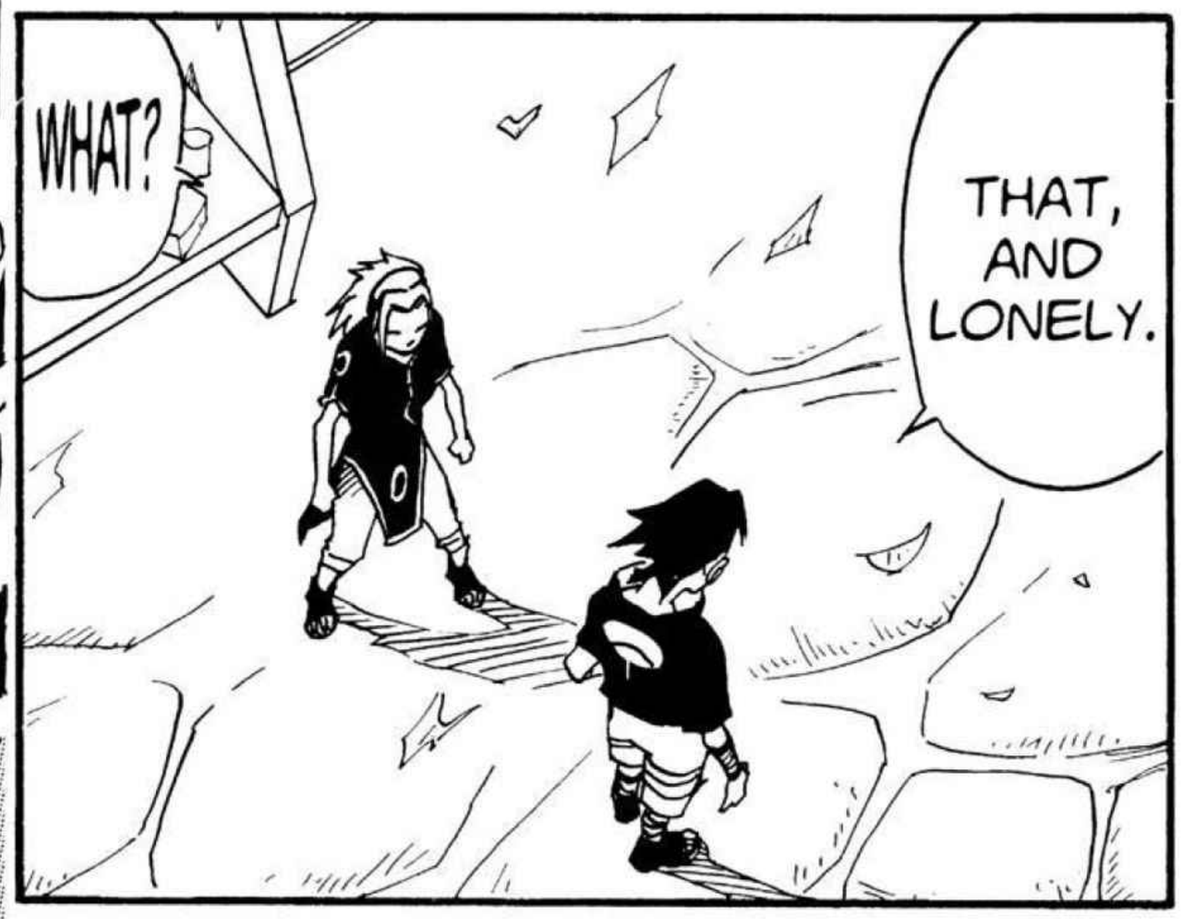

IT'S BECAUSE HE WAS BADLY BROUGHT UP!!
HMPF
TAK
TAK
HE ALWAYS COMES BETWEEN US!
TAK

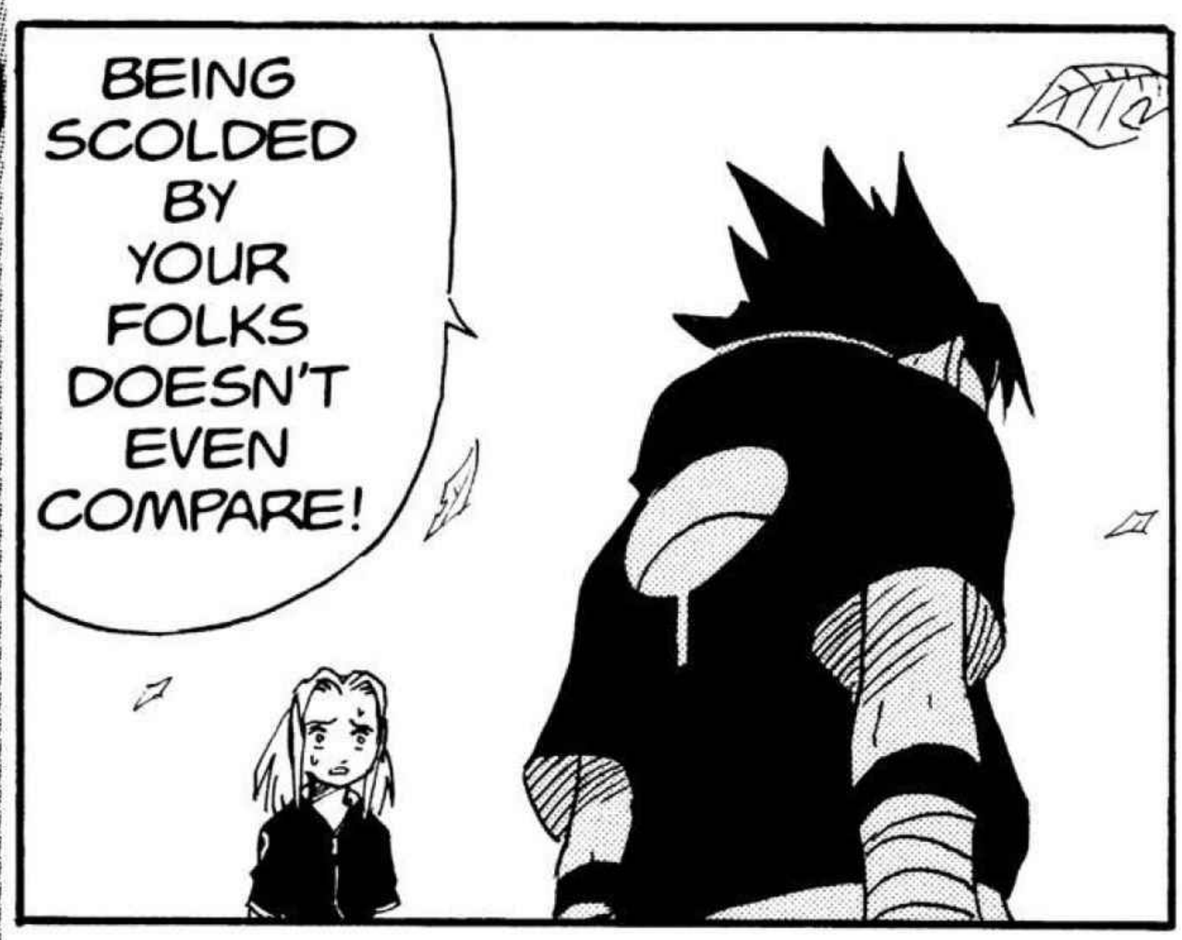

DON'T YOU ENVY HIM BEING ALONE, NOT HAVING PARENTS NAG AT YOU ALL THE TIME?
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYONE, EVER, AND IT'S MADE HIM COMPLETELY SELFISH!!! IF I DID THE KINDS OF THINGS HE GETS AWAY WITH, MY PARENTS WOULD GROUND ME FOR LIFE!
YOU KNOW... BECAUSE HE NEVER HAD ANY PARENTS?

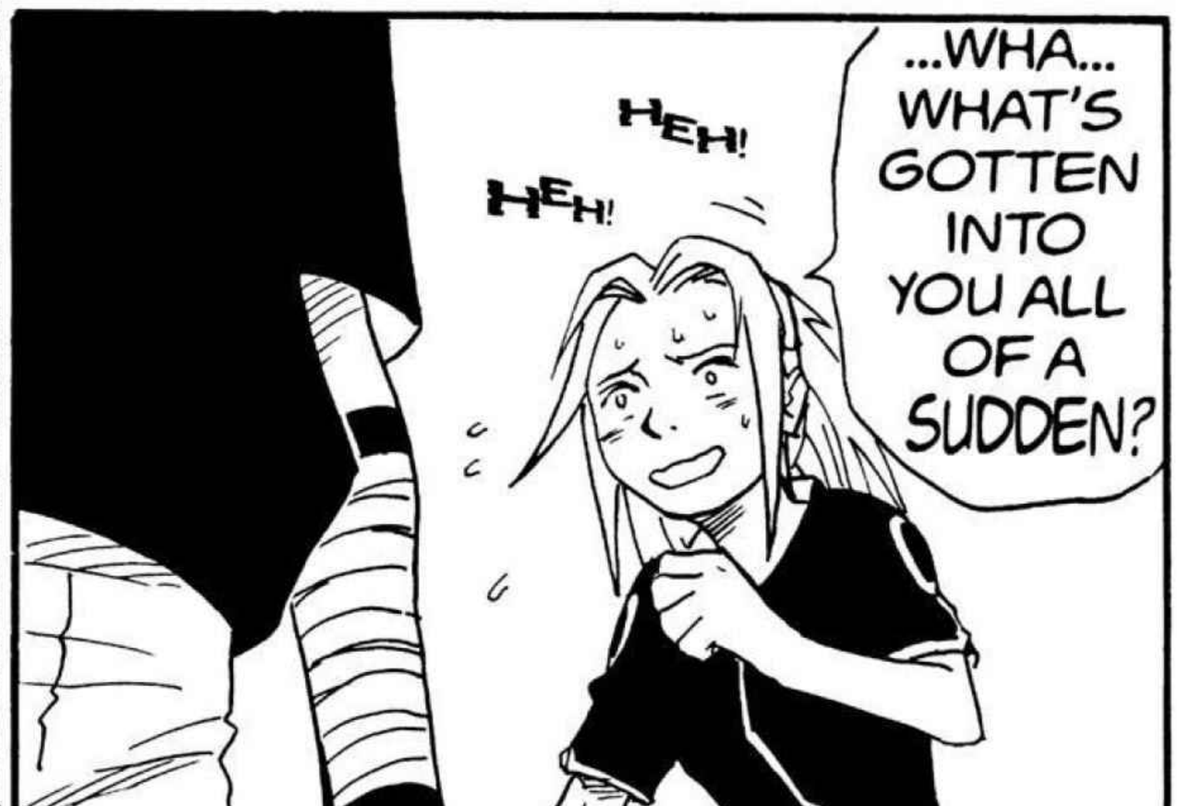
YOU....

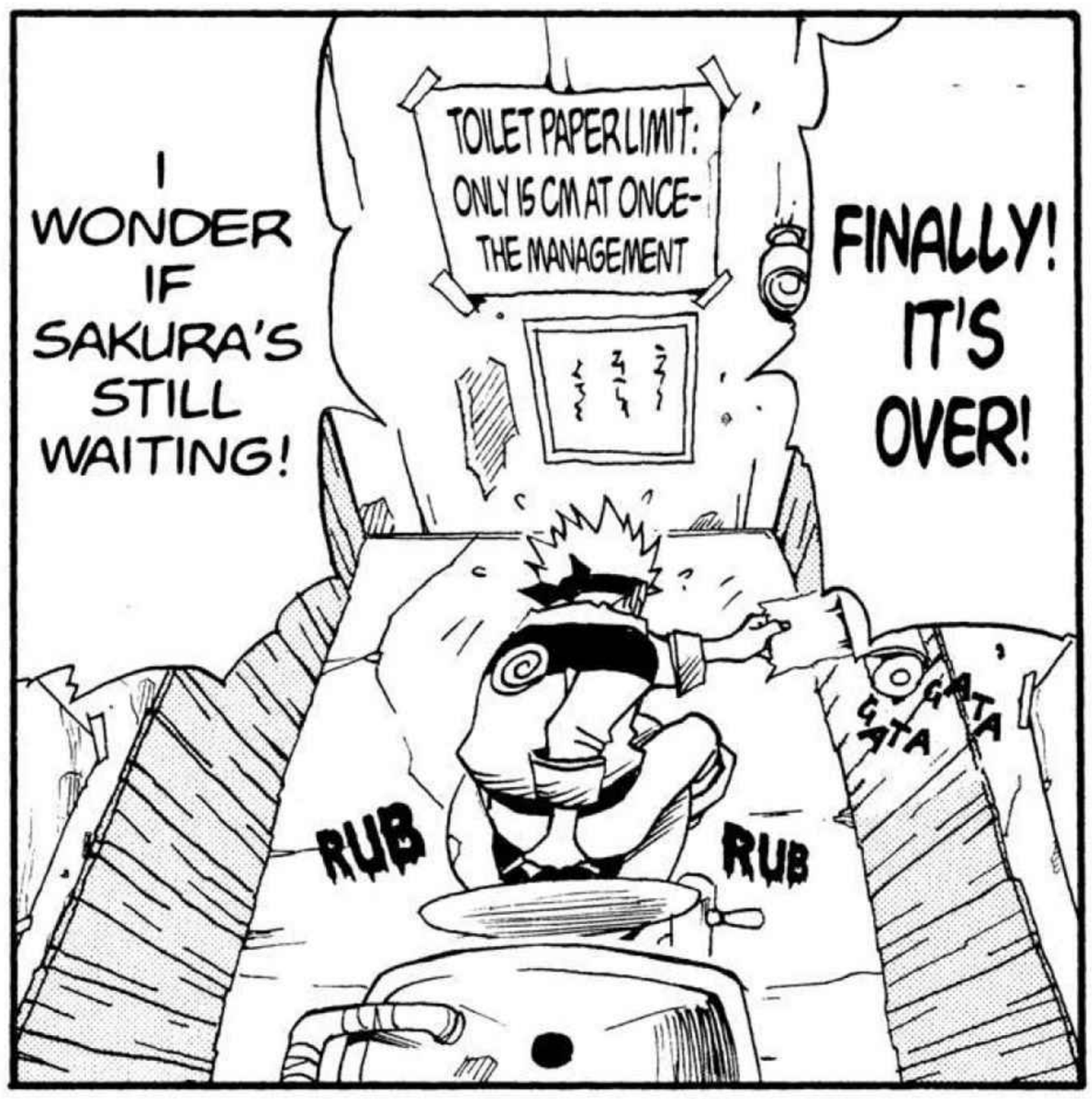
MAKE ME SICK!

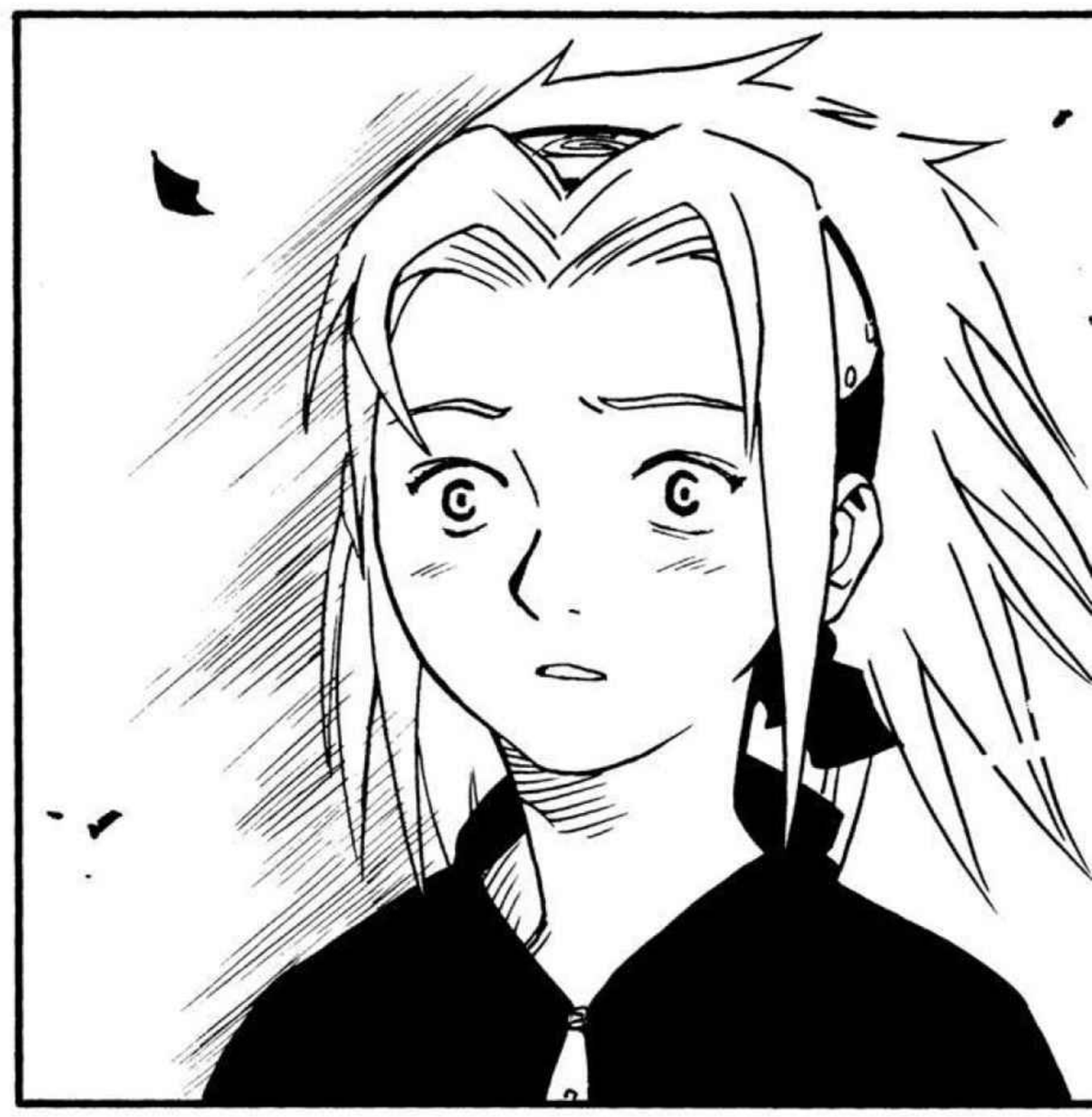


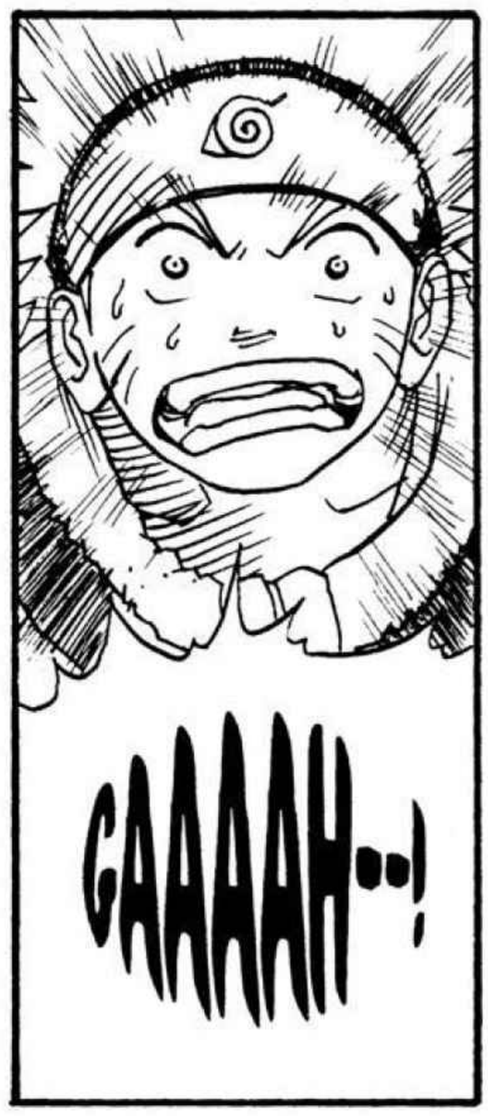


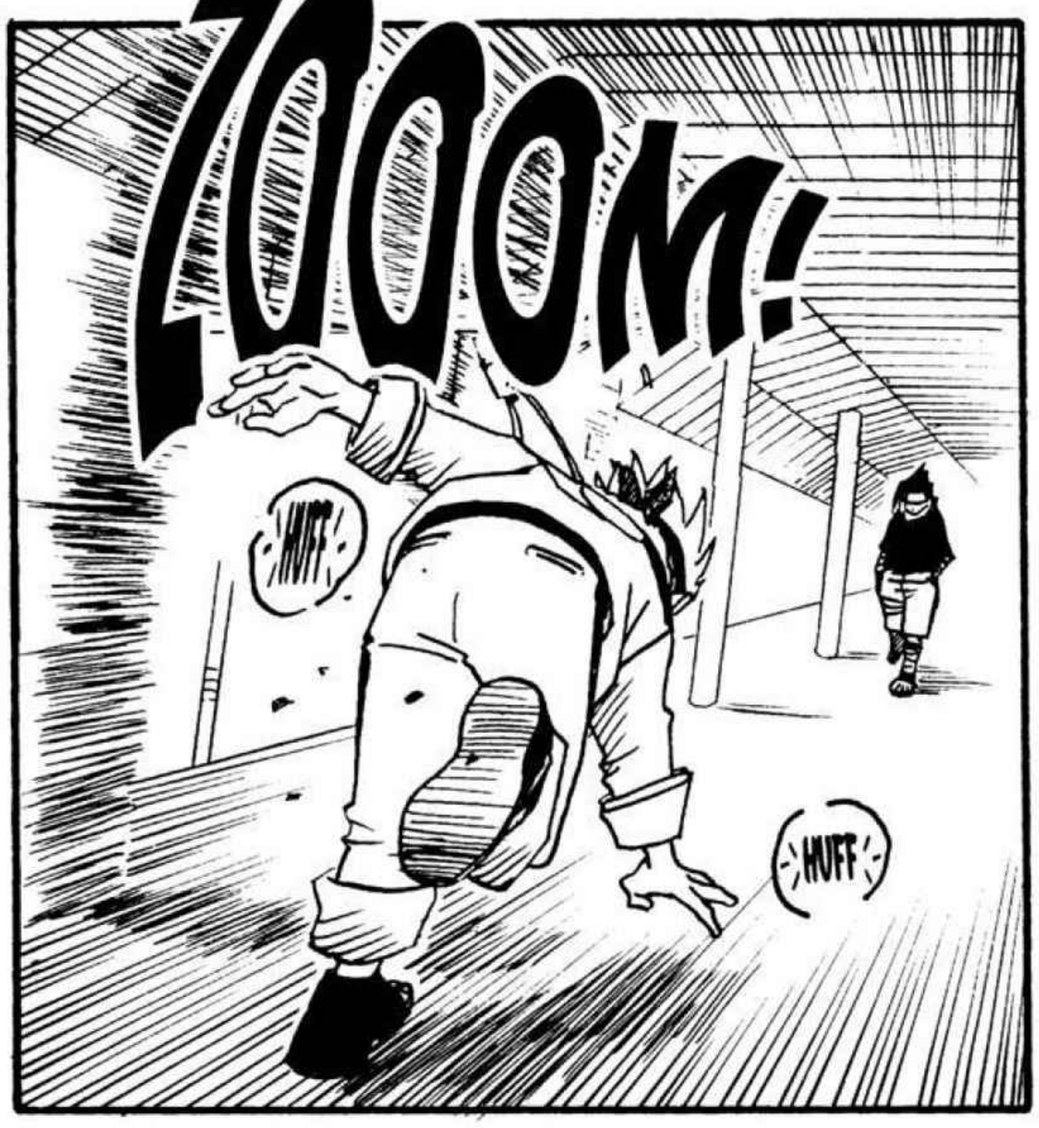


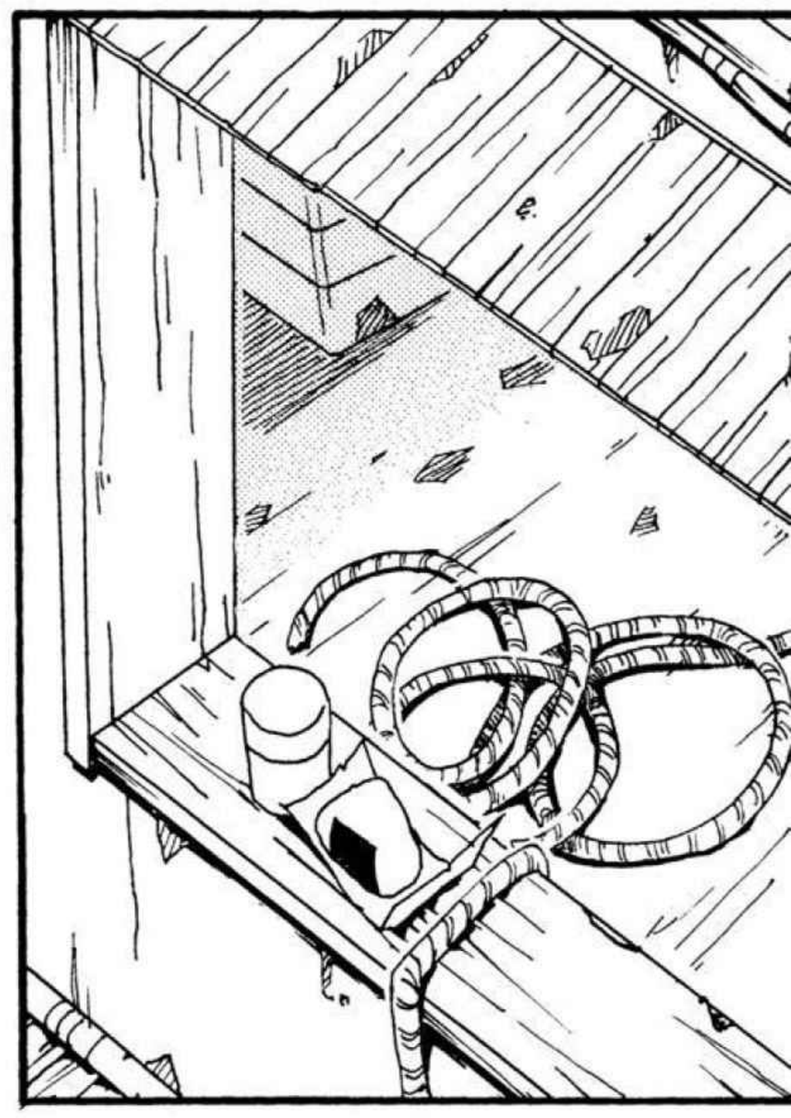



I WONDER IF SAKURA'S STILL WAITING!
TOILET PAPER LIMIT: ONLY 15 CM AT ONCE- THE MANAGEMENT
FINALLY! IT'S OVER!
RUB
RUB
GATA GATA



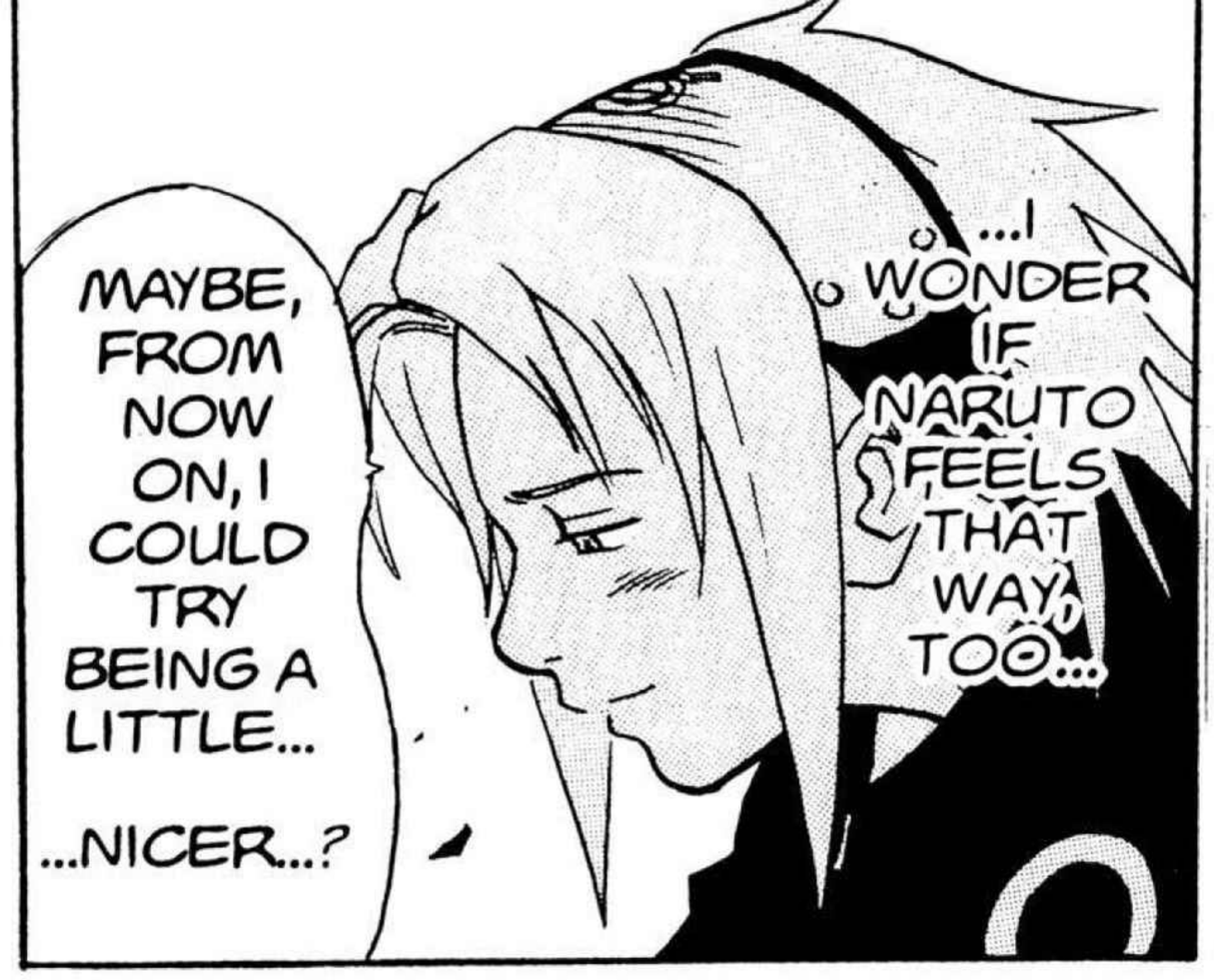

GAAAAH..!


ZOOOM!
HUFF
HUFF



TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND... DUNCE.
A SIMPLE ROPE TRICK. ANY GOOD NINJA IS AN ESCAPE ARTIST.
AWW...!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!!
HUH!


MAYBE, FROM NOW ON, I COULD TRY BEING A LITTLE...
...NICER...?
...I WONDER IF NARUTO FEELS THAT WAY, TOO...

I MAKE HIM SICK...?
.....

HIS MILK'S EXPIRED.
SHF...
GOOD UNTIL 9/10
MILK
HE'S CLUMSY, BUT YOU'RE THE BEST CHOICE TO WATCH HIM. YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR SNIFFING THINGS OUT!

YES.
THIS IS NARUTO'S HOUSE, ISN'T IT?
MILK

THIS COULD BE A TERRIBLE MISSION, BUT...
I'LL DO MY BEST!
WHAT'S MORE, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE CELL YOU SHALL OVERSEE WILL BE SASUKE, OF THE UCHIHA CLAN. BEST OF LUCK!

The picture on the right is from Karakuri ("mechanism"), the first story I submitted to Weekly Shonen Jump. Karakuri won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists, which allowed me to get picked up by my current editor and helped me begin my journey down the road of a manga artist. It's a manga that brings back a lot of memories for me. But, man, the hero sure does have intensely terrifying eyes.

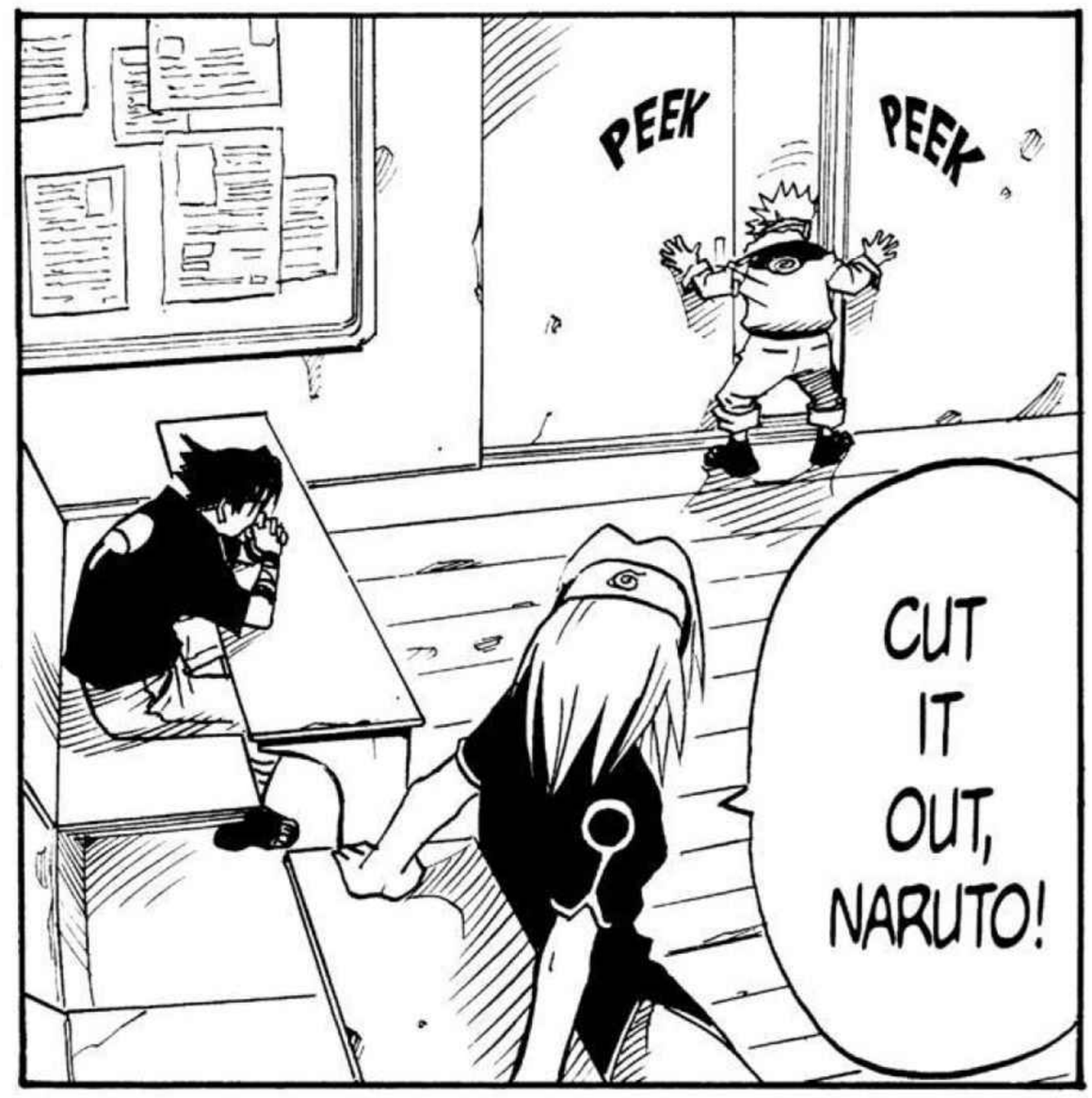
The picture on the right is another one from the first manga I published in Weekly Shonen Jump...that's right, Karakuri! But when the reader polls came in, its popularity was rock bottom! Still, this manga also brings back a lot of memories for me.

number 4:

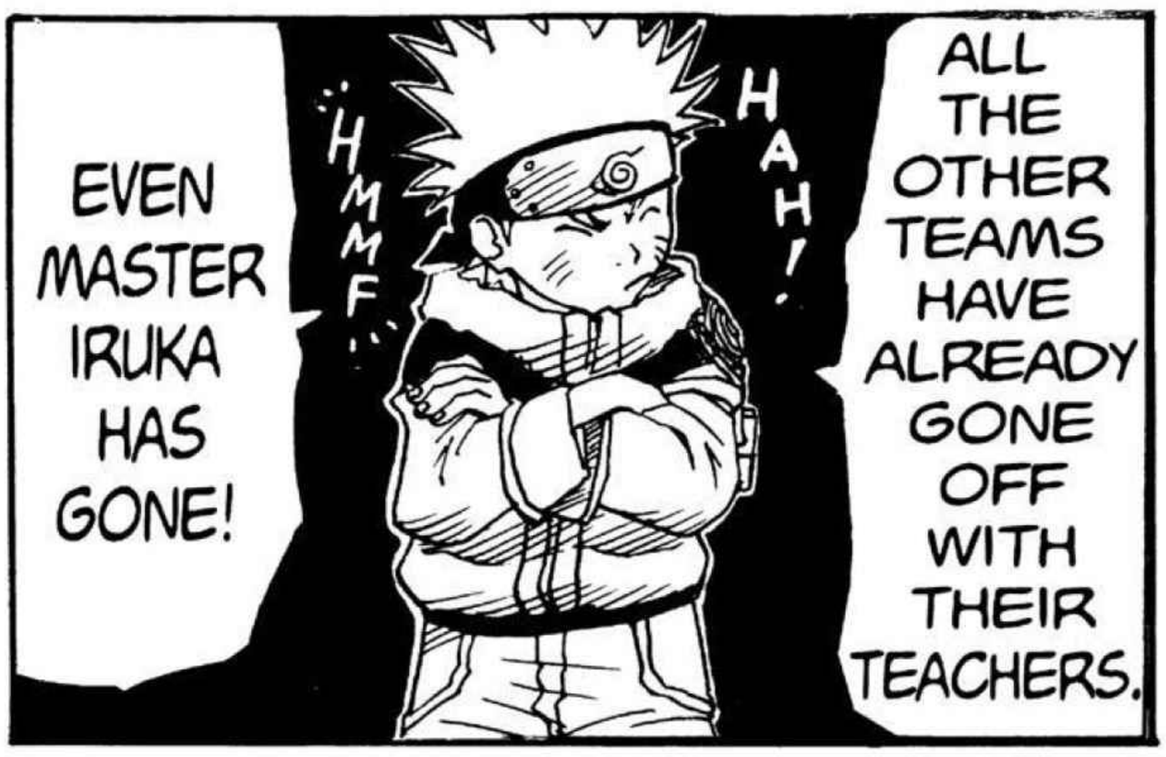
Hatake Kakashi!!

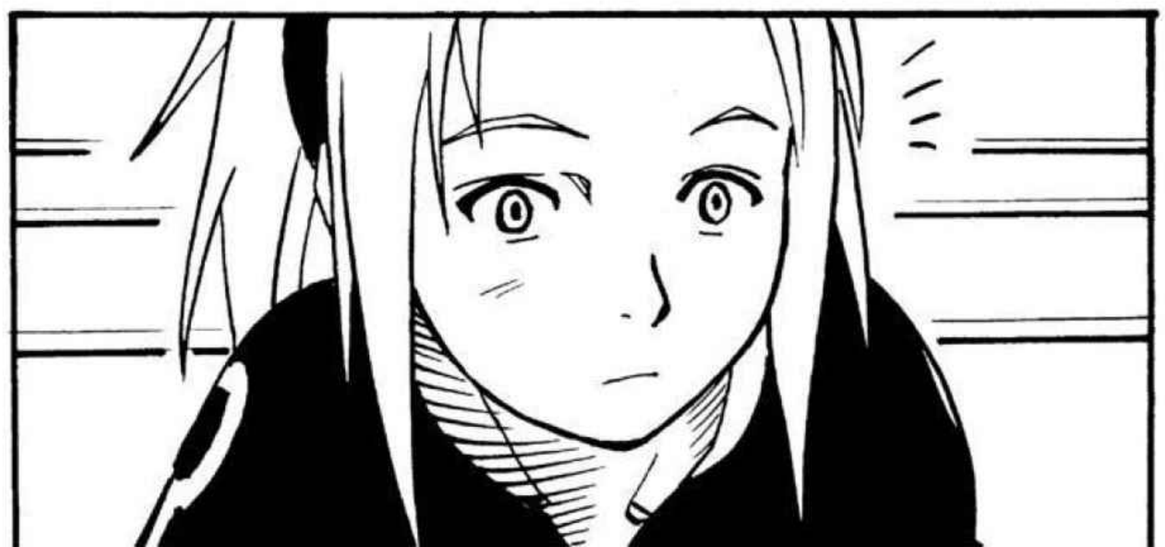
HMMM

FWIP
WHY ARE WE THE ONLY CELL...
...WHOSE TEACHER HASN'T SHOWN UP YET?!


PEEK
PEEK
CUT IT OUT, NARUTO!

HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, NARUTO?!!


EVEN MASTER IRUKA HAS GONE!
HMMF
HAH!
ALL THE OTHER TEAMS HAVE ALREADY GONE OFF WITH THEIR TEACHERS.



CHF

HEH HEH HEH HEH!

GROW UP!

TAK

IT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR MAKING US WAIT!!

KREEAK

NO WAY COULD A SUPERIOR SHINOBI BE CAUGHT BY SUCH A SIMPLE BOOBY TRAP!

HMMF

STUFF LIKE THIS IS THE BEST!!

I WANT NO PART OF IT!

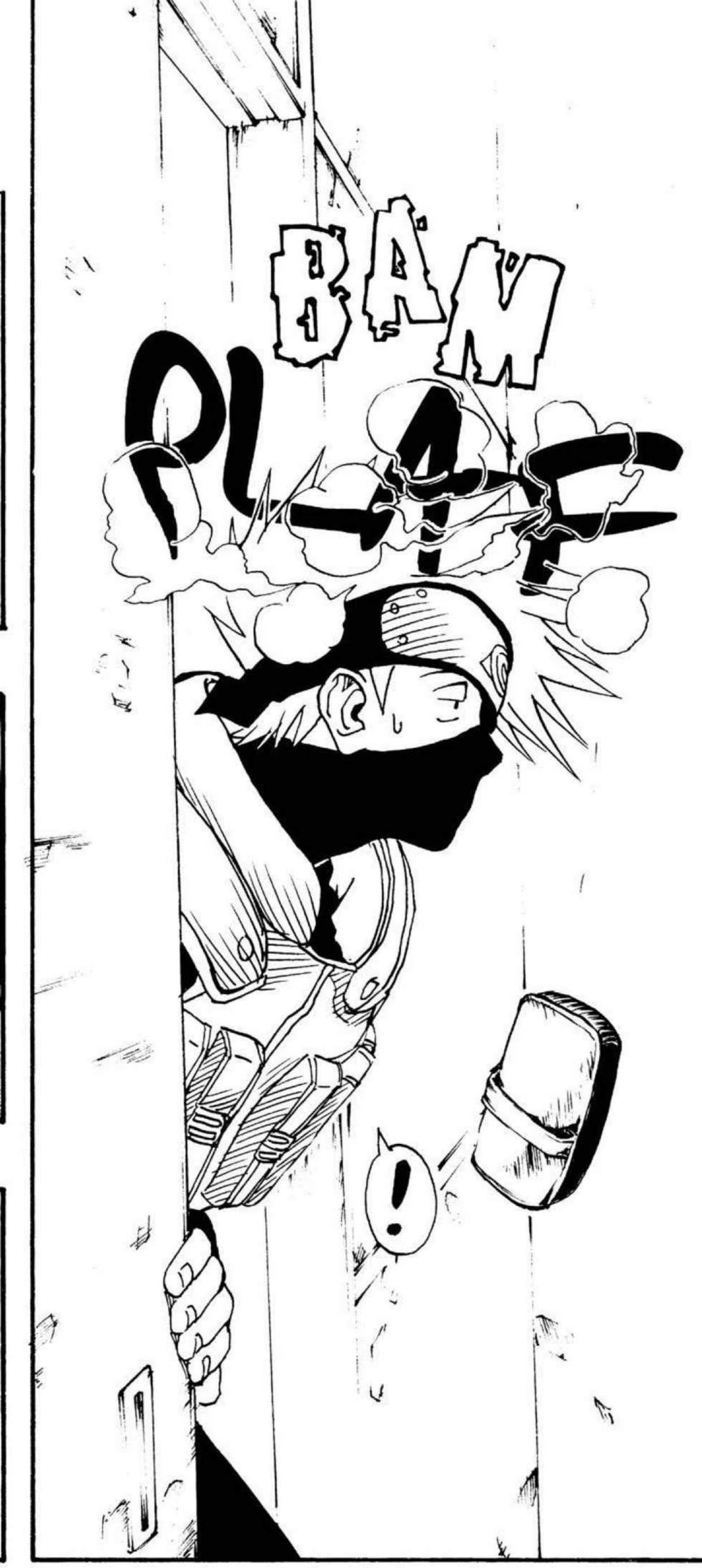
INNER SAKURA

HEE HEE

GOTCHA! GOOD ONE!
HA HA HA HA!!

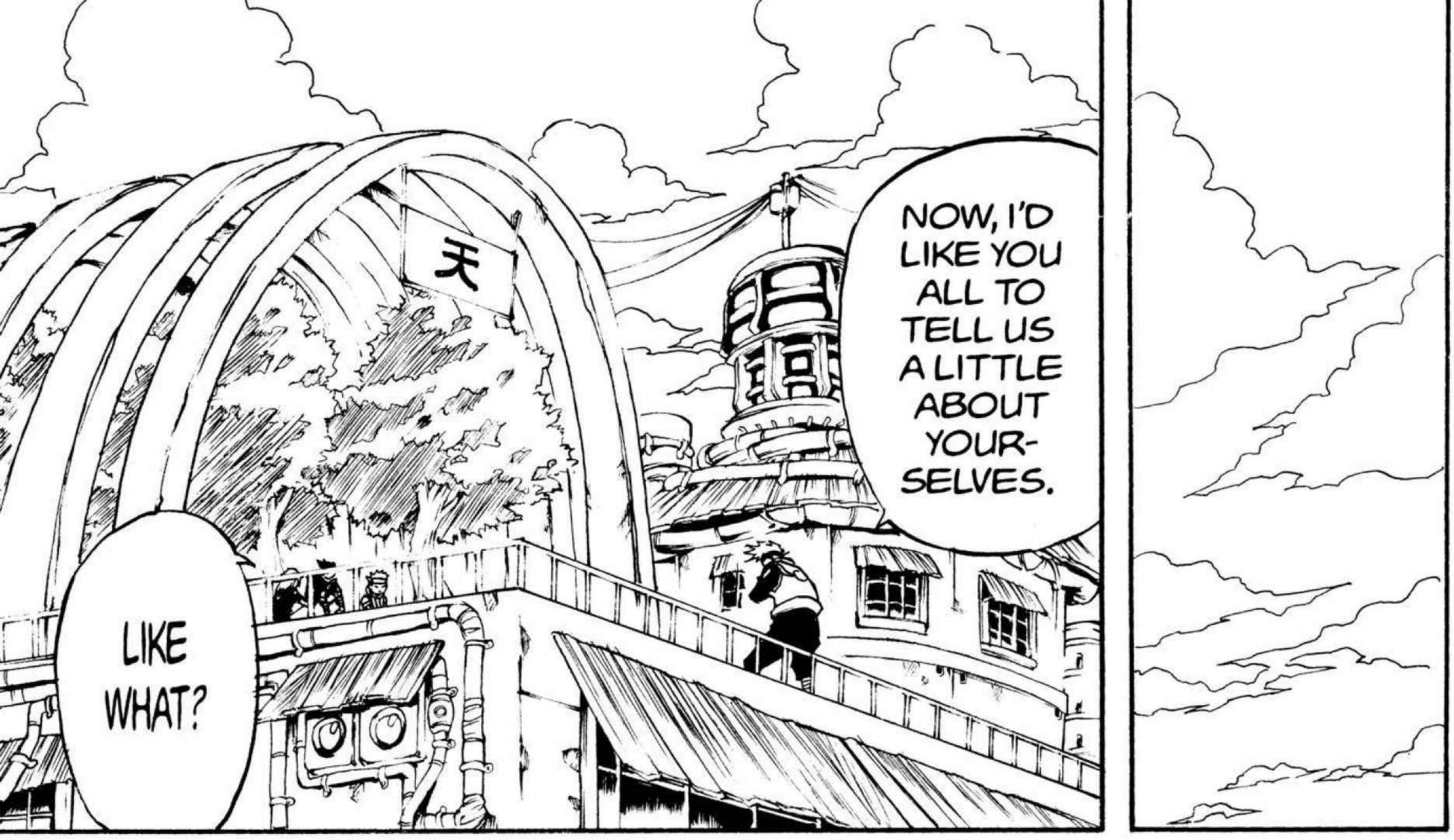
SET HIM UP AND KNOCK HIM DOWN!
INNER SAKURA
THAT WAS AWESOME!
I'M SORRY, SENSEI. I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT NARUTO...

HE LOOKS COMPLETELY WORTH-LESS!
SO... THIS IS OUR ELITE SHINOBI LEADER?


BAM
PLAF
!

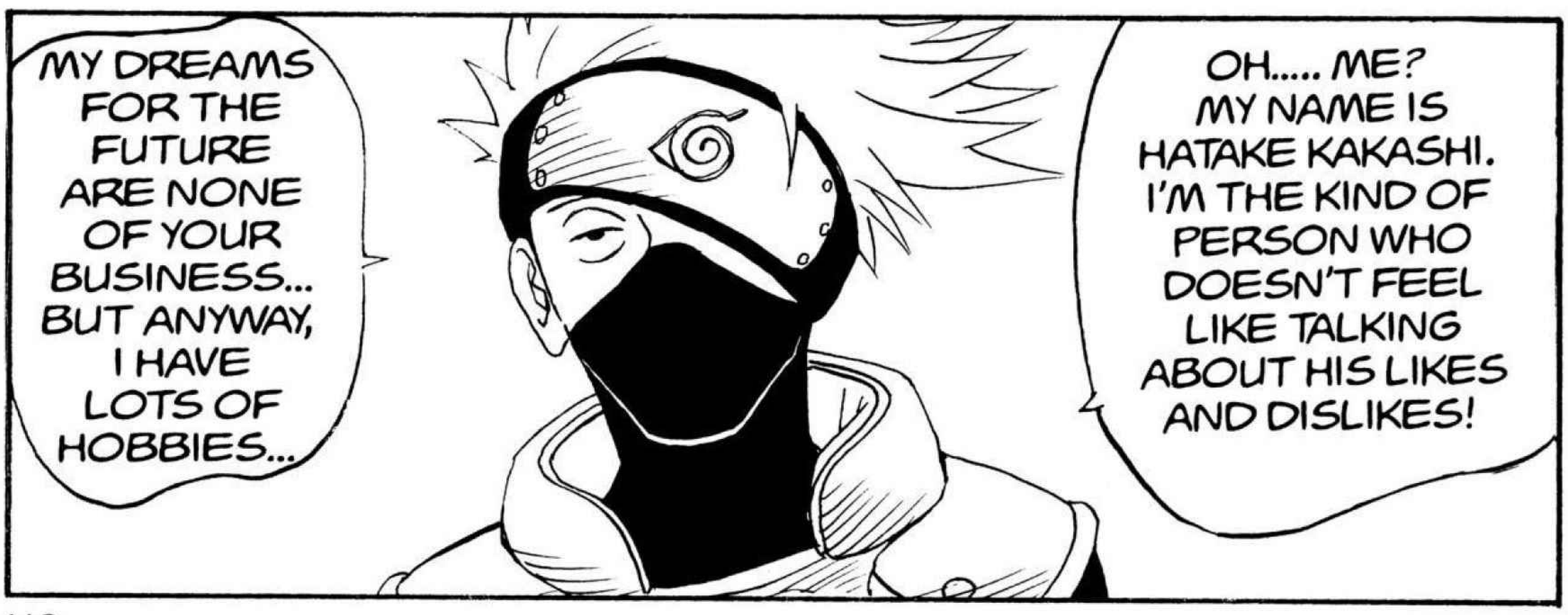
UH-OH!
.....
...I HATE YOU!!

BASED ON MY FIRST IMPRESSION, I'D HAVE TO SAY...
HMM... HOW SHALL I PUT THIS?
HA HA HA HA

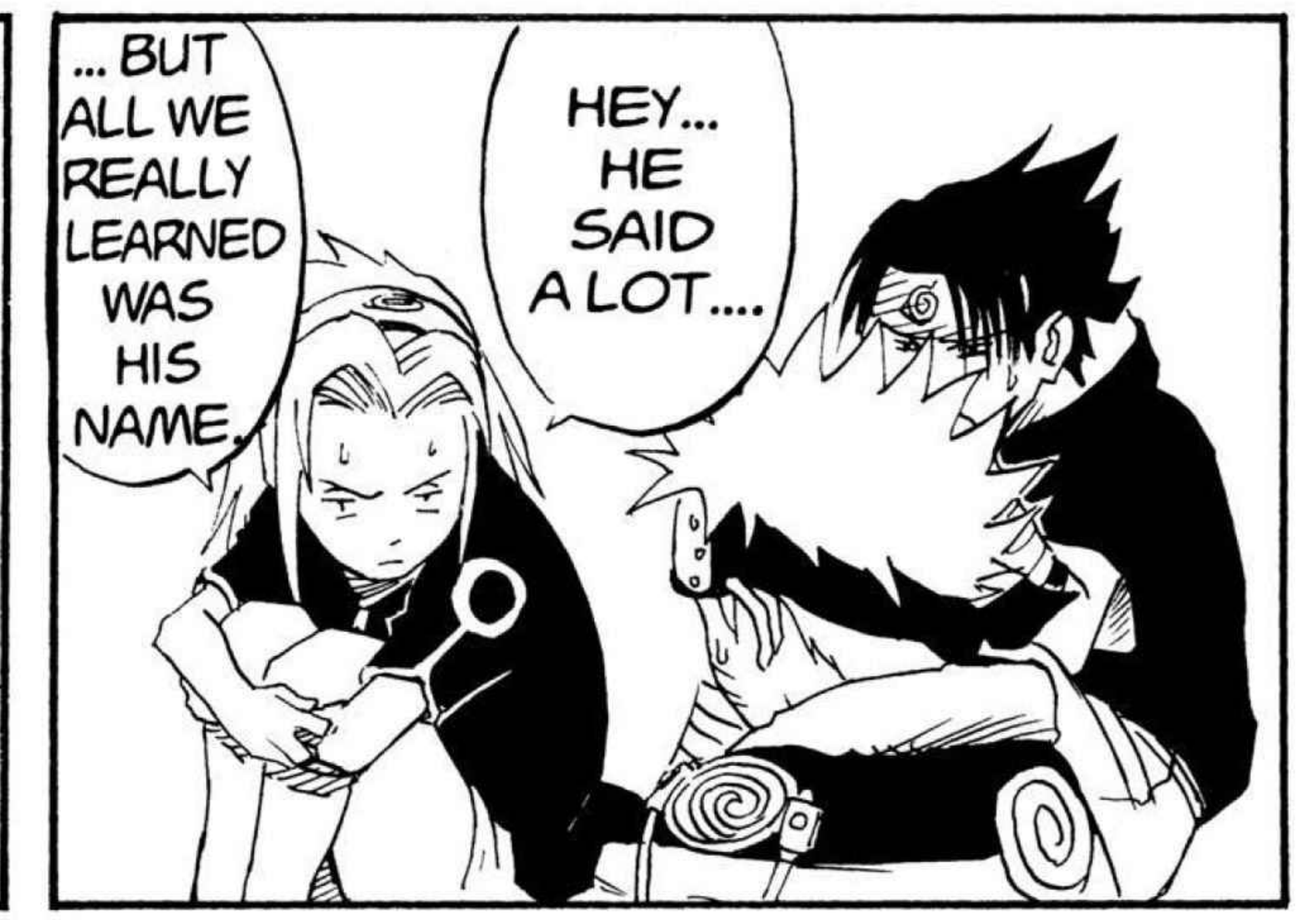

LIKE WHAT?
NOW, I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR-SELVES.

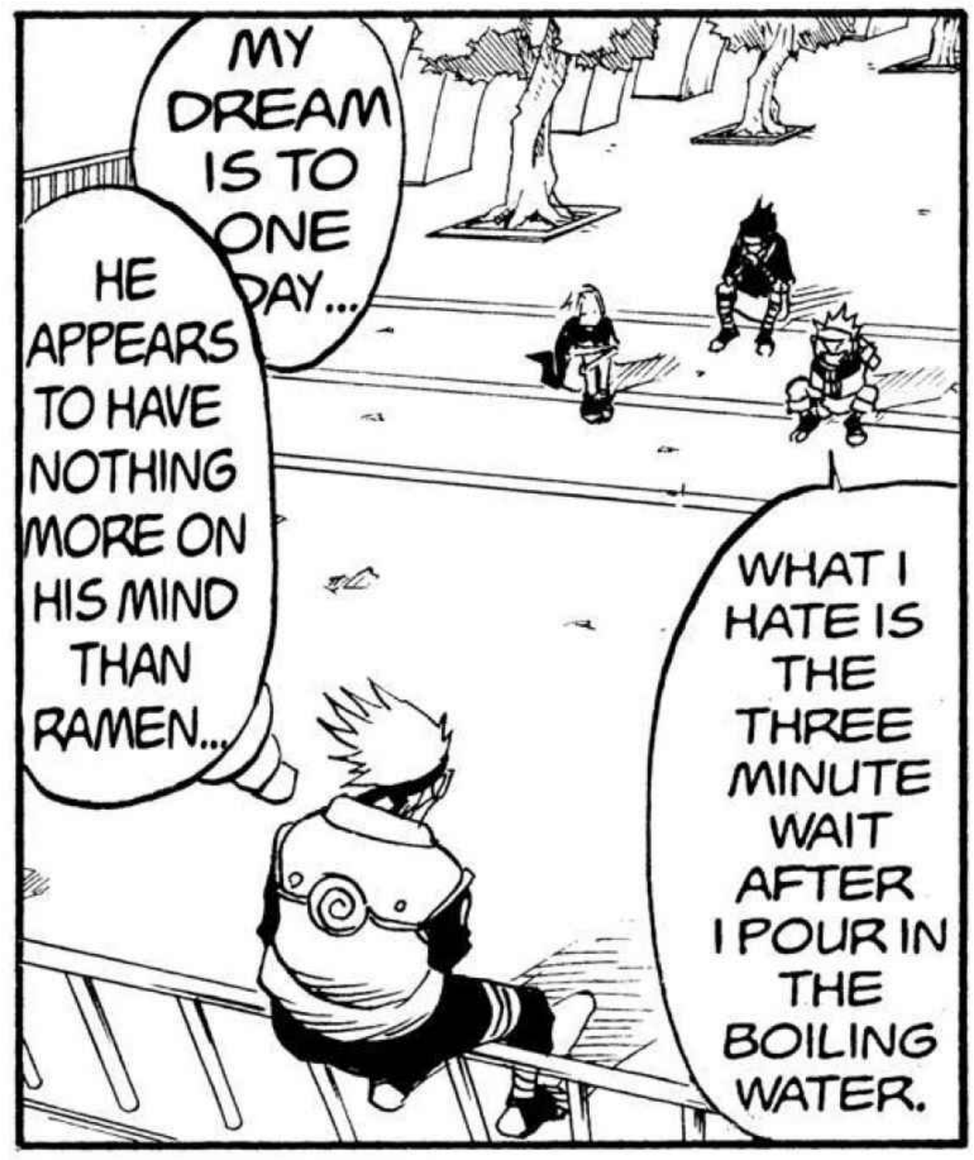
THAT'S RIGHT... AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A COMPLETE STRANGER TO US... A MYSTERY.
HELP US OUT HERE, COACH. YOU GO FIRST. SHOW US HOW IT'S DONE.

DREAMS, AMBITIONS, HOBBIES. THINGS LIKE THAT.
....YOU KNOW. THE USUAL. YOUR FAVORITE THING... WHAT YOU HATE MOST...


MY DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE ARE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS... BUT ANYWAY, I HAVE LOTS OF HOBBIES...
OH..... ME? MY NAME IS HATAKE KAKASHI. I'M THE KIND OF PERSON WHO DOESN'T FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT HIS LIKES AND DISLIKES!

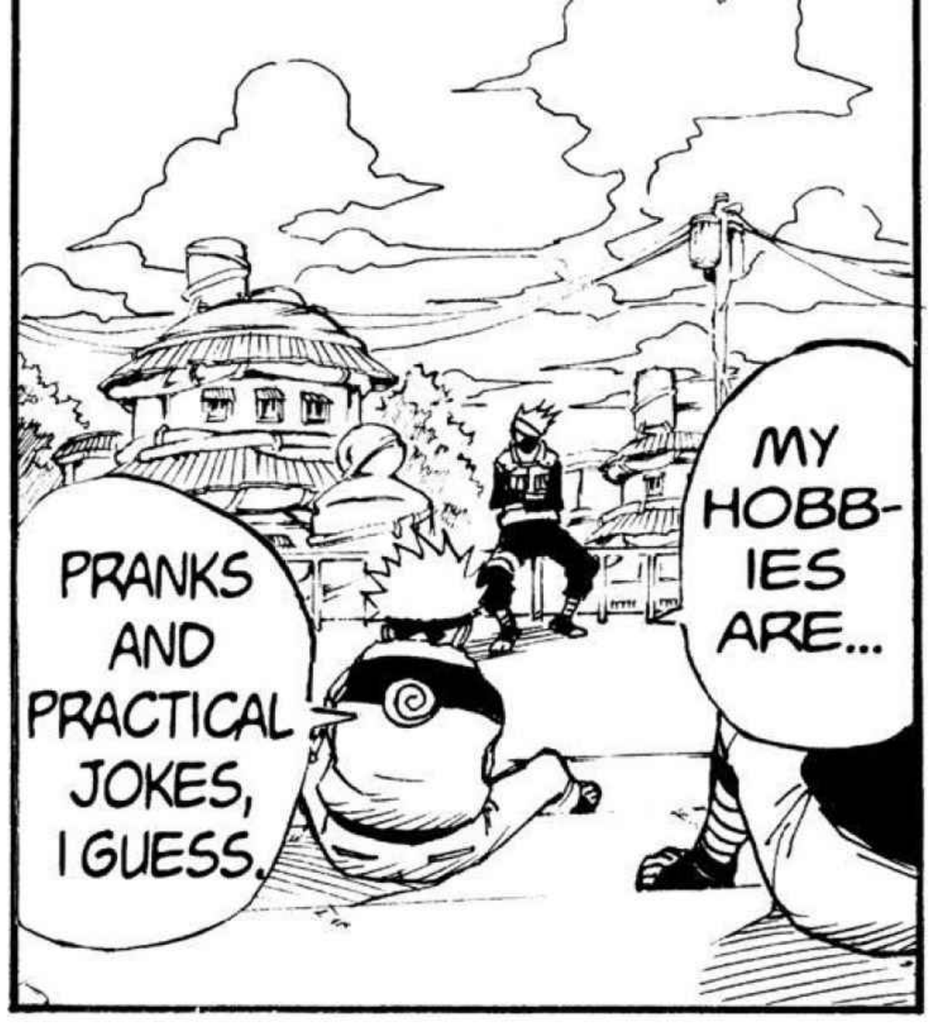
NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN. STARTING WITH YOU ON THE RIGHT.


... BUT ALL WE REALLY LEARNED WAS HIS NAME.
HEY... HE SAID A LOT....


MY DREAM IS TO ONE DAY...
HE APPEARS TO HAVE NOTHING MORE ON HIS MIND THAN RAMEN...
WHAT I HATE IS THE THREE MINUTE WAIT AFTER I POUR IN THE BOILING WATER.

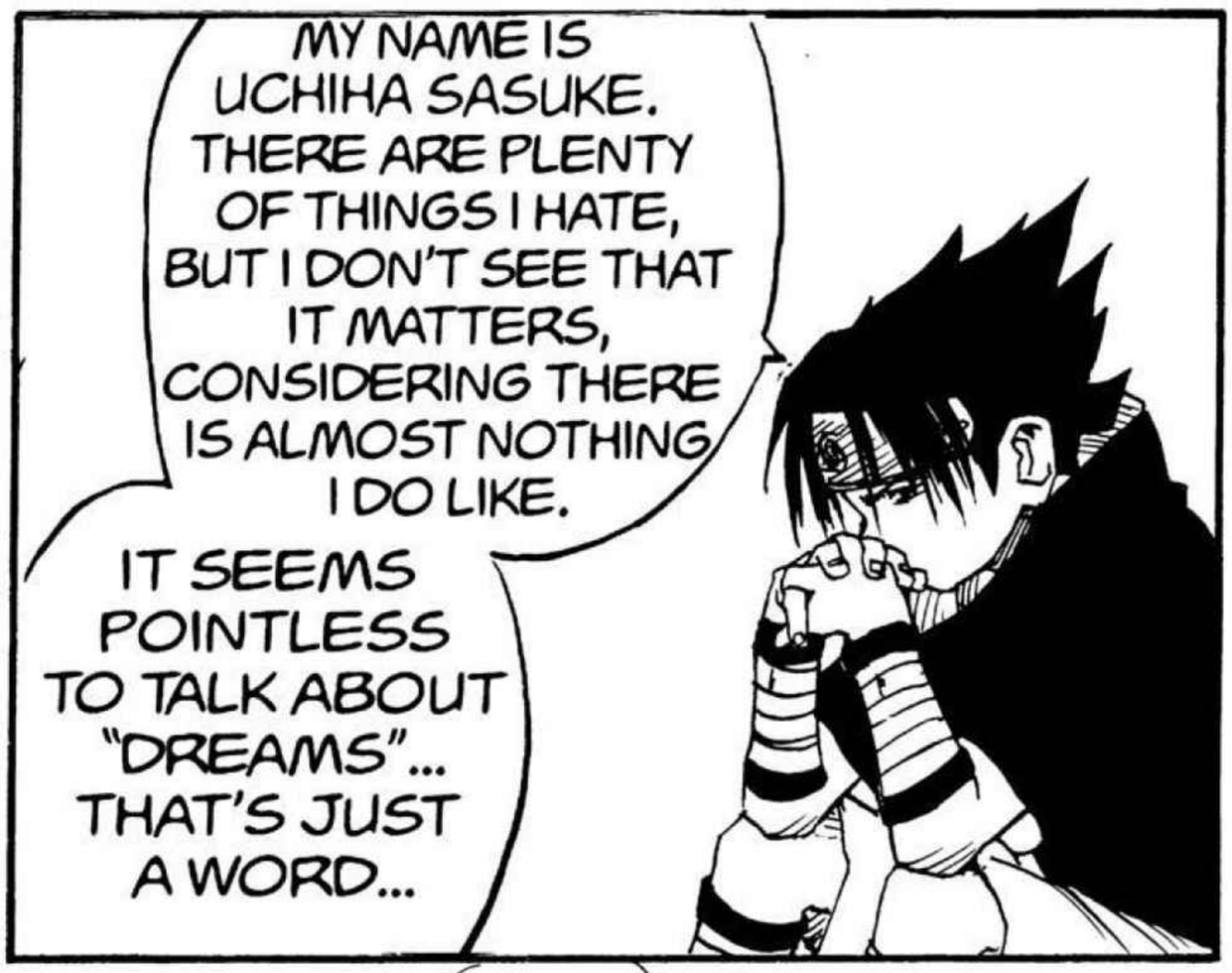
WHAT I LIKE EVEN BETTER IS WHEN MASTER IRUKA TREATS ME TO RAMEN AT THE ICHIRAKU NOODLE BAR!!
ME, RIGHT?! MY NAME IS UZUMAKI NARUTO! WHAT I LIKE IS INSTANT CUP RAMEN!

AND THEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE AT LAST!!
...BE A BETTER SHINOBI THAN LORD HOKAGE!!


MY HOBBIES ARE...
PRANKS AND PRACTICAL JOKES, I GUESS.

WELL, HASN'T HE TURNED OUT INTERESTING...

...BUT WHAT I DO HAVE IS DETERMINATION. I PLAN TO RESTORE MY CLAN. AND THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN...

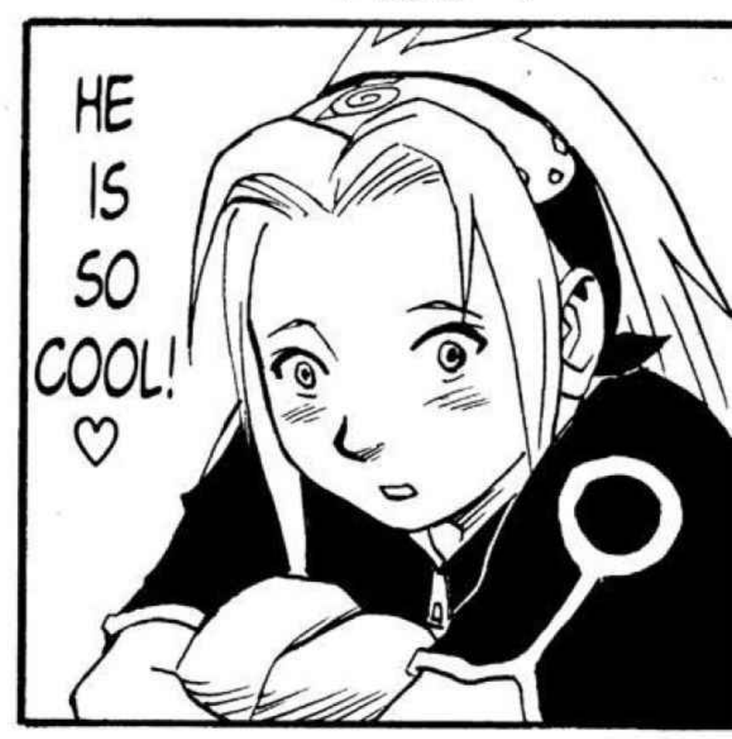

MY NAME IS UCHIHA SASUKE. THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS I HATE, BUT I DON'T SEE THAT IT MATTERS, CONSIDERING THERE IS ALMOST NOTHING I DO LIKE.
IT SEEMS POINTLESS TO TALK ABOUT "DREAMS"... THAT'S JUST A WORD...

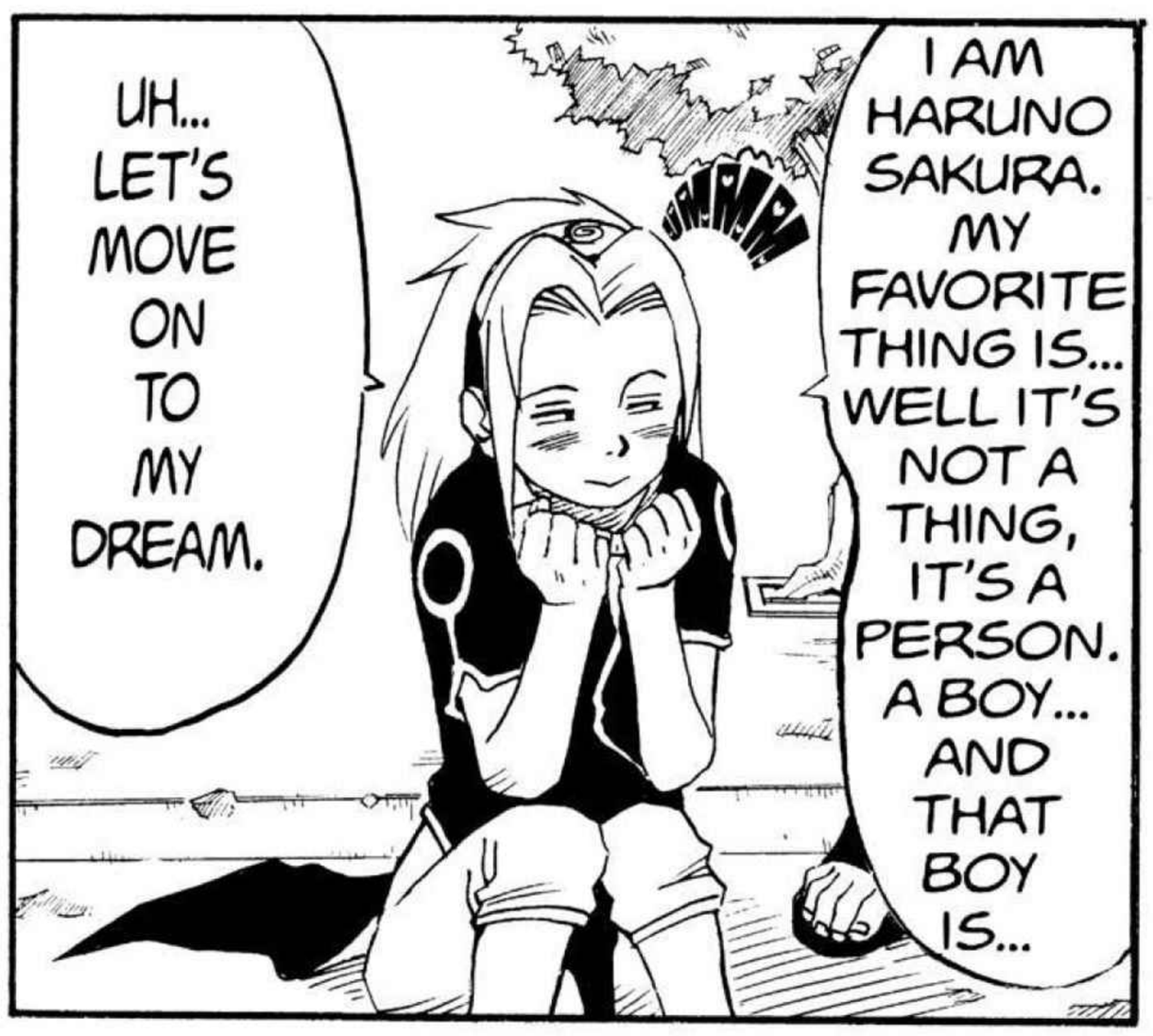
I SEE...
NEXT!

...TO KILL.

.....
...I SUS-PEC-TED AS MUCH...

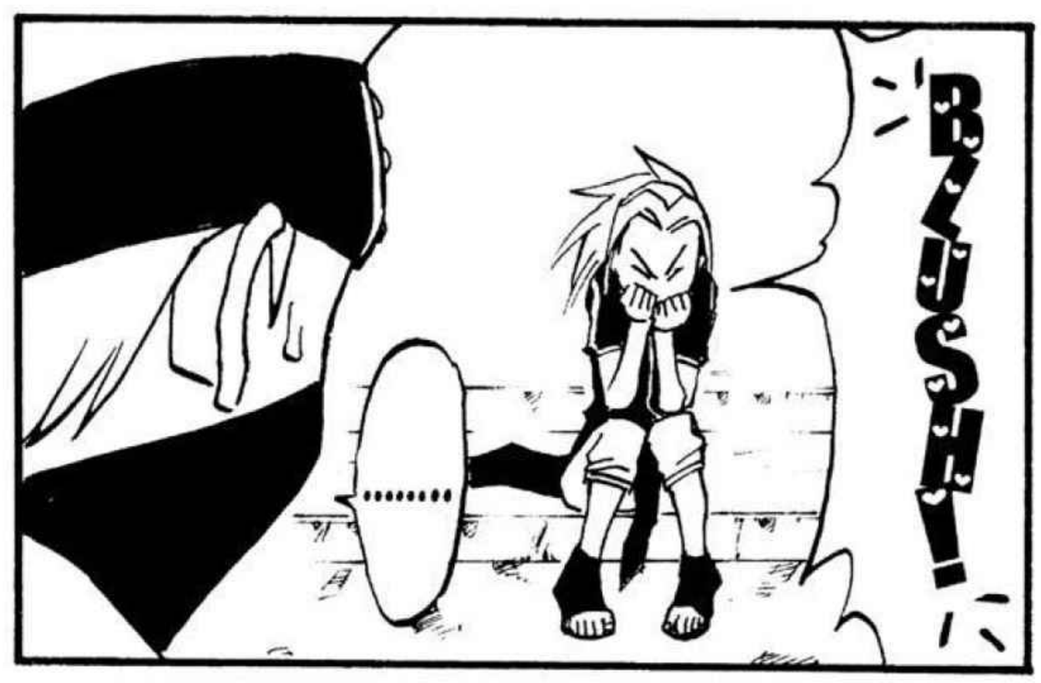
SURE HOPE IT'S NOT ME...


HE IS SO COOL! ♡


UH... LET'S MOVE ON TO MY DREAM.
I AM HARUNO SAKURA. MY FAVORITE THING IS... WELL IT'S NOT A THING, IT'S A PERSON. A BOY... AND THAT BOY IS...

THE YOUNG LADY..
AND FINALLY...

MY HOB-BIES ARE...
UMMM
WHAT?!


.....
BANGSH!

...NARUTO!
I HATE...

ENOUGH.

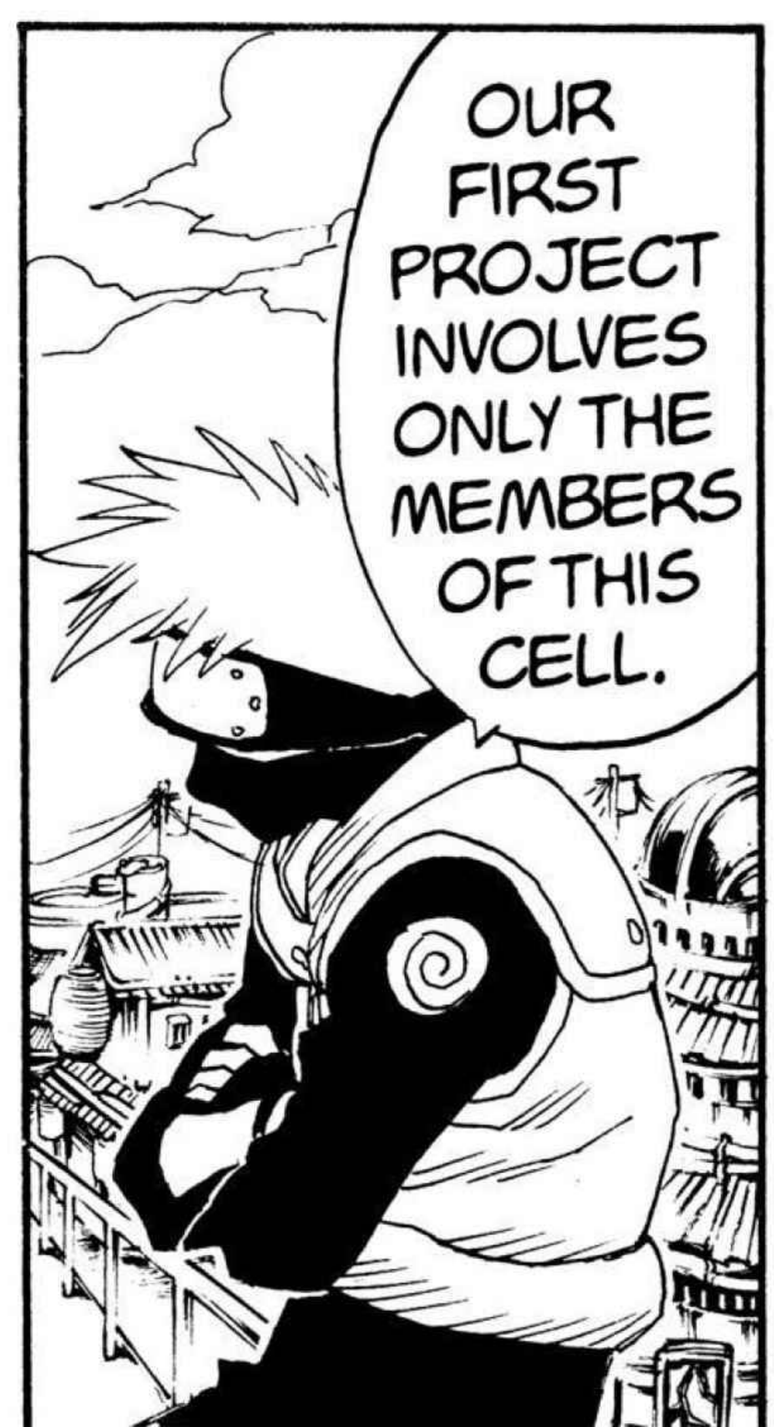
...ARE MORE INTERESTED IN LOVE THAN NINJUTSU...
IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOUNG GIRLS...

OUR FIRST REAL SHINOBI MISSION!
SNAP!
YES, SIR!
BOY-
OH-
BOY!
WHAT WILL OUR DUTIES BE?!

I BELIEVE WE ALL UNDER-STAND ONE ANOTHER.
FORMAL TRAINING BEGINS TOMORROW.

SURVIVAL EXERCISES.

WHAT?
WHAT IS IT?


OUR FIRST PROJECT INVOLVES ONLY THE MEMBERS OF THIS CELL.

OUR SCHOOL DAYS WERE FULL OF SURVIVAL TRAINING!

BUT WHY WOULD THAT BE A MISSION?

.....

SURVIVAL EXERCISES?

?

IT WON'T BE YOUR TYPICAL PRACTICE.

BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SURVIVE... AGAINST ME.

?

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT, MASTER KAKASHI?

.....

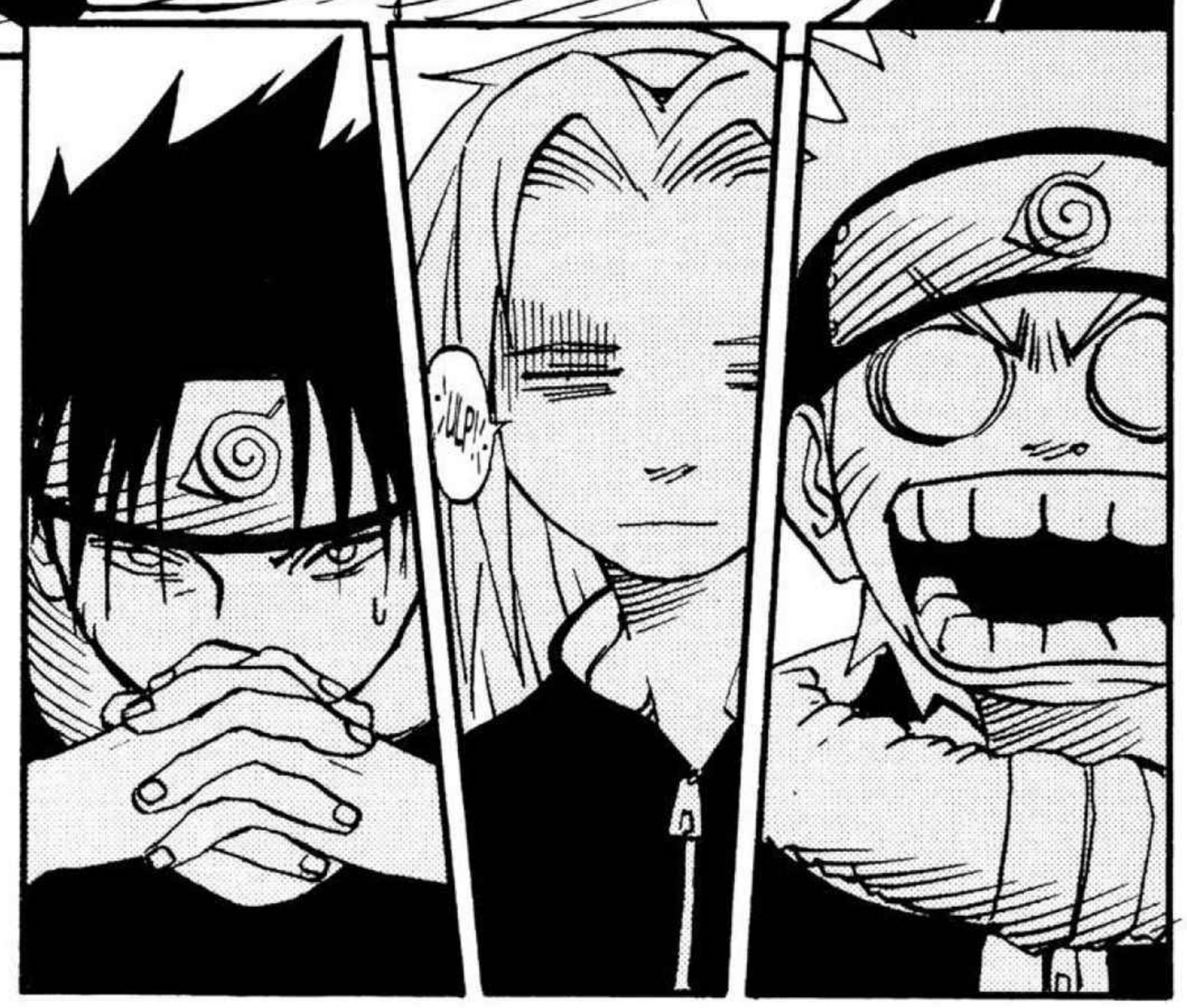
SNURF...

WELL, THEN, WHAT KIND OF PRACTICE WILL IT BE?

THE TEST WE ARE ABOUT TO PERFORM HAS A 66% RATE OF FAILURE.

OF THE TWENTY-SEVEN MEMBERS OF YOUR GRADUATING CLASS, ONLY NINE WILL ACTUALLY BE ACCEPTED AS JUNIOR-LEVEL SHINOBI.

THE OTHER EIGHTEEN MUST GO BACK FOR MORE TRAINING.



OH! WE WANTED TO ELIMINATE ALL THE HOPELESS CASES FROM YOUR RANKS. THE ONES WHO ARE LEFT ARE THE ONLY STUDENTS WHO SHOW TRUE POTENTIAL.

SAY WHAT?!!

WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH HELL! WHAT ABOUT OUR GRADUATION TEST?!

SIZZLE

THAT SUCKS!!!

AND DON'T HAVE BREAKFAST BEFORE-HAND... UNLESS YOU ENJOY THROWING UP.

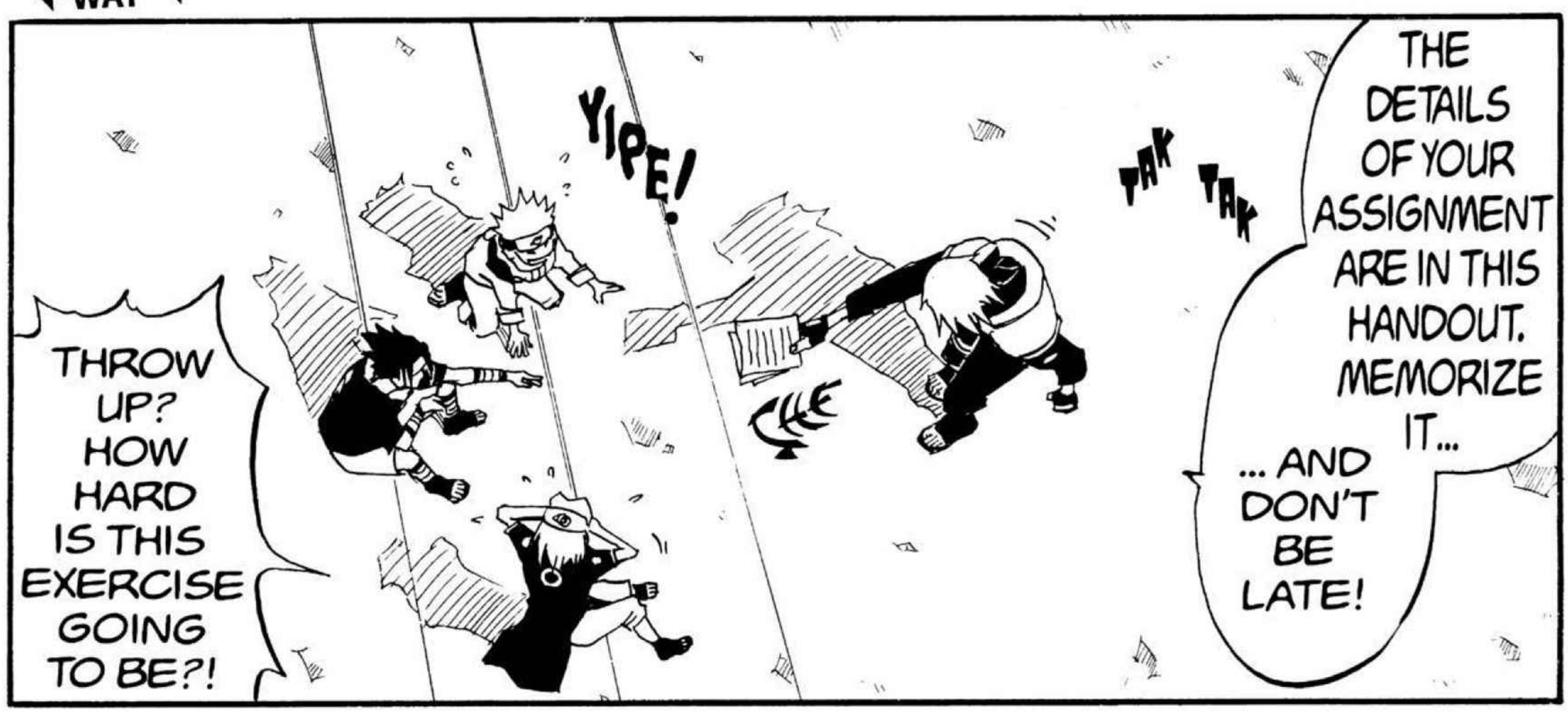
BUT... BUT... BUT...

BRING ALL OF YOUR NINJA TOOLS AND WEAPONS.

IN ANY EVENT, WE'LL MEET TOMORROW MORNING ON THE PRACTICE FIELD SO THAT I CAN EVALUATE EACH OF YOUR SKILLS AND WEAKNESSES.

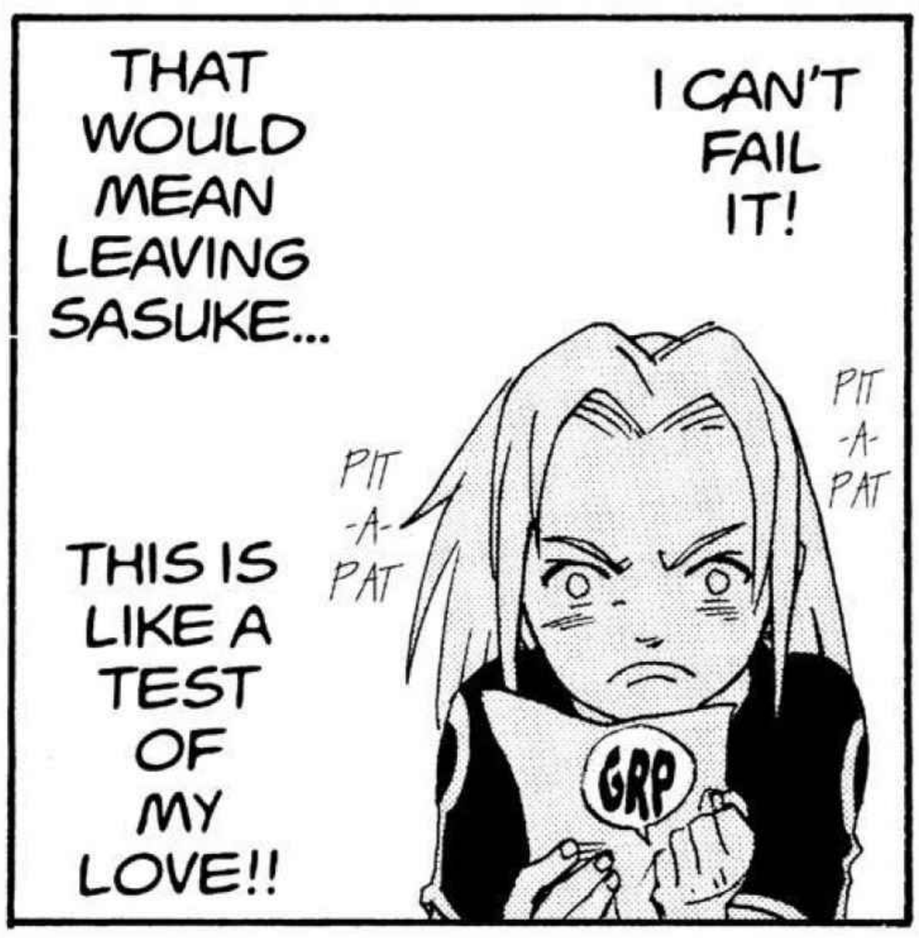
I'LL KICK MASTER KAKASHI'S ASS! **THEN** I'LL GET SOME RESPECT! **YEAH!**

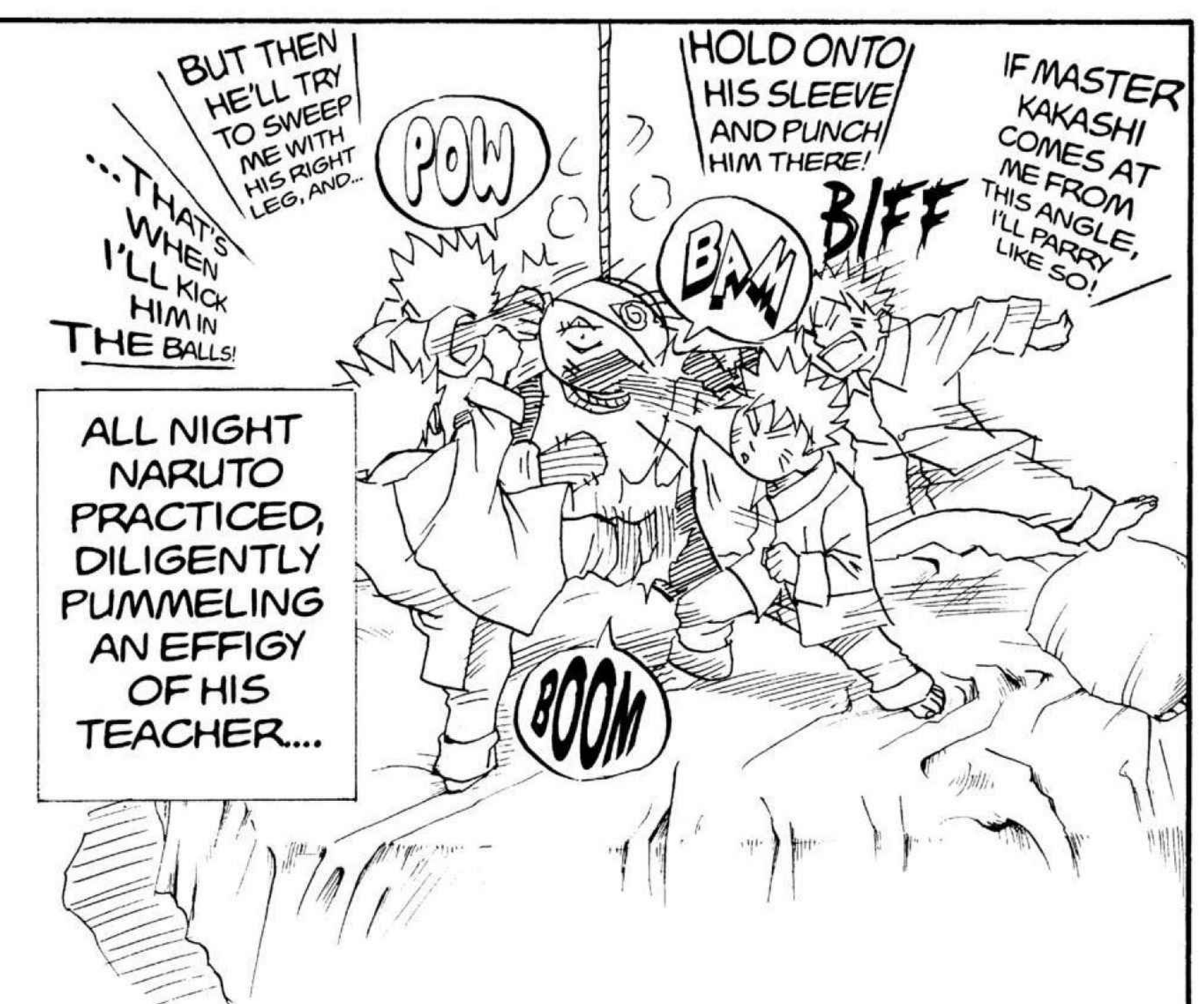
NO WAY WILL I LET THIS SET ME BACK.


THROW UP? HOW HARD IS THIS EXERCISE GOING TO BE?!
YIPE!
TAK TAK
THE DETAILS OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT ARE IN THIS HANDOUT. MEMORIZE IT...
... AND DON'T BE LATE!

LUB-DUB LUB-DUB
AWW, MAN! IT'S ALL IN KANJI!
HMMMM...

HUH!
.....
KRUMPLE

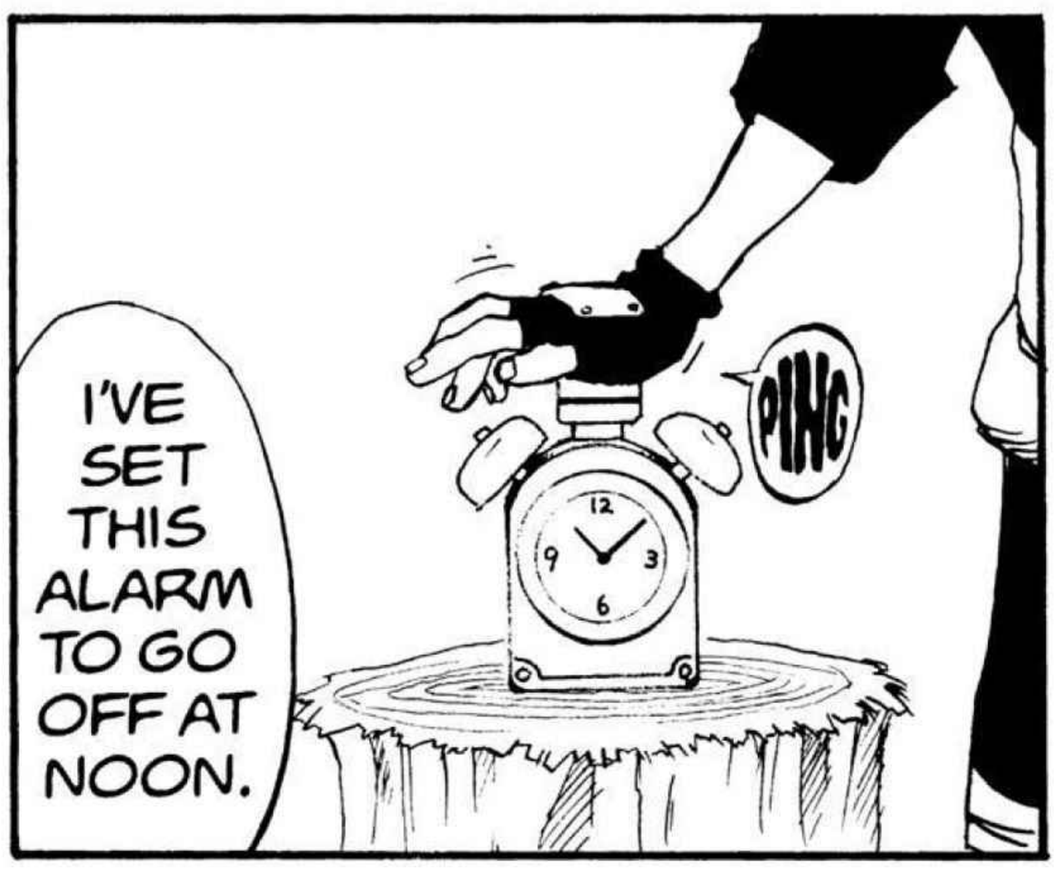

THAT WOULD MEAN LEAVING SASUKE...
I CAN'T FAIL IT!
PIT-A-PAT
PIT-A-PAT
THIS IS LIKE A TEST OF MY LOVE!!
GRP

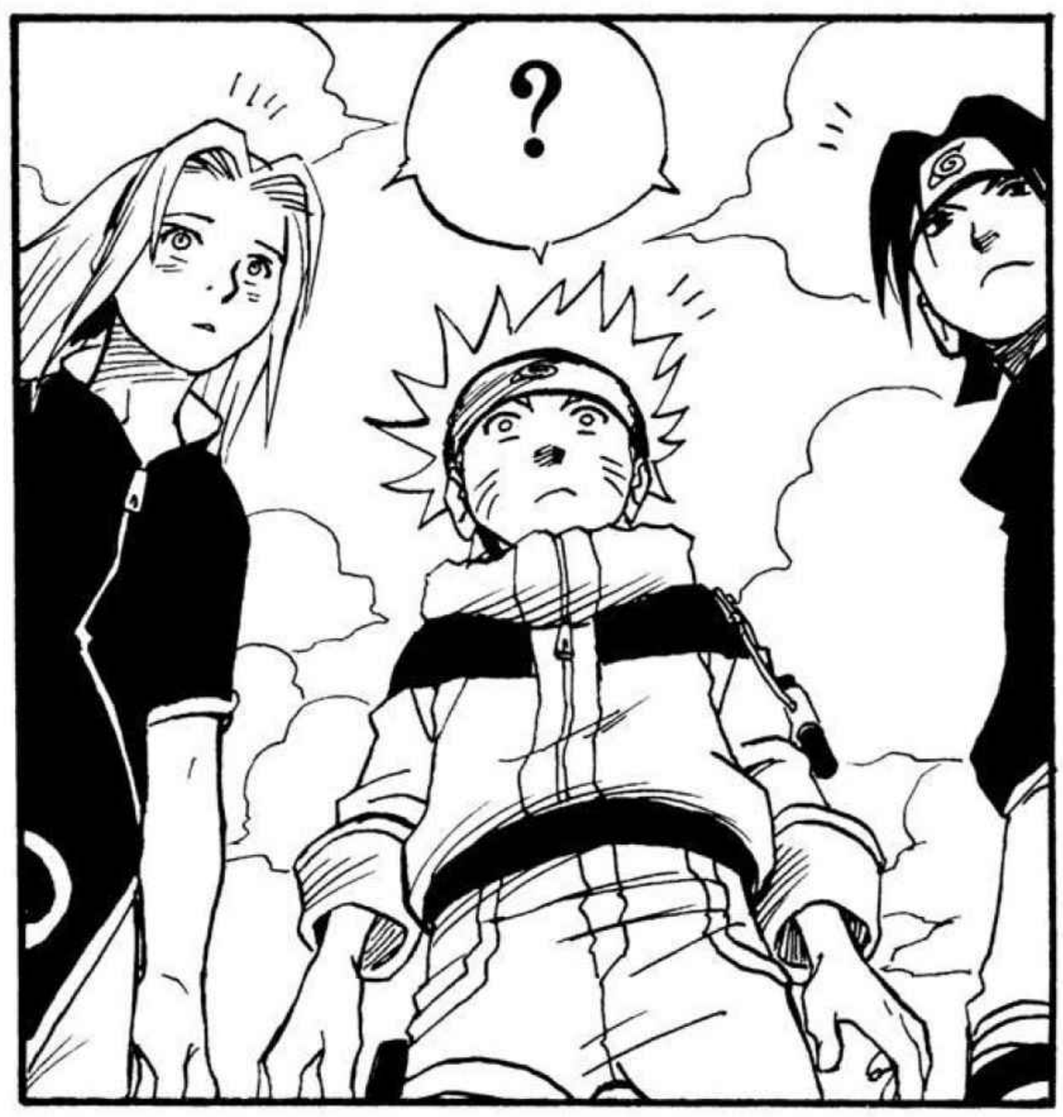

...THAT'S WHEN I'LL KICK HIM IN THE BALLS!
BUT THEN HE'LL TRY TO SWEEP ME WITH HIS RIGHT LEG, AND...
POW
HOLD ONTO HIS SLEEVE AND PUNCH HIM THERE!
BAM
BIFF
IF MASTER KAKASHI COMES AT ME FROM THIS ANGLE, I'LL PARRY LIKE SO!
BOOM
ALL NIGHT NARUTO PRACTICED, DILIGENTLY PUMMELING AN EFFIGY OF HIS TEACHER....

YOU'RE LATE!!!!

GOOD MORNING, CLASS!

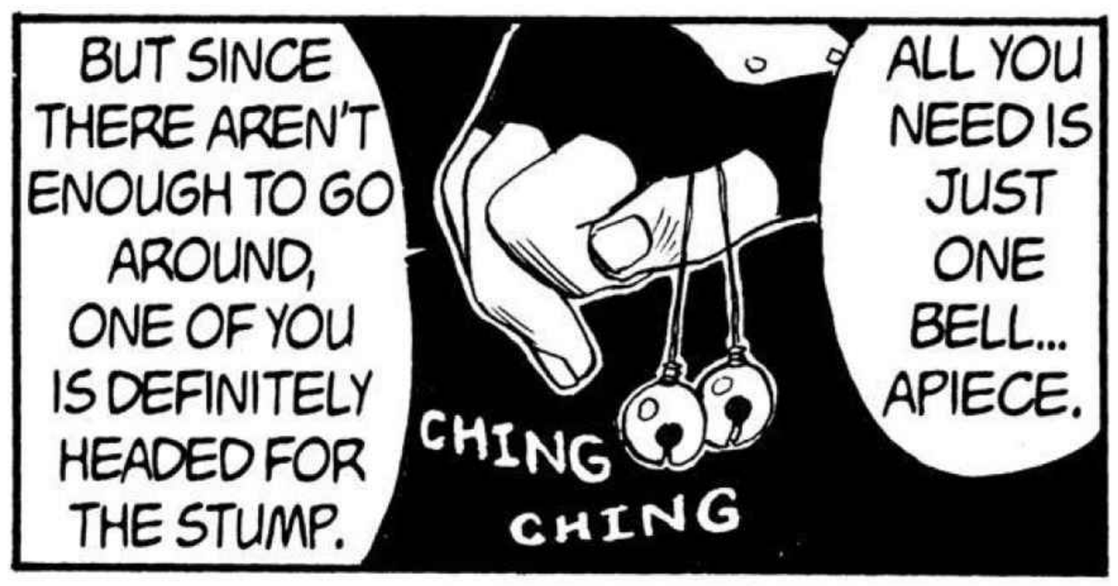
THE NEXT DAY

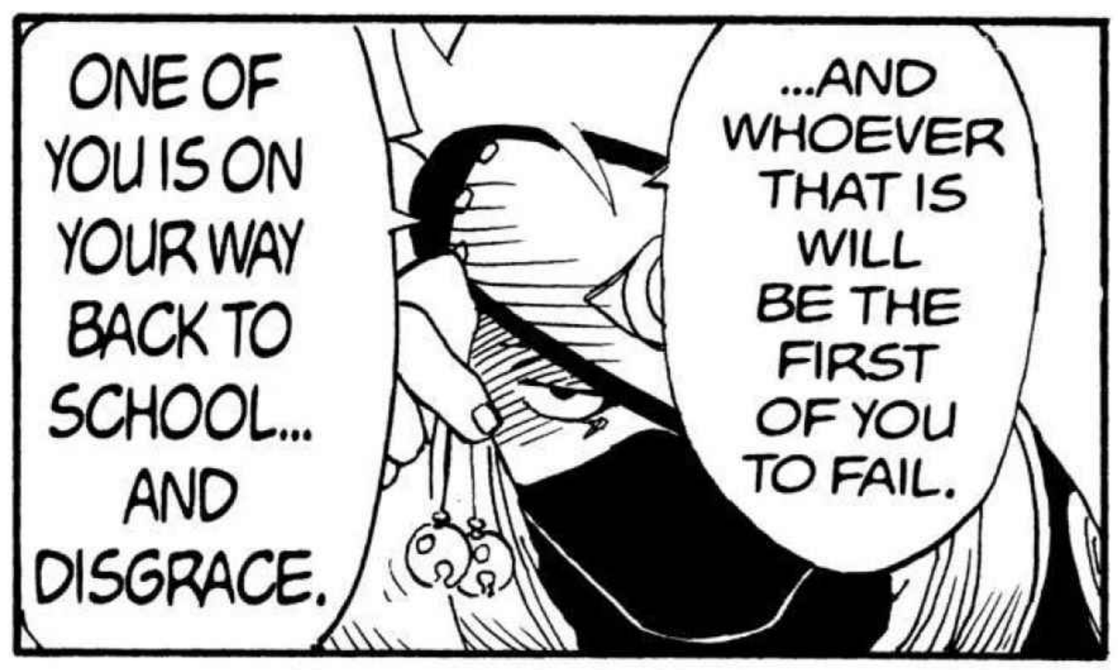




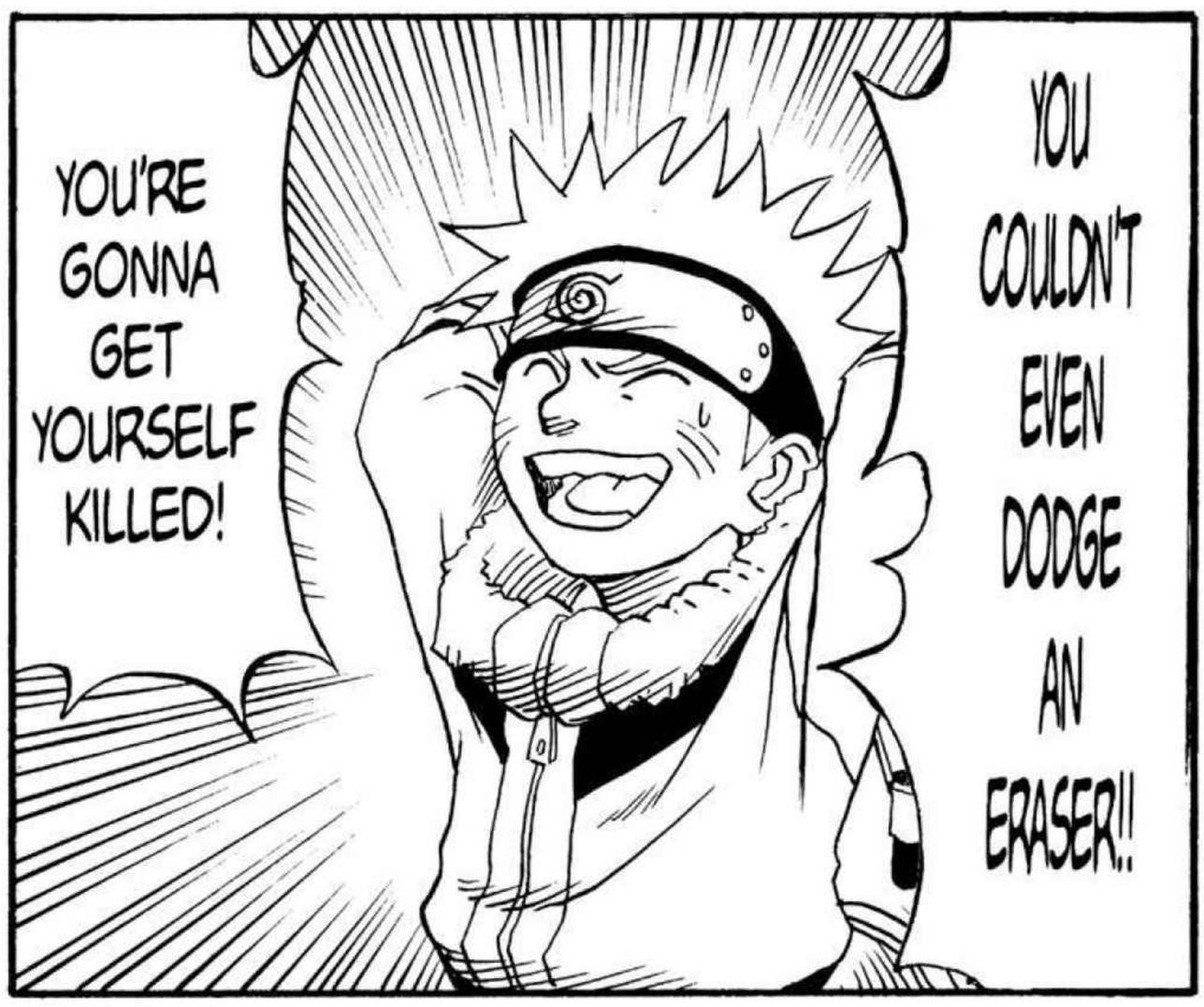
READ THIS WAY
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED US TO GO WITHOUT BREAKFAST!
AAWWWW..!
GRRRRROWL
INSTEAD, YOU WILL BE TIED TO THAT TREE STUMP, SO I CAN EAT YOUR LUNCH IN FRONT OF YOU.
ANYONE WHO FAILS...
...DOESN'T GET ANY LUNCH.

-ULP-


BUT SINCE THERE AREN'T ENOUGH TO GO AROUND, ONE OF YOU IS DEFINITELY HEADED FOR THE STUMP.
CHING CHING
ALL YOU NEED IS JUST ONE BELL... APIECE.


ONE OF YOU IS ON YOUR WAY BACK TO SCHOOL... AND DISGRACE.
...AND WHOEVER THAT IS WILL BE THE FIRST OF YOU TO FAIL.

ATTACK AS THOUGH YOU MEAN TO KILL OR YOU'LL NEVER STAND A CHANCE.
SNAP
YOU MAY, IF YOU CHOOSE, USE SHURIKEN.


YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURSELF KILLED!
YOU COULDN'T EVEN DODGE AN ERASER!!

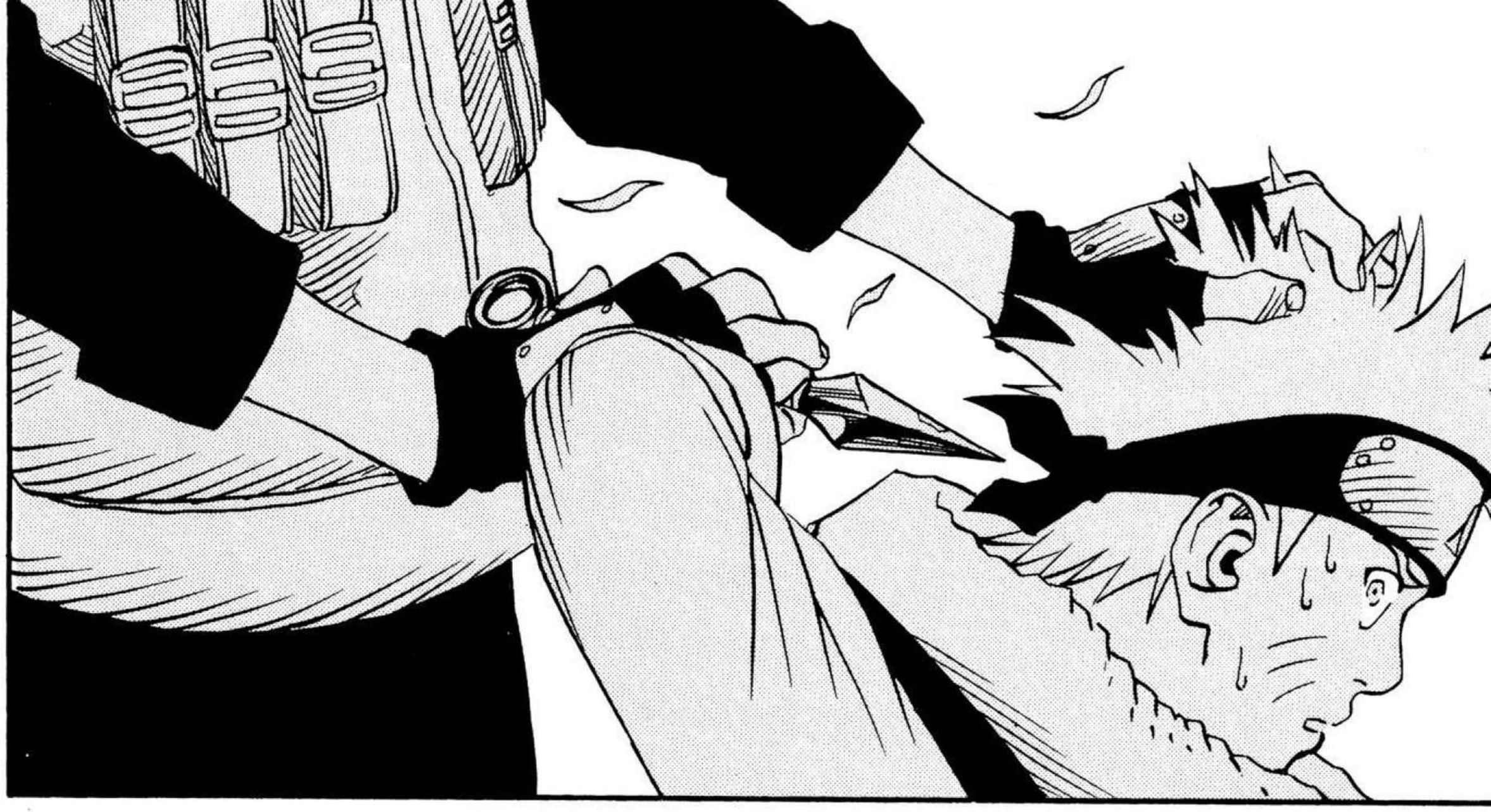
BUT THAT'S SO DANGEROUS!
BUT...

DUNCE DUNCE DUNCE DUNCE DUNCE!
DUNCE!
ARRGH

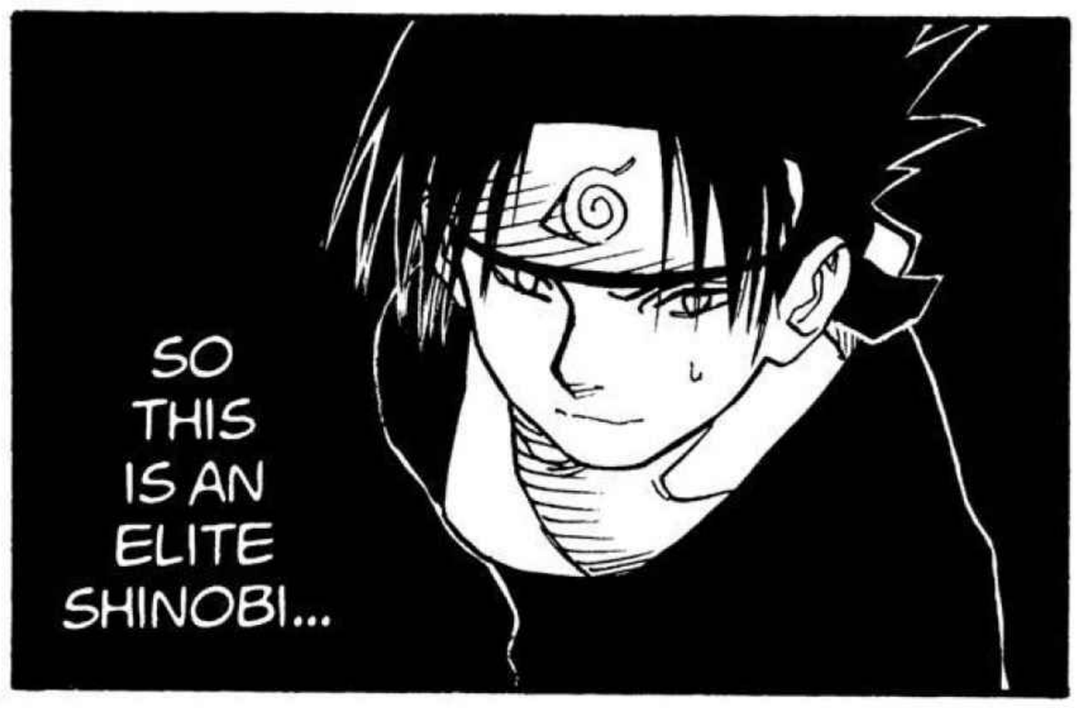
MUST YOU TALK SO BIG?
ONLY THE WEAK SPEAK LOUDLY.
NOW, LET'S FORGET THE DUNCE, AND WE'LL START ON MY SIGNAL!

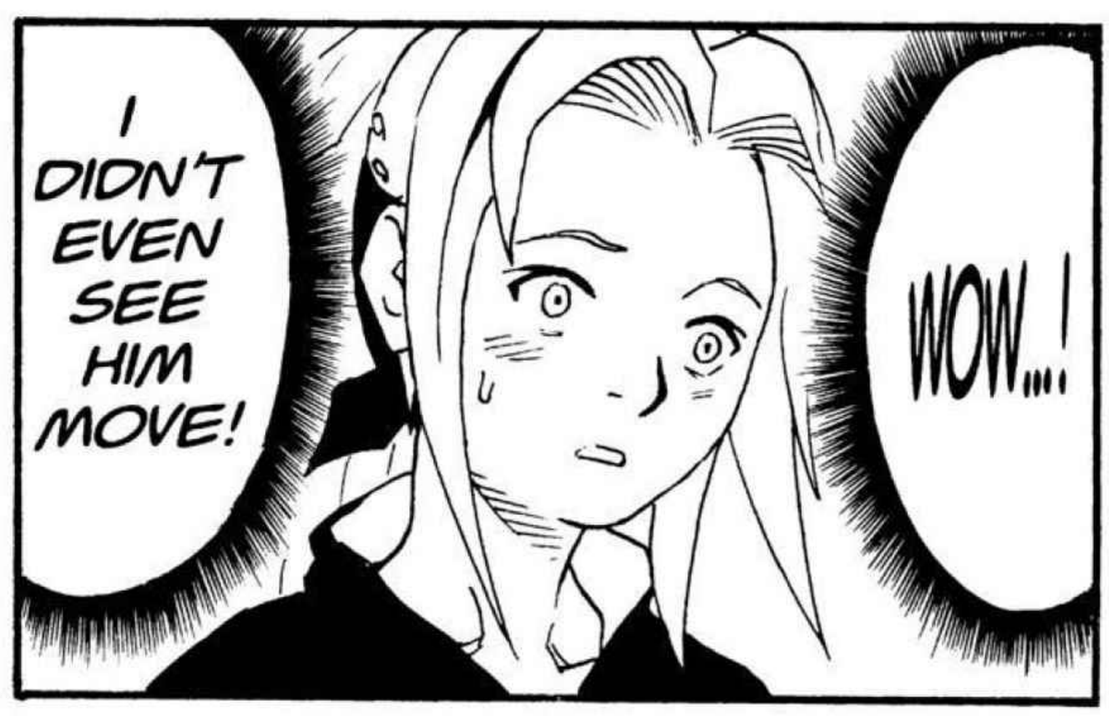
SWUP
TING
TWING

SHIKOU
-¡GASP!¡-
PING
SMAK
SLAP



I DIDN'T SAY, "GO."
NOT SO FAST.


SO THIS IS AN ELITE SHINOBI...


I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIM MOVE!
WOW...!

READ THIS WAY
SO, IT SEEMS YOU'VE BEGUN TO RESPECT ME.
BUT AT LEAST YOU STRUCK TO KILL...
...AND NOW... READY...
...STEADY...
OHHH WOW
I'M START-ING TO LIKE YOU THREE.
...JUST MAYBE...
HEH-HEH-HEH.... MAYBE....
GO!!!

The Kakashi That Might Have Been

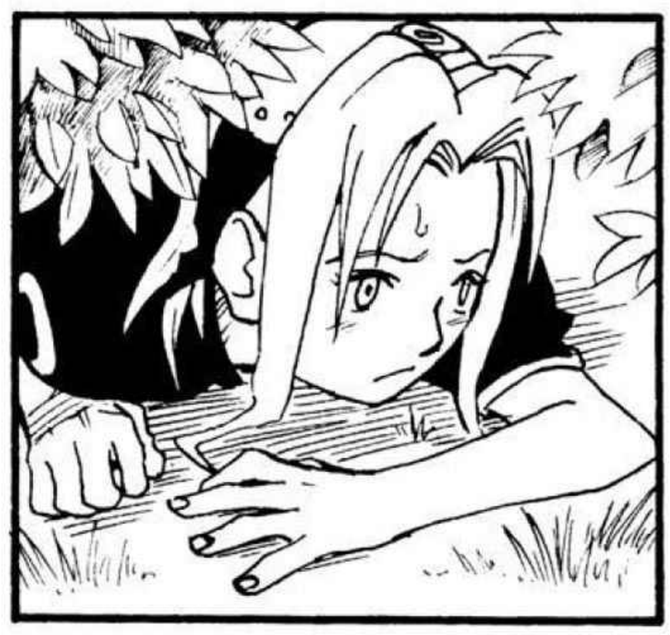
The Rejected Outline for the Second Chapter

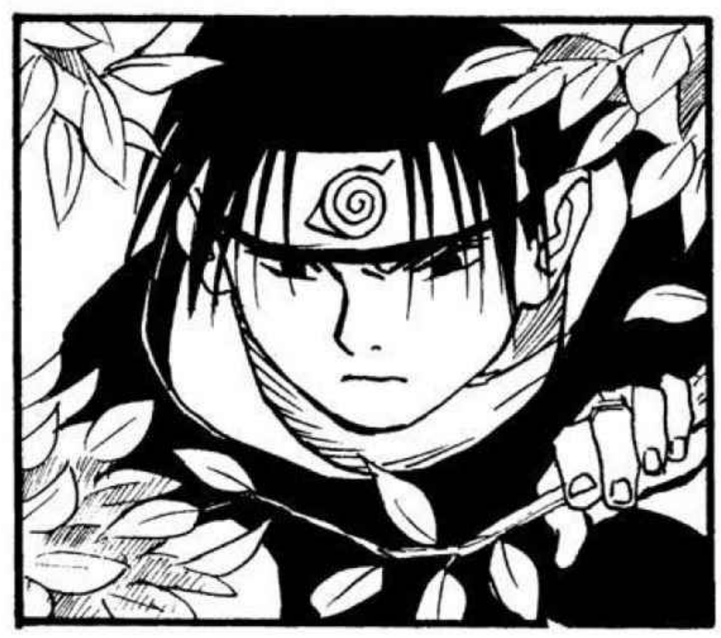
My original plan for Kakashi's first appearance was to have him show up in the second chapter of **Naruto** (see **page #61**). He was meant to be a cool, affected, upper-level ninja who ended sentences (in the original Japanese) with the very polite "*de gozaru*" verb form. This was going to be before Sakura and Sasuke had been introduced. Kakashi would suddenly appear on the scene as Naruto's teacher. This idea was discarded after a discussion with my editor at **Weekly Shonen Jump**. As an outgrowth of things we discussed together, I was able to flesh out Kakashi, Sasuke, and Sakura into the characters they are today.

number 5:

Pride Goeth Before a Fall

SKF
THE BASIS OF ALL SHINOBI ARTS IS TO BECOME INVISIBLE... ERADICATE YOURSELF...





ALL THREE OF THEM ARE WELL HIDDEN...

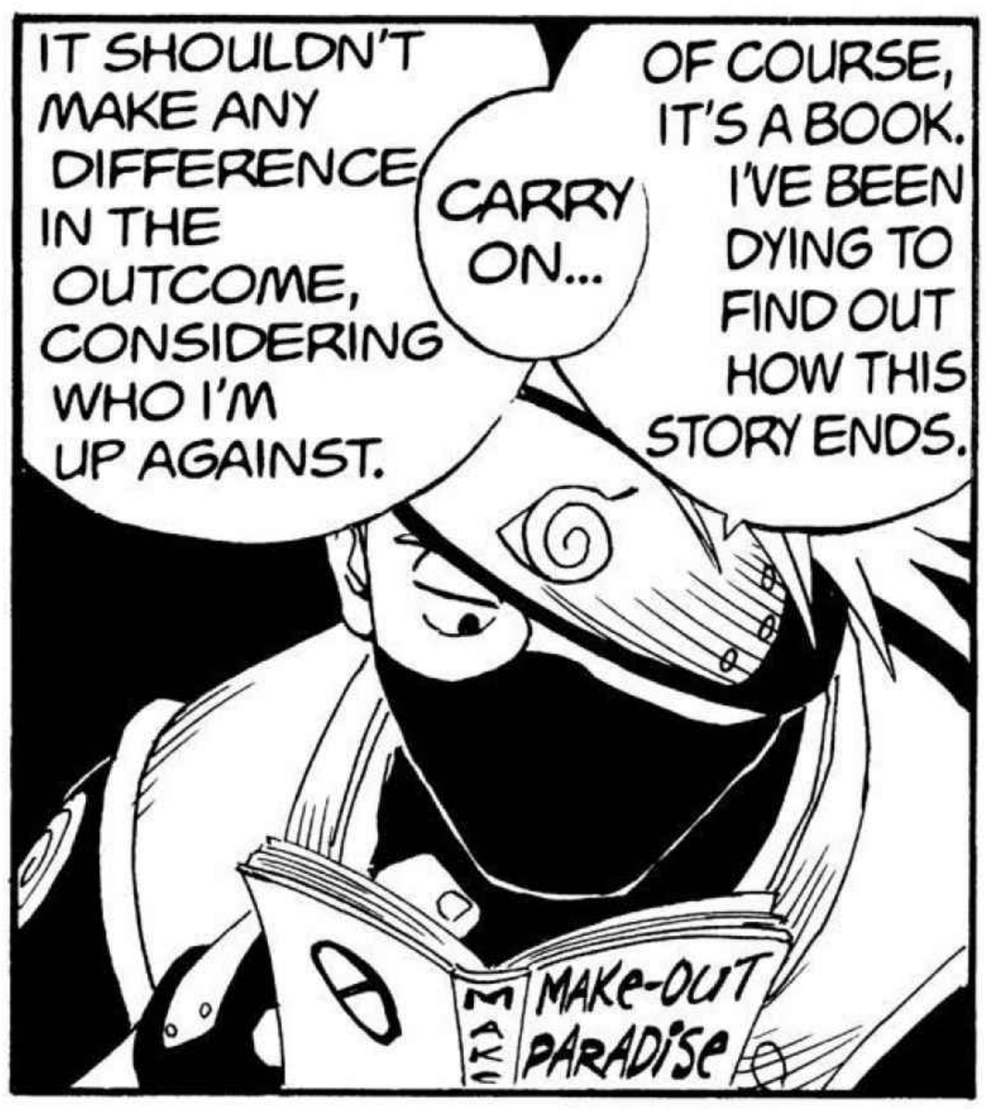
YOU MAY BE THINKING OF THE WRONG KIND OF MATCH...
.....
LET'S MAKE IT A REAL MATCH, WORTHY OF THE GREATEST WARRIORS!
THAT FOOL...

IT'S TIME FOR THE MATCH TO BEGIN!!
GRRR

SHFF
CHING CHING
RUSTLE
THE ONLY WRONG THING HERE IS YOUR HAIRSTYLE!
UH-OH!
SKREEE
!!
...HE'S GOING FOR A WEAPON?
...SO HOW COME...
THE TRAINED BODY? ISN'T THAT LIKE, HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT?
RUSTLE
SSHF
TAI-JUTSU THE ART OF THE TRAINED BODY!
LET ME TEACH YOU...
...YOUR FIRST NINJUTSU SKILL !!

FLIP FLIP

MAKE-OUT PARADISE



TAK
RRRR
!!
I'M GONNA FLATTEN YOU!
BAM
MAKE-OUT PARADISE
GRRAAA--!!
GURK!

HMF!

YAAAAH!!!

ALL RIGHT! THAT'S IT!!

CHARGE!!

TAK!

SHOWING YOUR BACK SO MANY TIMES IS VERY POOR NINJUTSU... DUNCE.

WHAT THE...?

SWUP

BUT HE COULDN'T BE!

IT'S MUCH TOO ADVANCED A TECHNIQUE TO USE AGAINST NARUTO!

HE'S USING HIS HANDS TO MAKE THE SIGN OF THE TIGER!

!

OHH--!

WHAT?

TOO LATE.

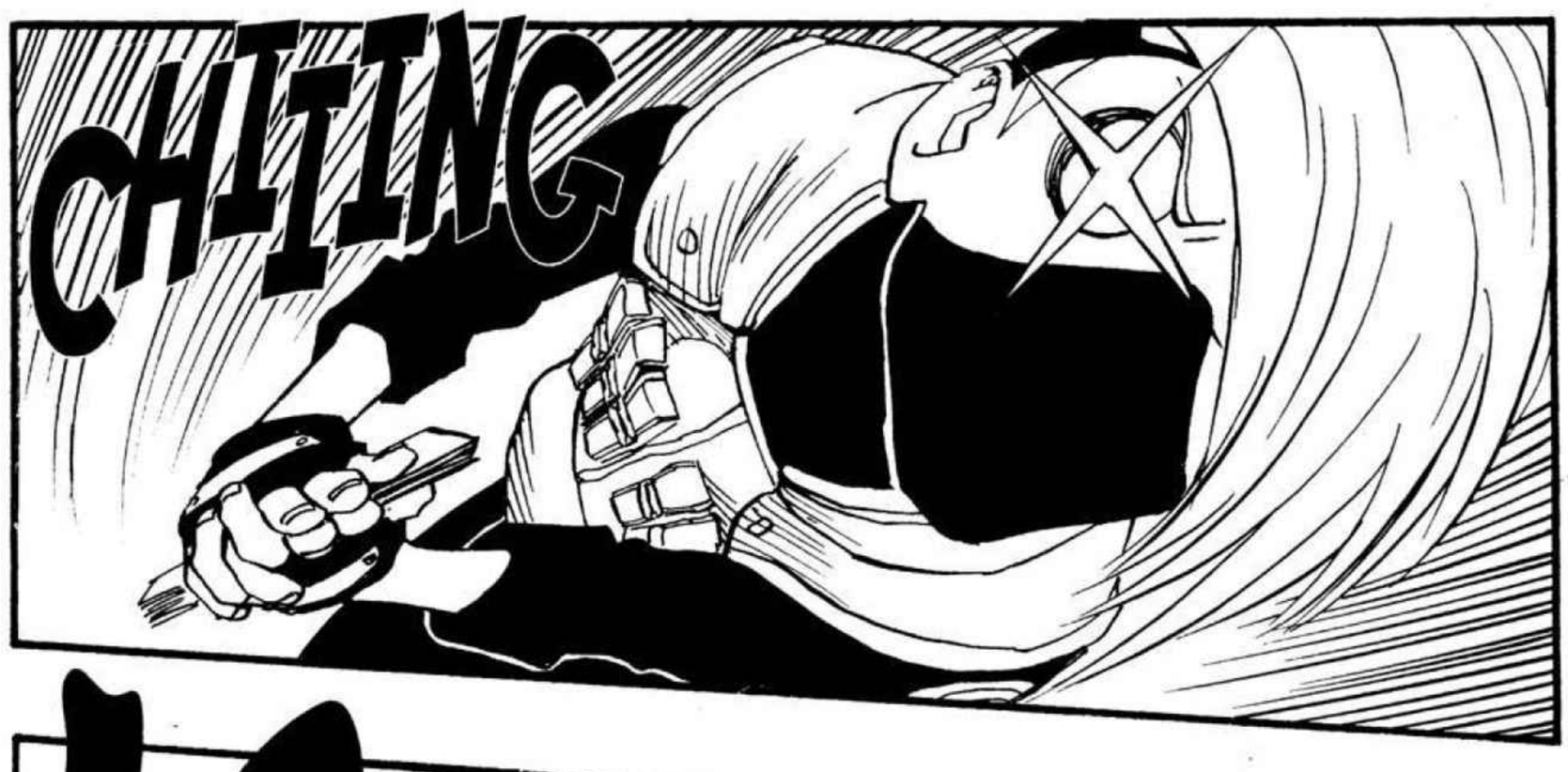
YOU'LL BE KILLED!

NARUTO---!!! GET OUT OF THERE!!!

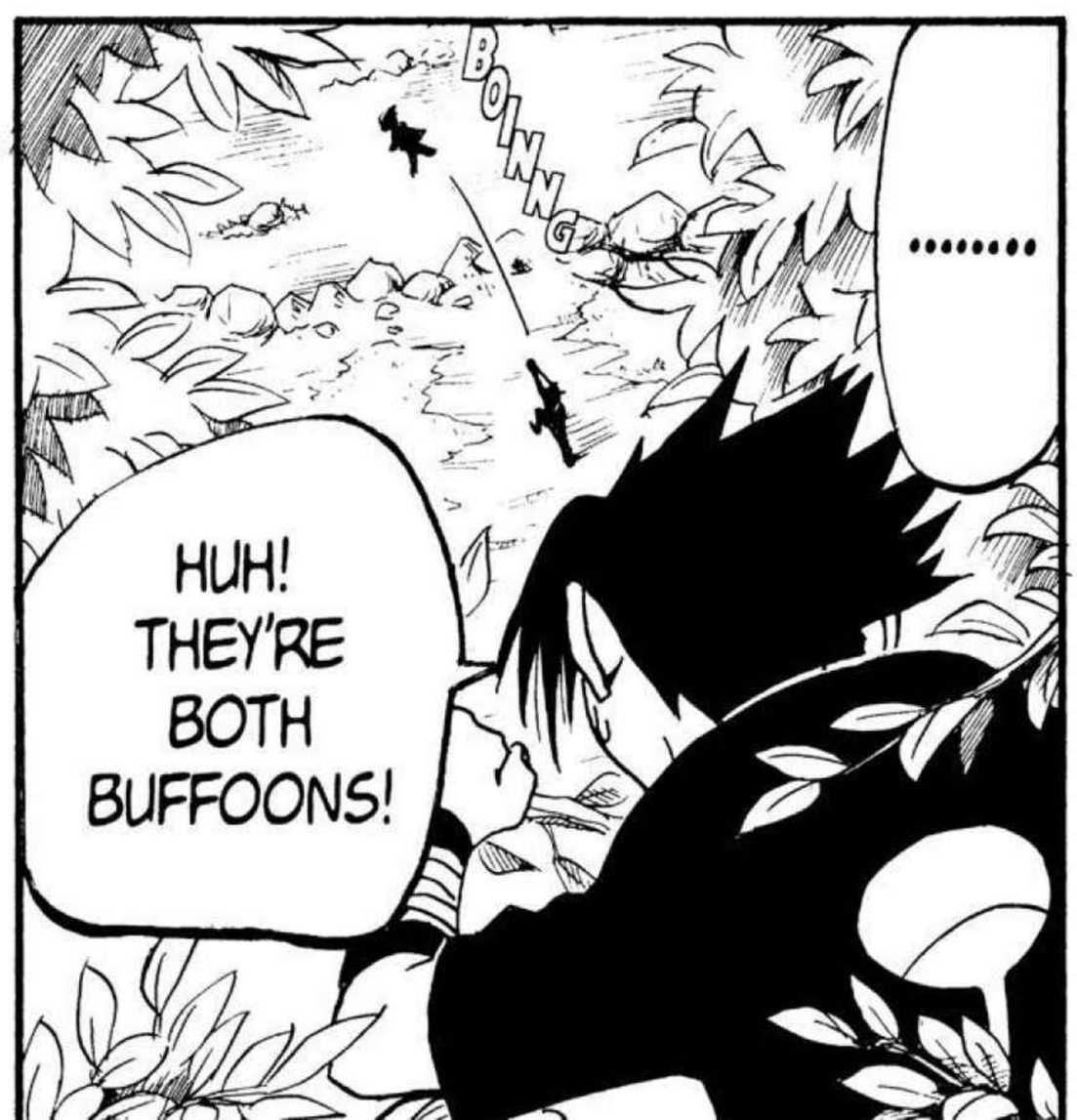
SHIF!!

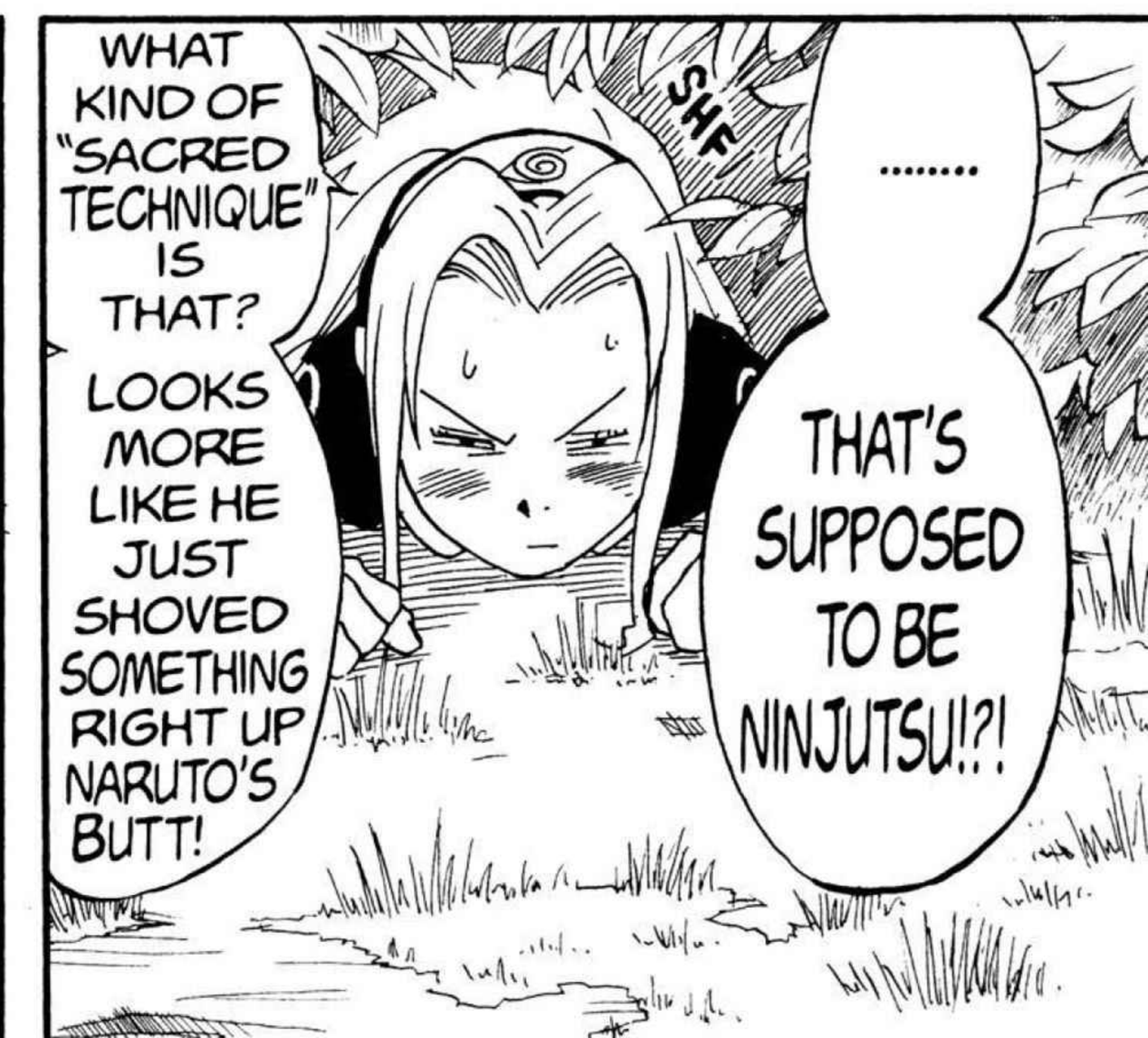
THAT DAMNED TEACHER WASN'T JUST RUNNING AROUND!!

IMPOSSIBLE... NOW HE'S MAKING THE SIGN OF FLAMES...


CHIING

KOOOO
AAAAAH
ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF DEATH!
KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE'S MOST SECRET AND MOST SACRED TECHNIQUE!!!


BOINNNG
.....
HUH! THEY'RE BOTH BUFFOONS!


WHAT KIND OF "SACRED TECHNIQUE" IS THAT?
LOOKS MORE LIKE HE JUST SHOVED SOMETHING RIGHT UP NARUTO'S BUTT!
SHF
.....
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE NINJUTSU!?!

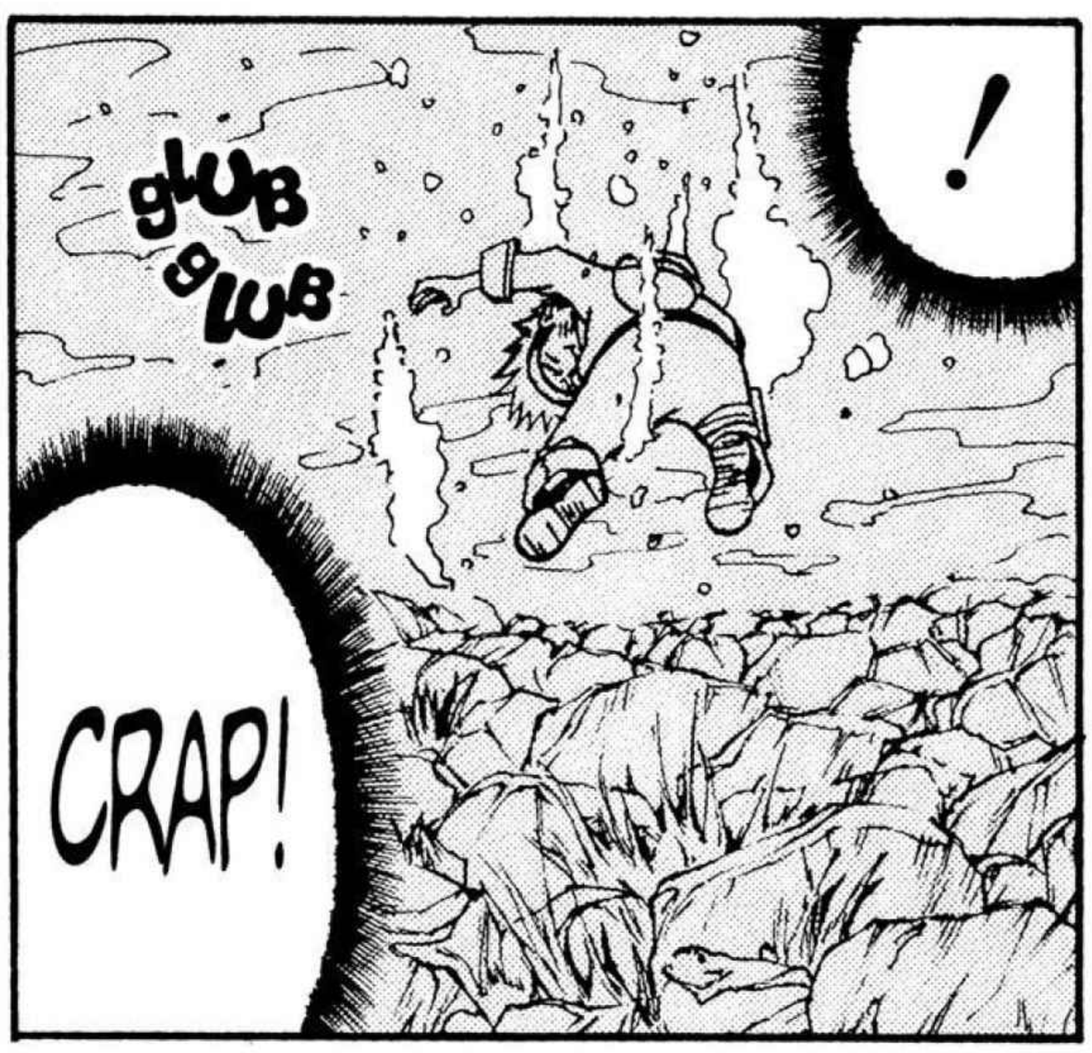
SPLOOSH

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BEAT HIM?
THAT KIND OF STRENGTH ISN'T FAIR PLAY!

...

...
FLIP
MAKE-OUT PARADISE
MAKEOUT

CHINNG
THIS ISN'T HOW THIS IS GONNA GO!
NOT LIKE THIS...
BLUP BLUP


GLUB GLUB
!
CRAP!

SLOOSH!

SPLASH!

!!

KZNG

HA HA HA HA.

....

READ THIS WAY

HE'S JUST PLAYING WITH NARUTO.

AND HE'S STILL CHUCKLING OVER HIS BOOK...

.....

BLBBBBBB

...FOR HIM, I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT. HE'S AN EXCELLENT STUDENT

NO ONE WILL EVER ACCEPT YOU!

YOU ARE THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT THAT DESTROYED THE VILLAGE!

SHF

I WILL NOT ...

GLUG

I WILL...

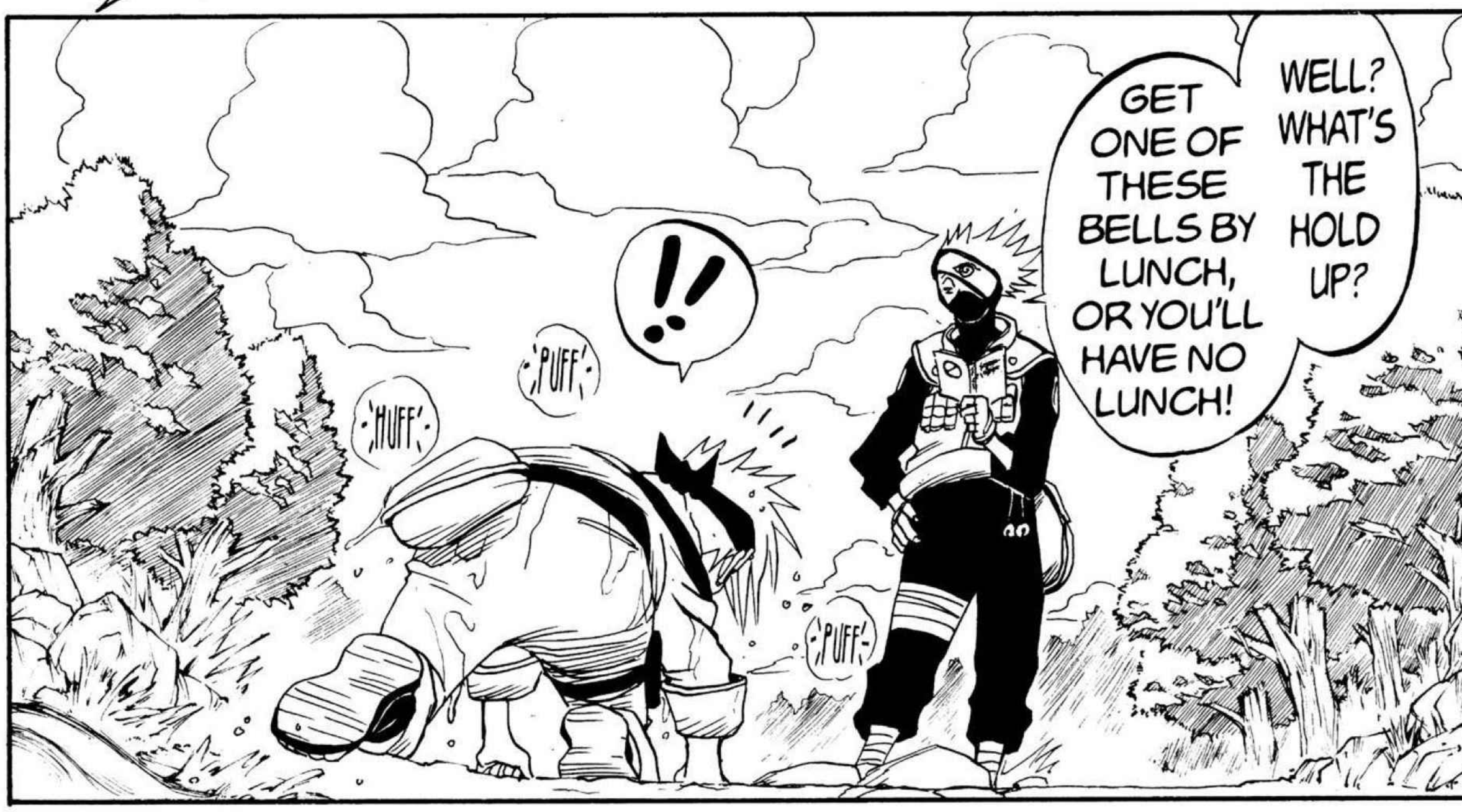
FWOOSH

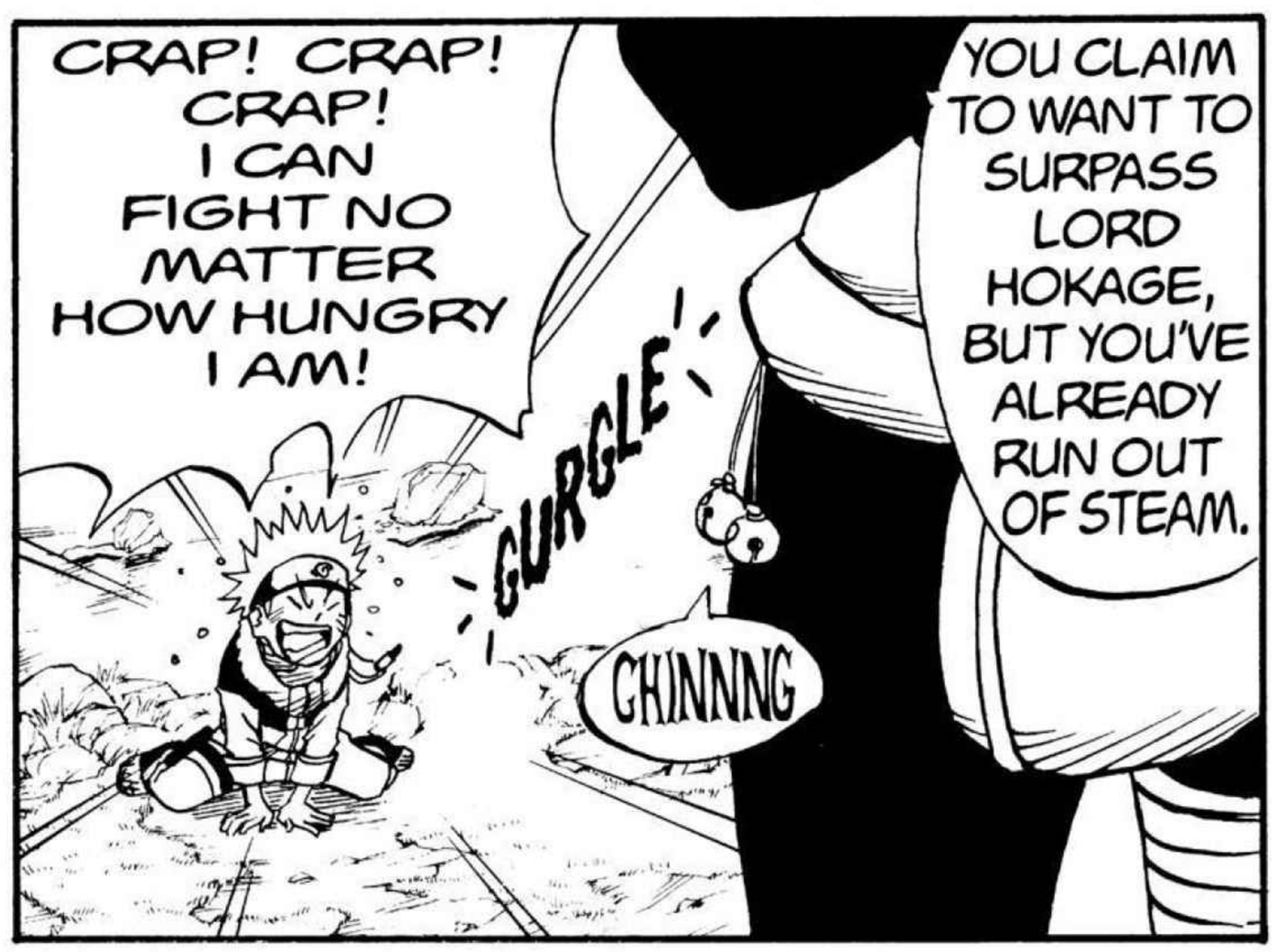
I WILL NOT BACK DOWN!

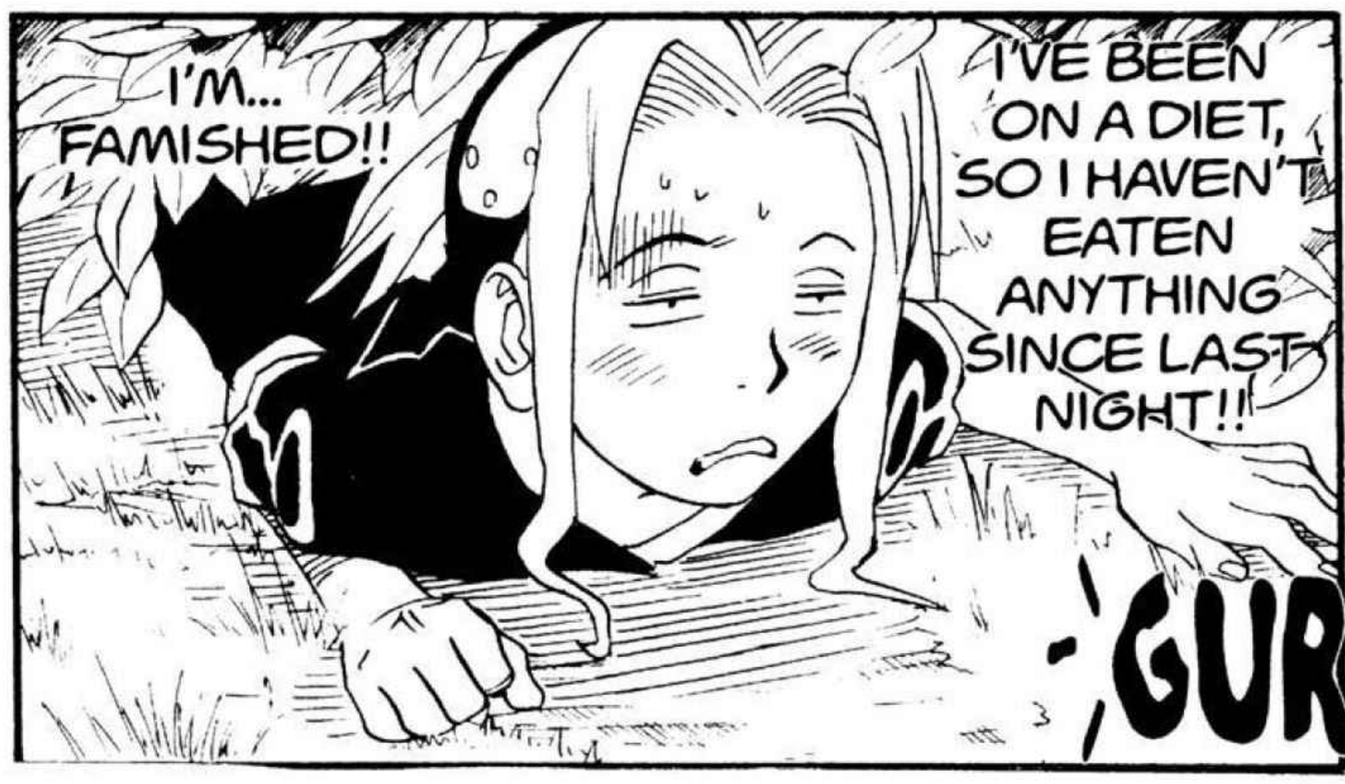
RRRR

SPLOO OOSHH

KOFF-KOFF!



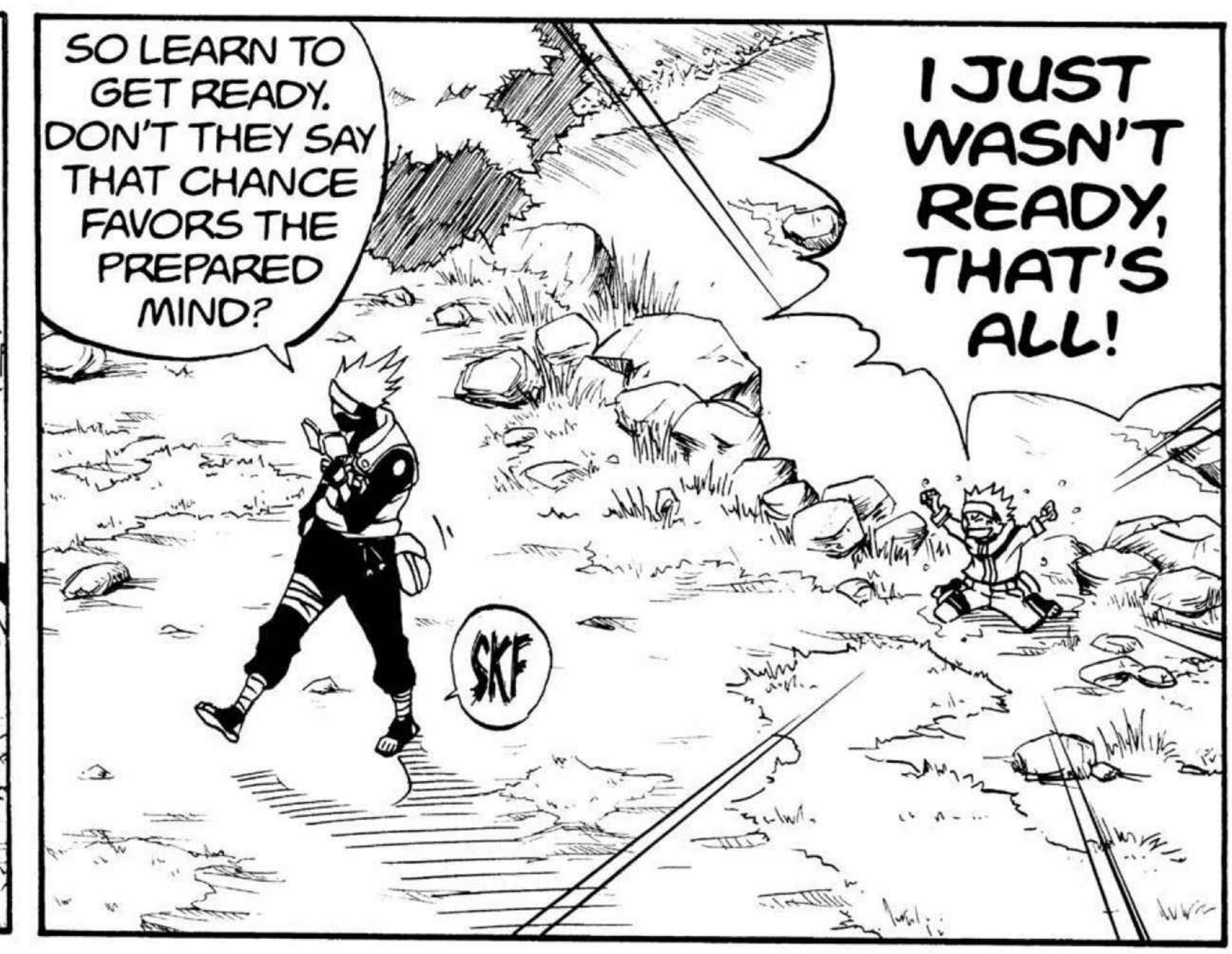



I'M... FAMISHED!!
I'VE BEEN ON A DIET, SO I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE LAST NIGHT!!

....
GURGLE

CRAP! I'M STARVING....

HUFF
PUFF
...AND COMPLETELY OUT OF GAS....


SO LEARN TO GET READY. DON'T THEY SAY THAT CHANCE FAVORS THE PREPARED MIND?
I JUST WASN'T READY, THAT'S ALL!
SKF

NO MATTER WHAT!
SPLASH!!

JEEZ

AND I HAVE TO EARN HIS RESPECT!!
HUFF

...BUT...
I HAVE TO GET A BELL... NO MATTER WHAT!
HUFF
HUFF
PUFF

I HAVE TO BECOME A TRUE SHINOBI...

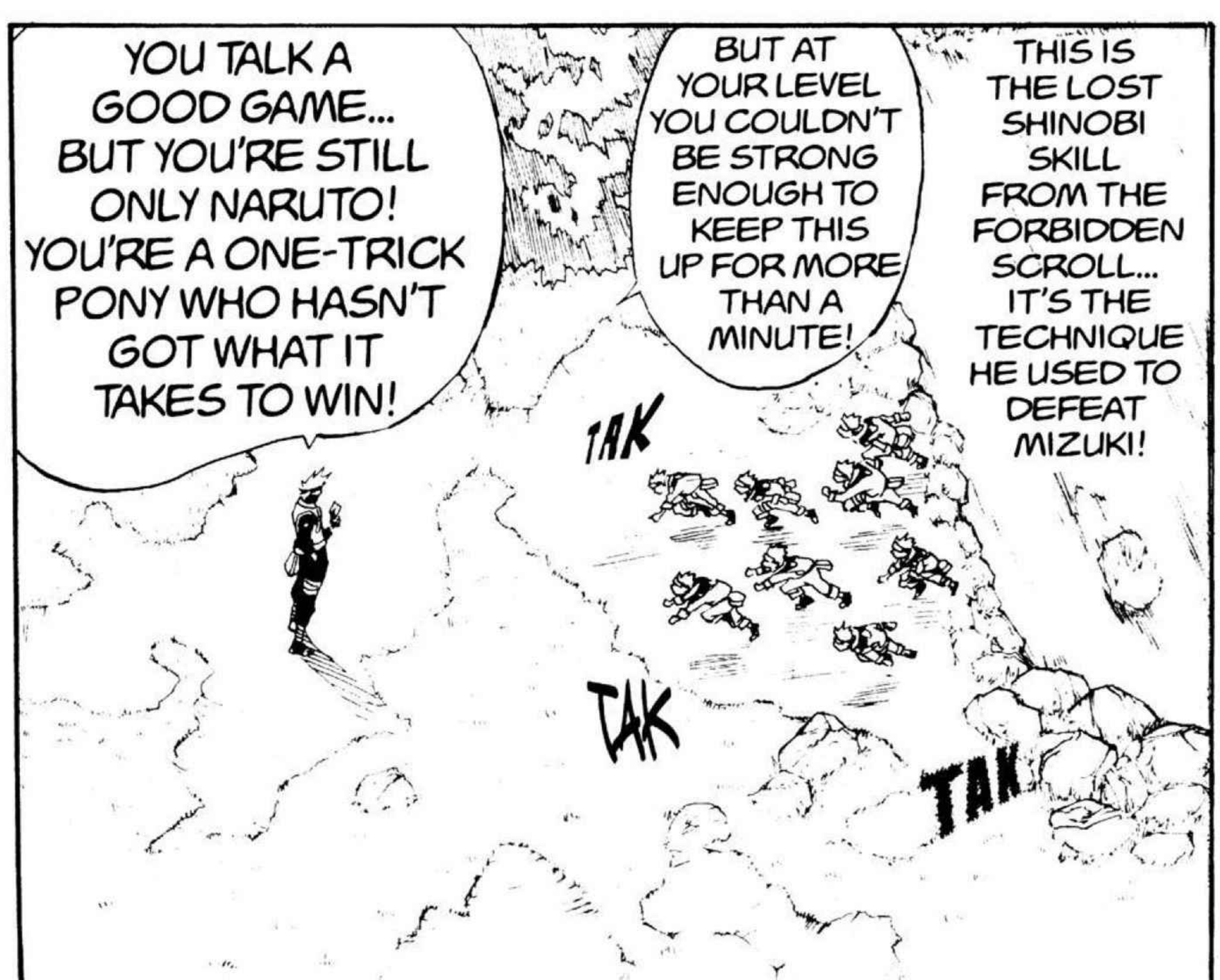
GET READY! NOW YOU FACE A LOT MORE THAN JUST ONE OF ME!
-PUFF-
-HUFF-
HA-HAH!!! MY SPECIALTY! THE ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!!

HMMMM
NOT ILLUSIONS, BUT ACTUAL MULTIPLE FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODIES!
TAK
SKF

THEY'RE NOT ILLUSIONS! EVERY ONE IS SOLID!

ONE...TWO... THREE... EIGHT DISTINCT BODIES!! ...WHAT TECHNIQUE IS HE USING?

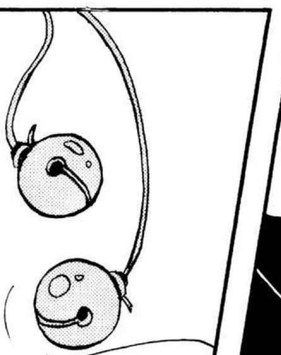
!
ZZZZ

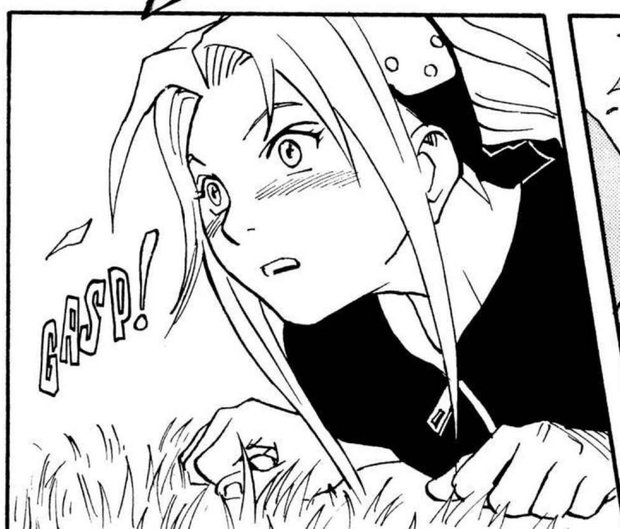

YOU TALK A GOOD GAME... BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY NARUTO! YOU'RE A ONE-TRICK PONY WHO HASN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN!
BUT AT YOUR LEVEL YOU COULDN'T BE STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THIS UP FOR MORE THAN A MINUTE!
THIS IS THE LOST SHINOBI SKILL FROM THE FORBIDDEN SCROLL... IT'S THE TECHNIQUE HE USED TO DEFEAT MIZUKI!
TAK
TAK
TAK

BEHIND ME!!!!

WH-WHAT--?

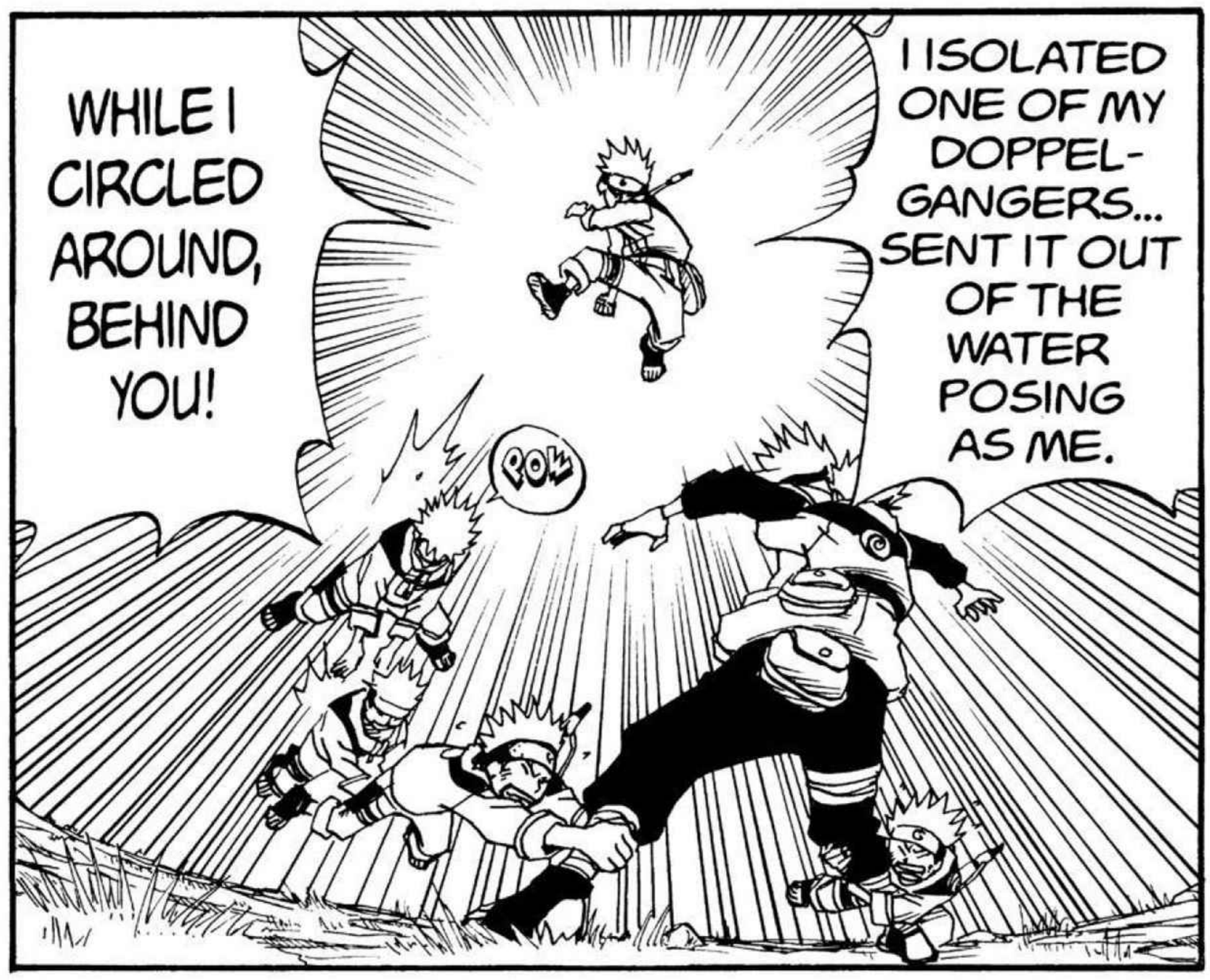
FLASH

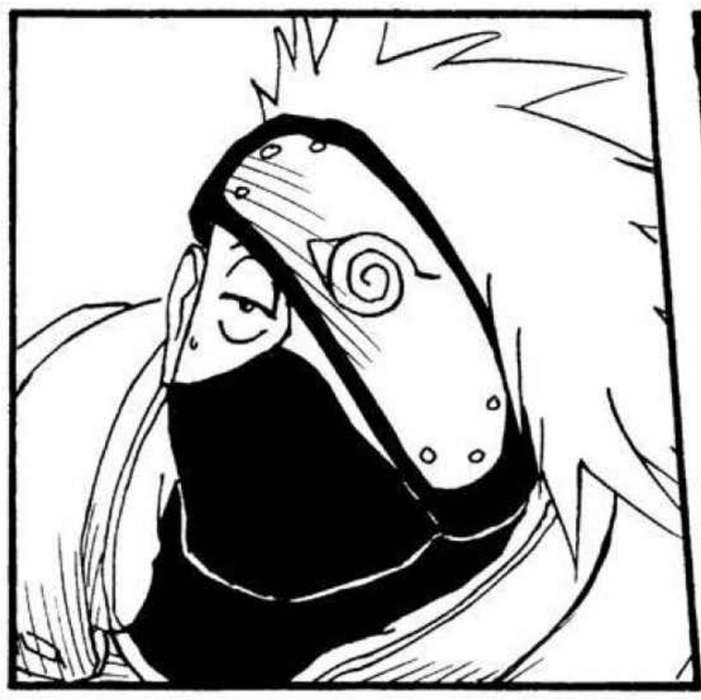


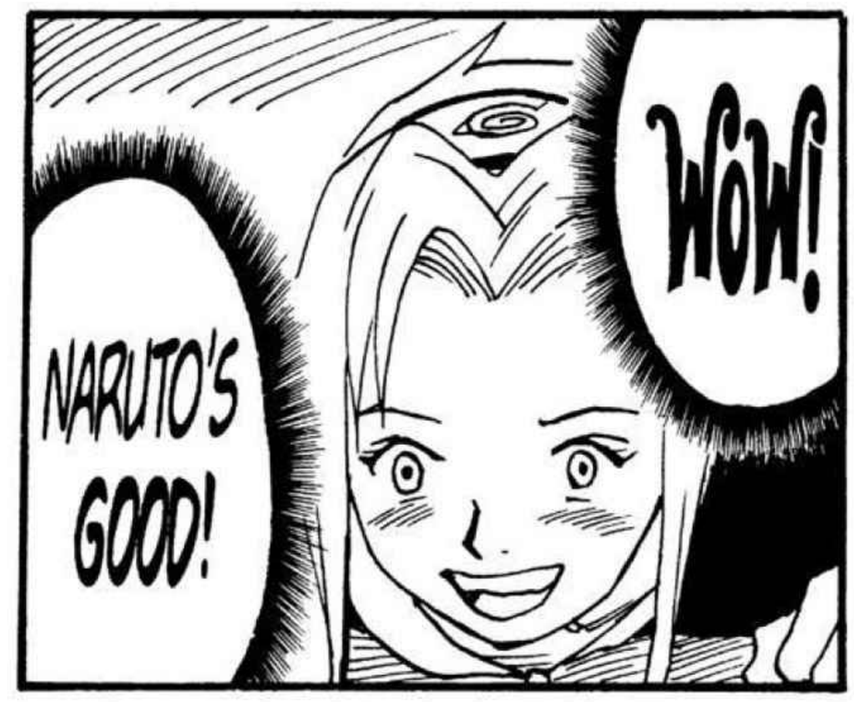


...MASTER!!!

HEH-HEH-HEH... NICE TO SEE YOUR BACK...







READ THIS WAY
BOP
RELAX! I TOLD YOU, I'M ONLY GONNA HIT YOU ONCE!!
HA-HA-- AIIIIEE--!
!!?
HUNH?

AN ANECDOTE by Masashi Kishimoto

Coming from the country, I grew up surrounded by the beauties of nature, trees, plants, and open ground. So moving to Tokyo was quite a shock. There was hardly a plant or a natural setting to be found. I had to do something to create the country atmosphere and keep myself from feeling homesick. Something that would soothe me enough that I could concentrate on creating good manga. So I decided to buy a houseplant for my desk.

Kishimoto: "From now on, you're my partner!"

I even gave my plant a name: *Ukki-kun*, as in "Mr. Ukki."

Kishimoto: "Well, Ukki, you look very shiny and green today!"

Ukki: "……"

Kishimoto: "It was a good day for photosynthesis, huh?"

Ukki: "……"

Kishimoto: "Today I'm going to give you an excellent fertilizer for vigorous growth!"

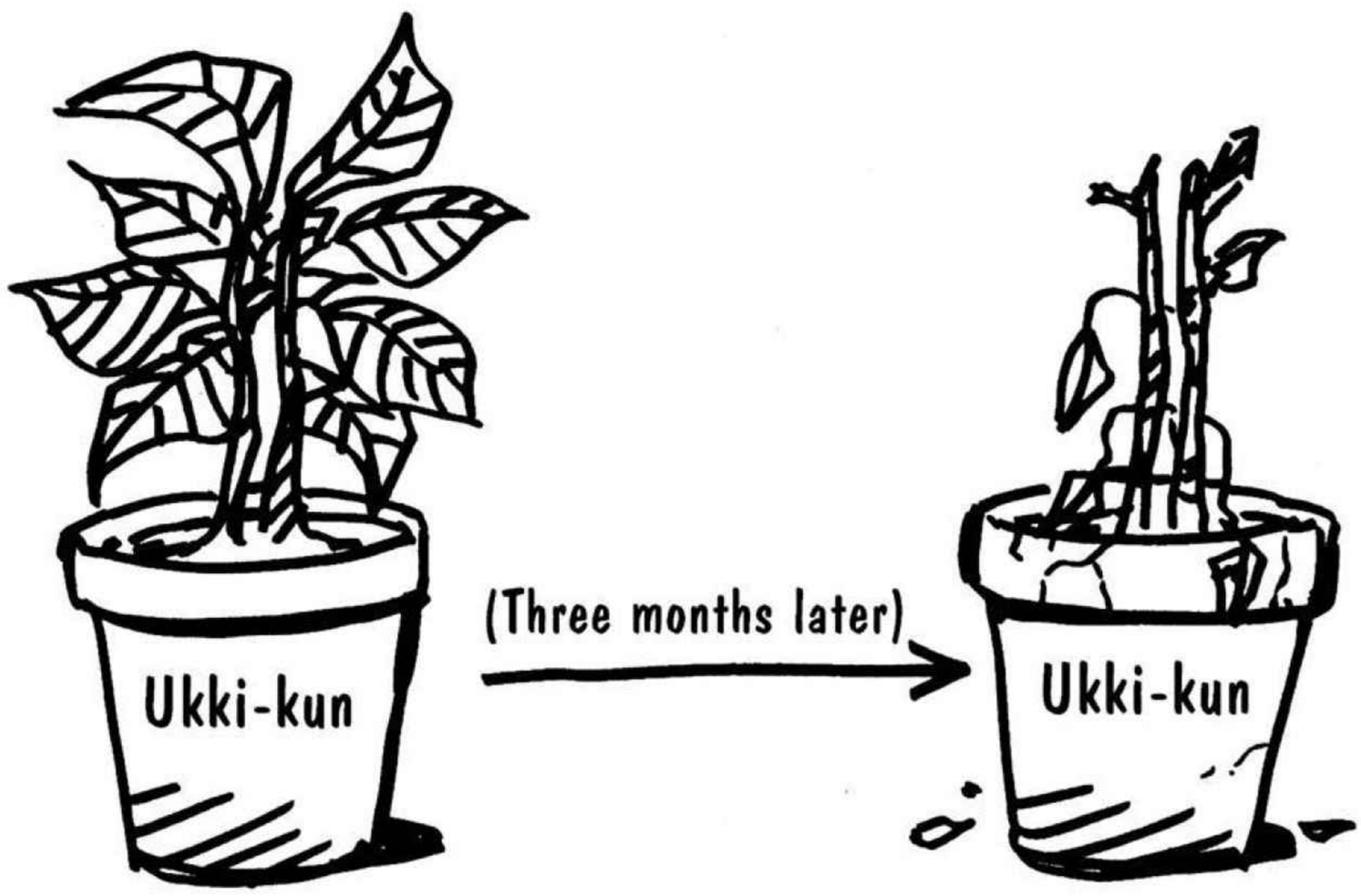
We were a super-team.

Assistant A: "What is this, Mr. Kishimoto? How did your plant get all dried out?"

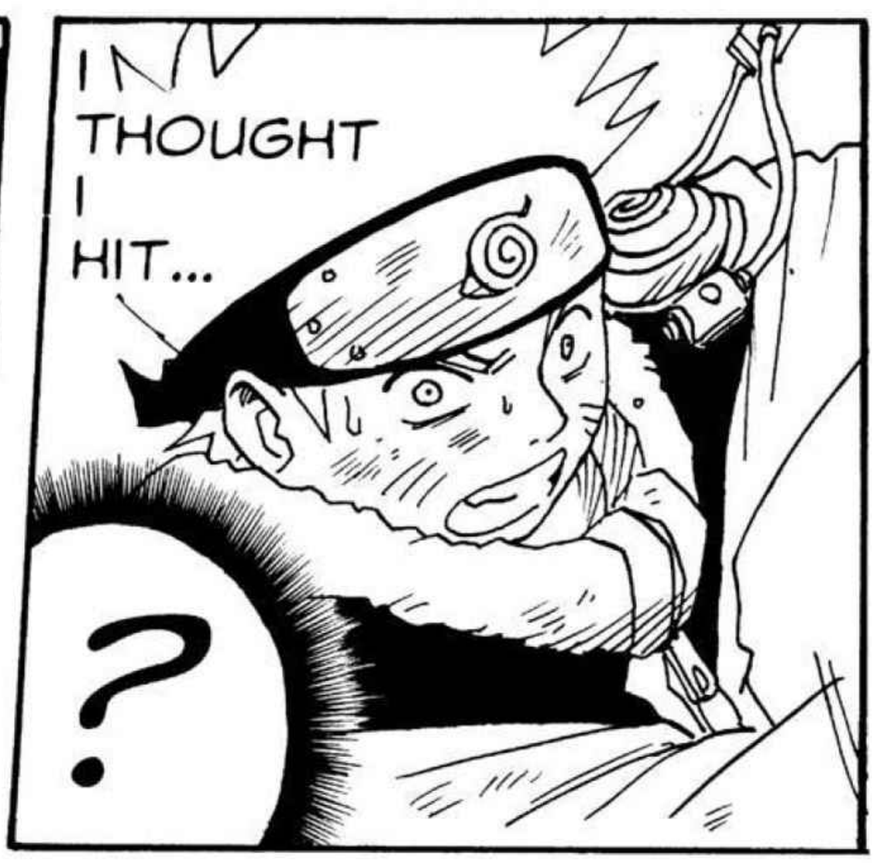
Kishimoto: "What are you saying?! I gave Ukki the best care!"

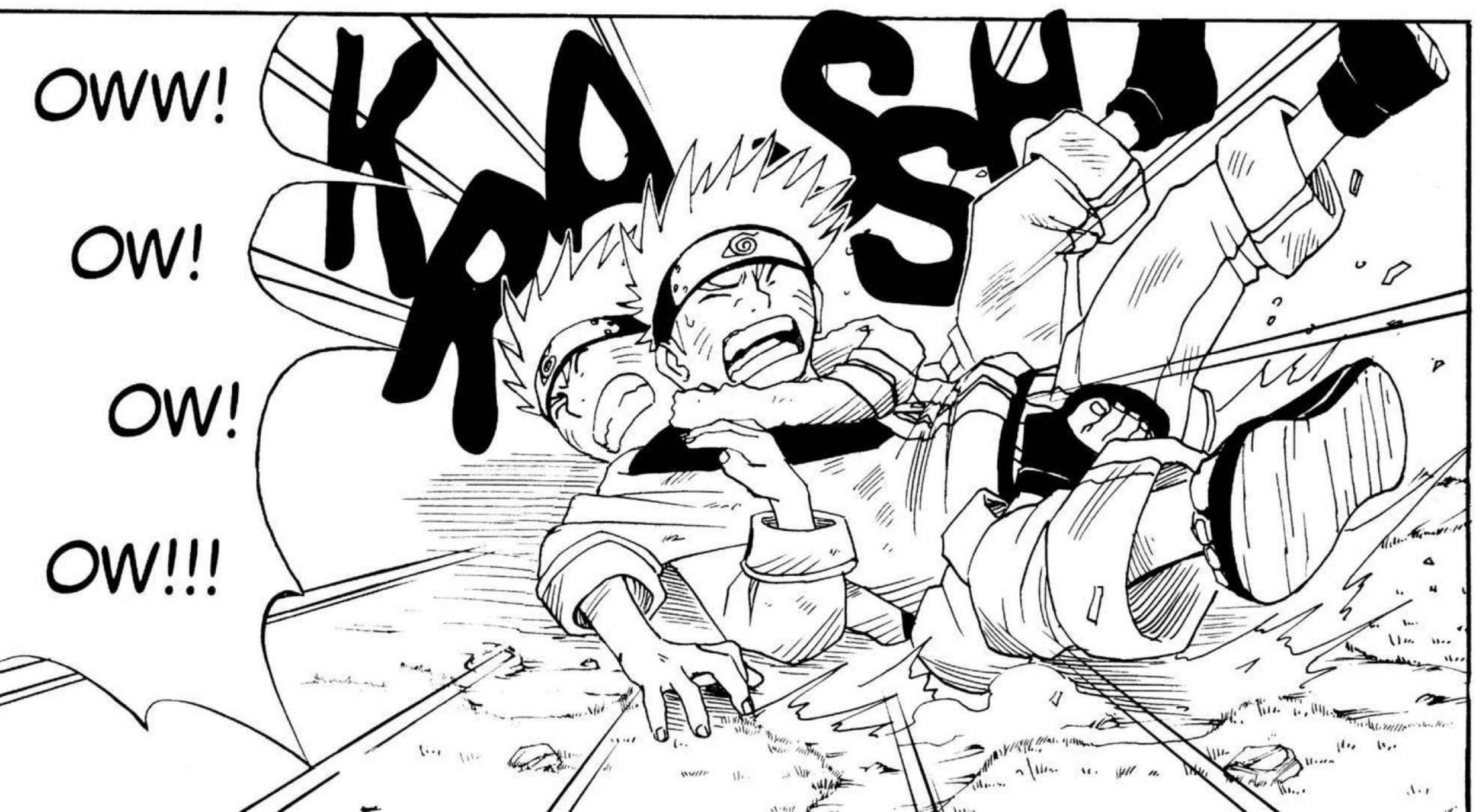
Assistant A: "You mean this? This fertilizer is concentrated, so you need to dilute it a lot. Oh no! You mean you didn't dilute it?!"

Sigh…



number 6: Not Sasuke!





number 6:

Not Sasuke!

YOU USED THE ART OF TRANS-FORMATION TO CHANGE!!

YOU'RE MASTER KAKASHI, AREN'T YOU!

YOU HAVE THE SAME SMELL AS MASTER KAKASHI... LIKE AN OLD GUY!

POW

DID NOT!

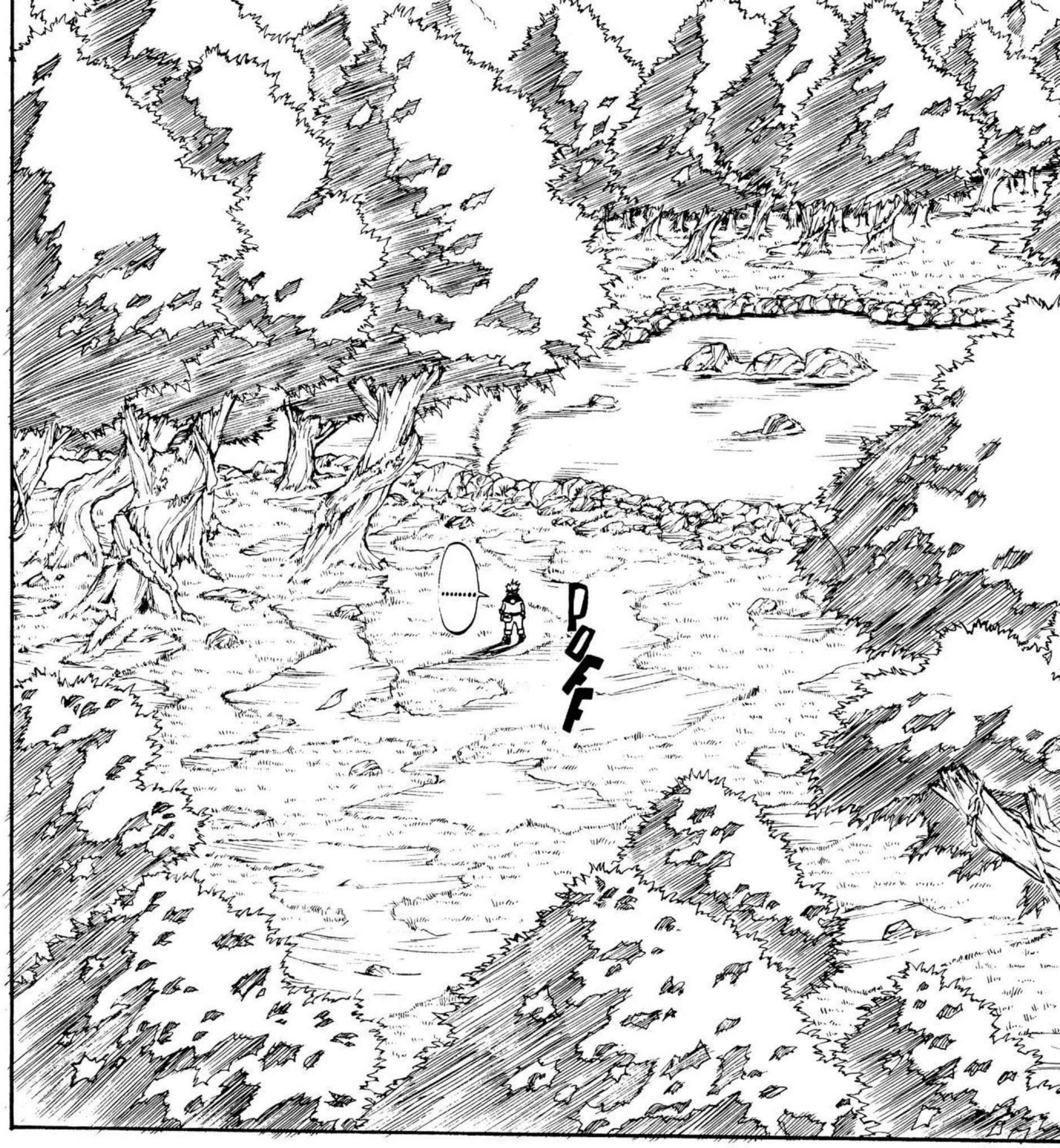
BAM BAM

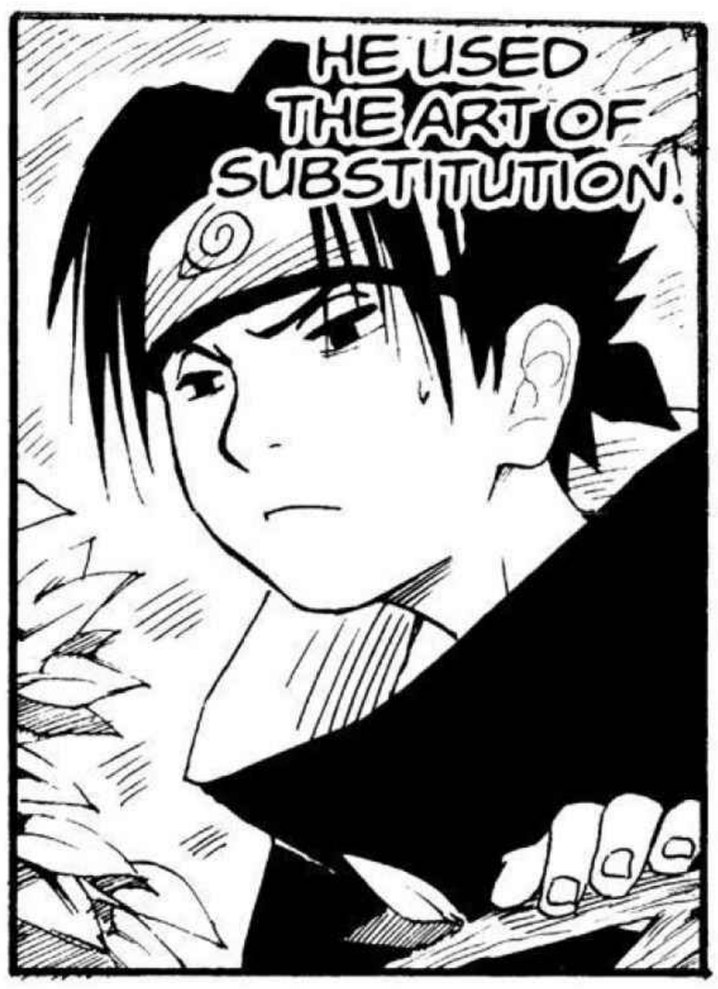
NO! YOU DID!

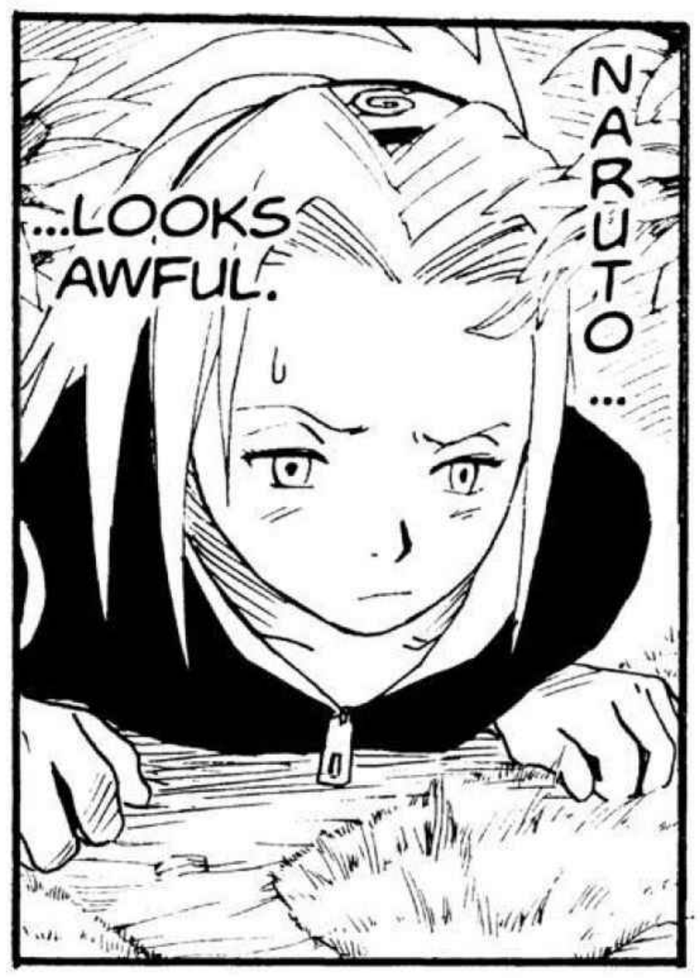
I DO NOT!!

THOK

SO DID YOU!


.....
POFF


HE USED THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION!


...LOOKS AWFUL.
NARUTO

HYOOO
NARUTO SHED A FEW TEARS....

SMOOTH SUBSTITUTION

PART OF THE TECHNIQUE IS TO MAKE IT LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN STRUCK, AND IN THE INTERVAL, STRIKE BACK...

SHF

WHOK

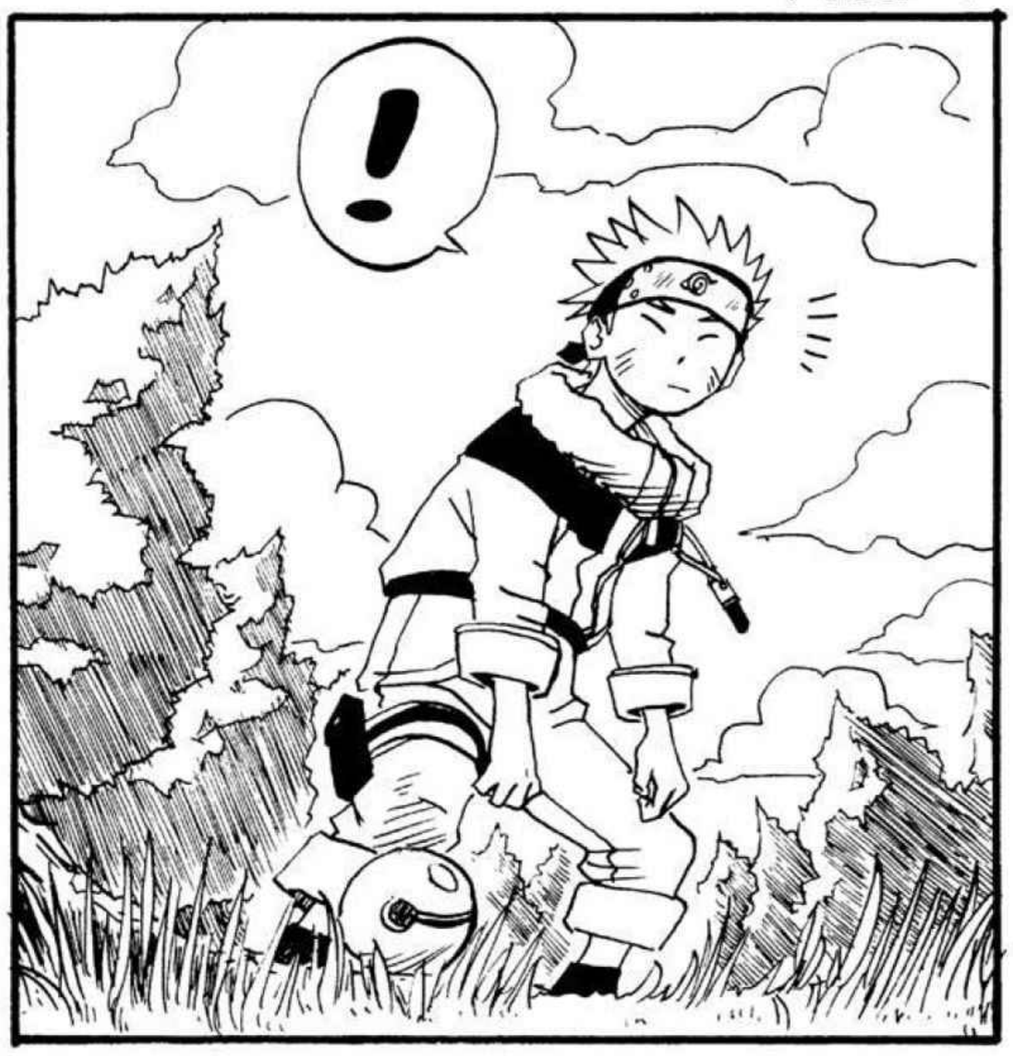
IT'S THE THIRD ARTICLE IN THE FIRST SCROLL OF NINJUTSU! YOU ACT WITH SPEED AND SKILL TO SWAP PLACES WITH ONE OF THE PLANTS, ANIMALS, OR PEOPLE IN THE LANDSCAPE.

WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED, NOT ONLY DID HE CREATE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION BUT HE USED NARUTO'S ACTUAL ATTACK... AGAINST HIM.

...MAKE THE SWITCH!

THAT SO-CALLED ELITE SHINOBI TRADED PLACES WITH ONE OF NARUTO'S DOPPELGANGERS.

HMMM!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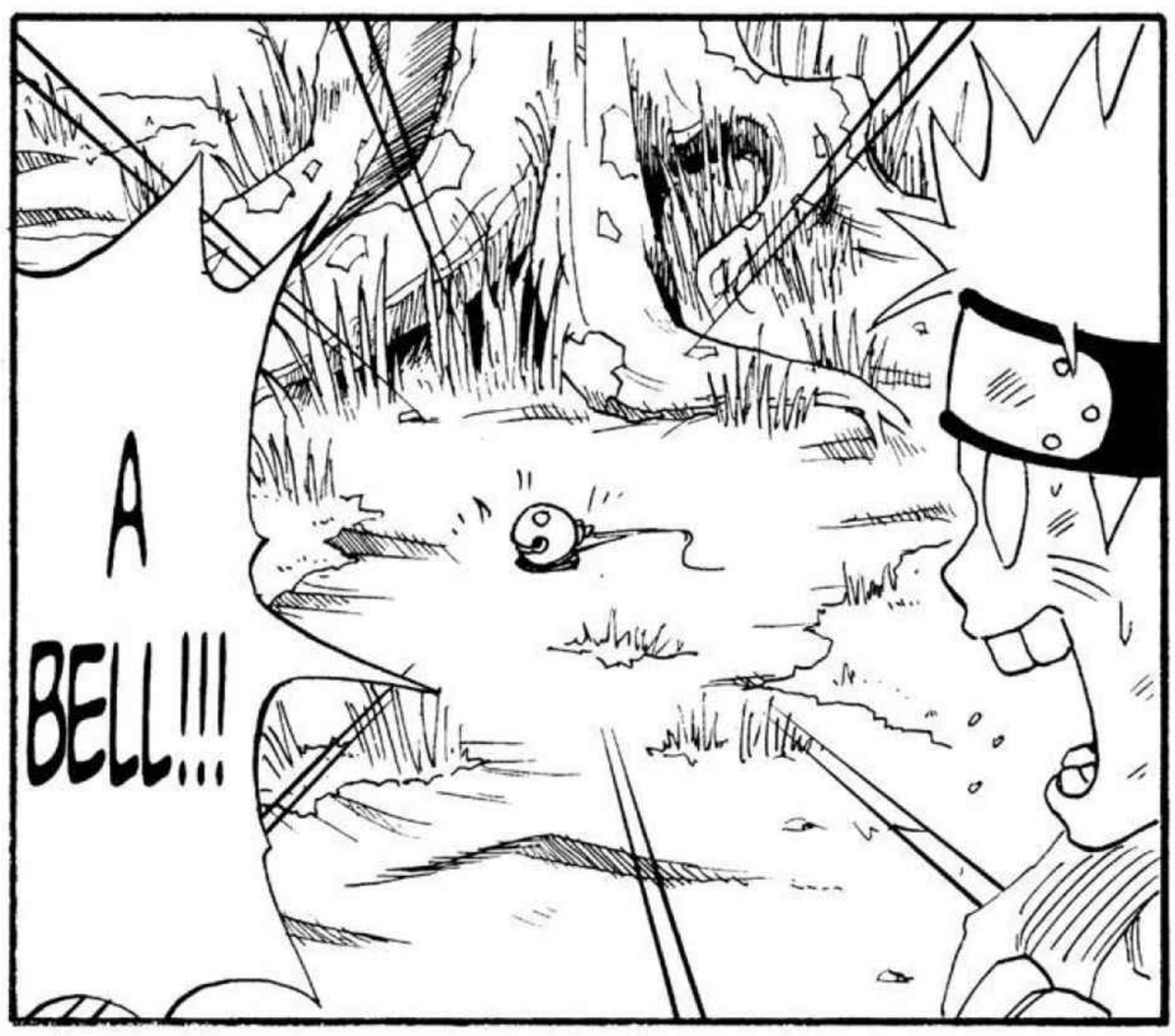
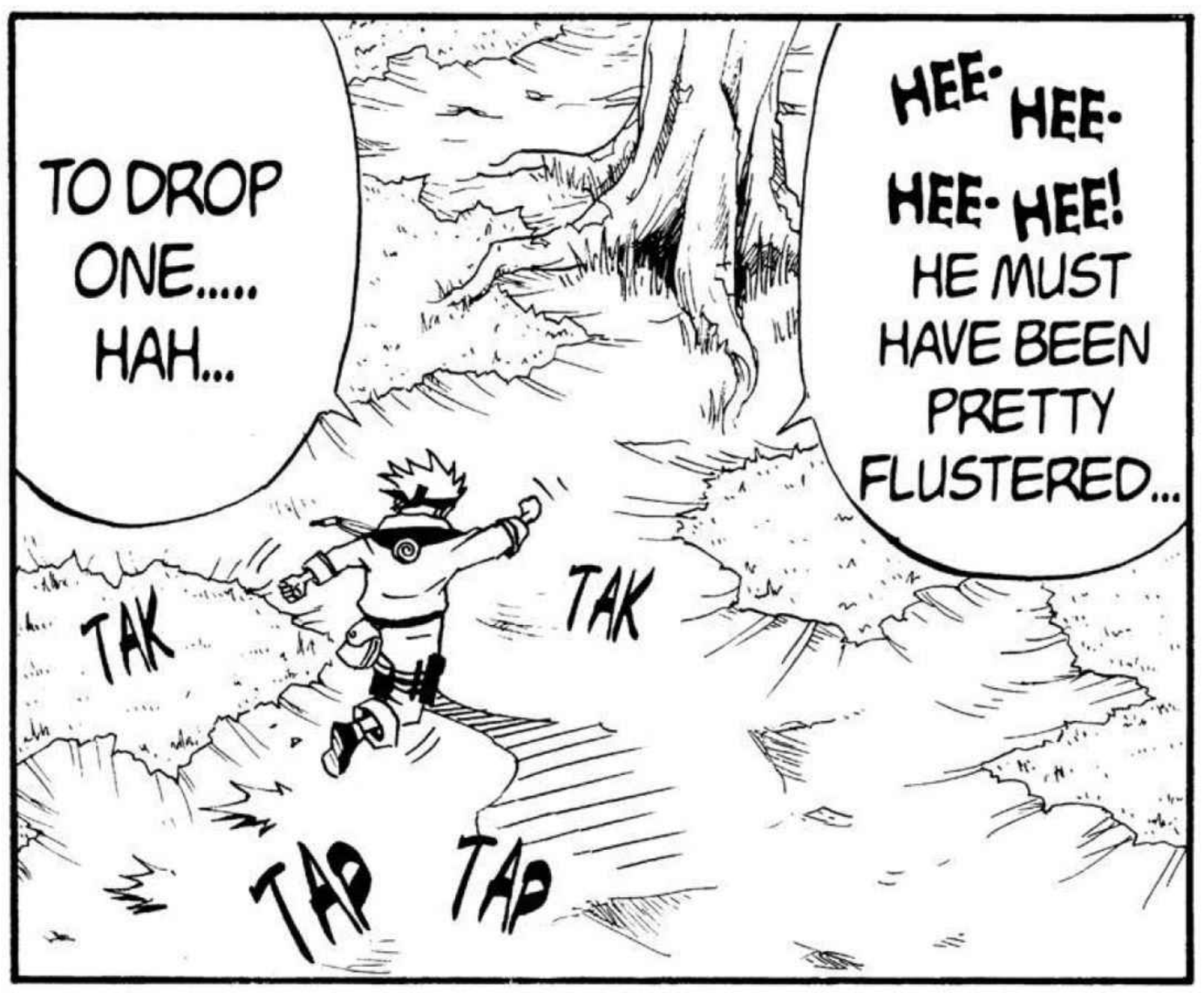
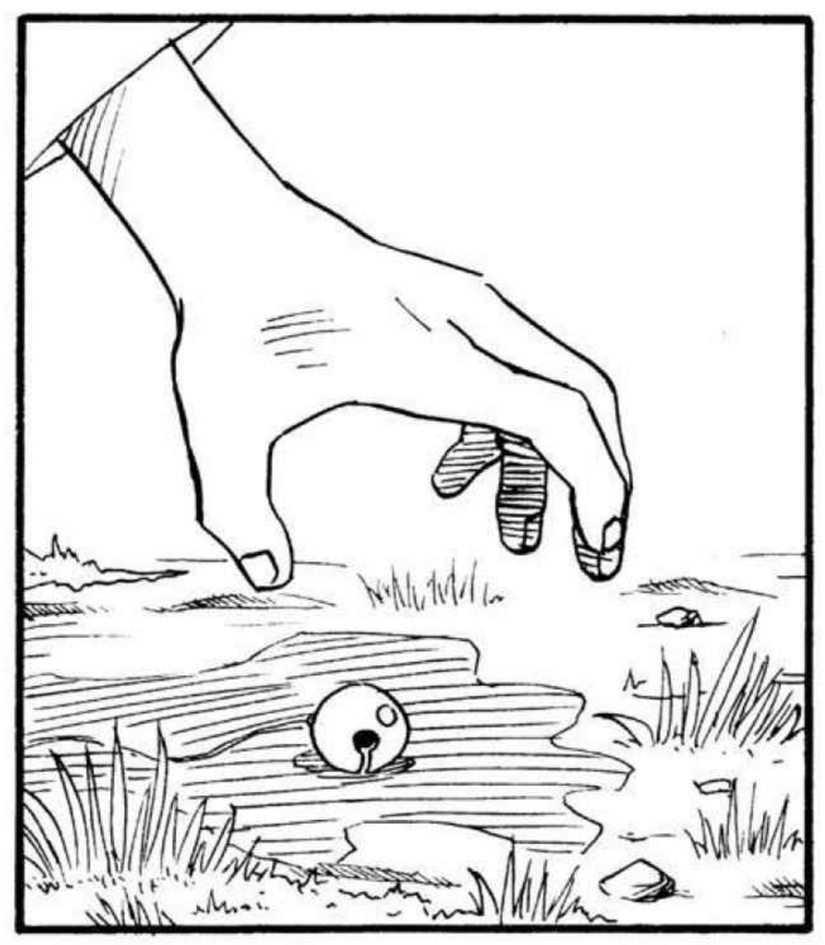
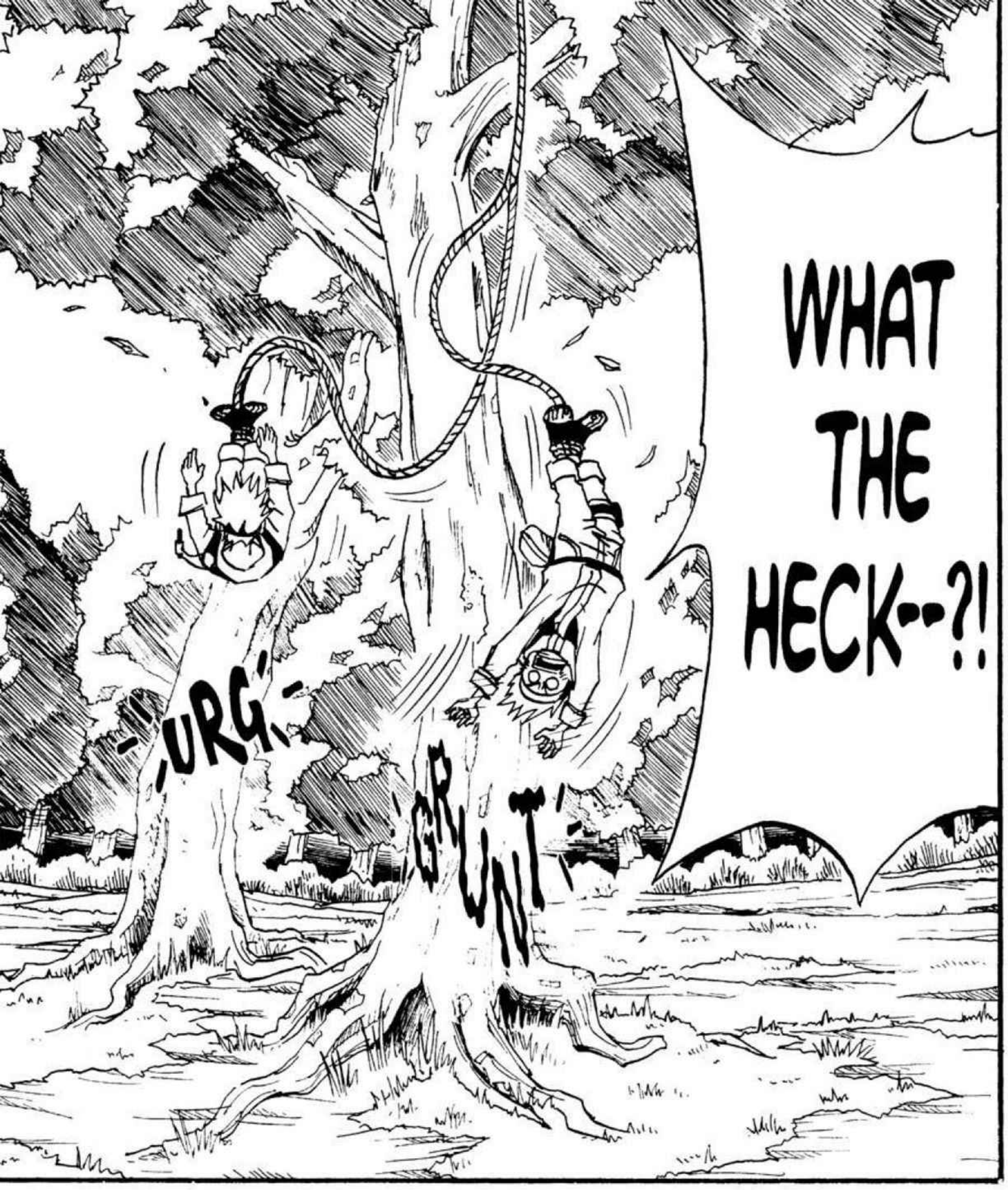

A BELL!!!

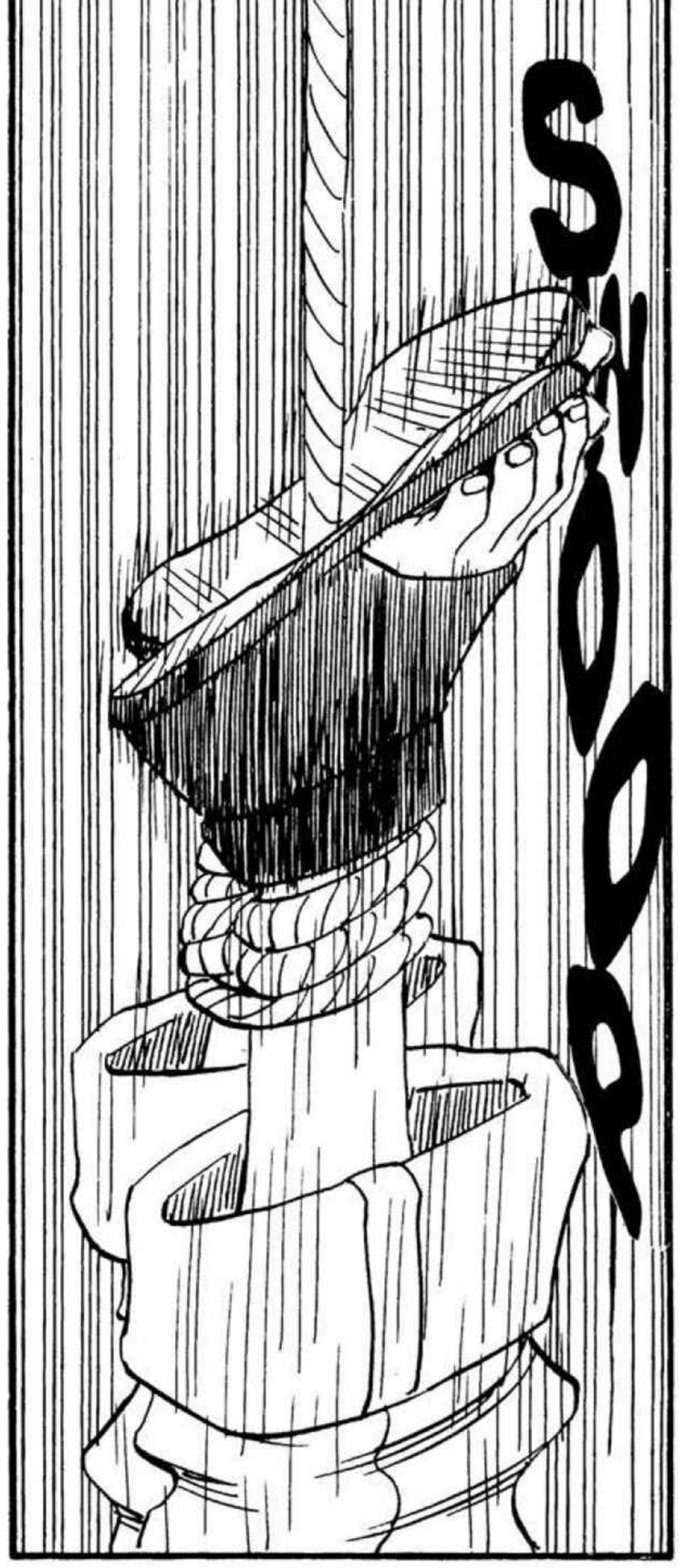
SHFF


TO DROP ONE..... HAH...
HEE- HEE- HEE- HEE! HE MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY FLUSTERED...
TAK
TAK
TAP
TAP

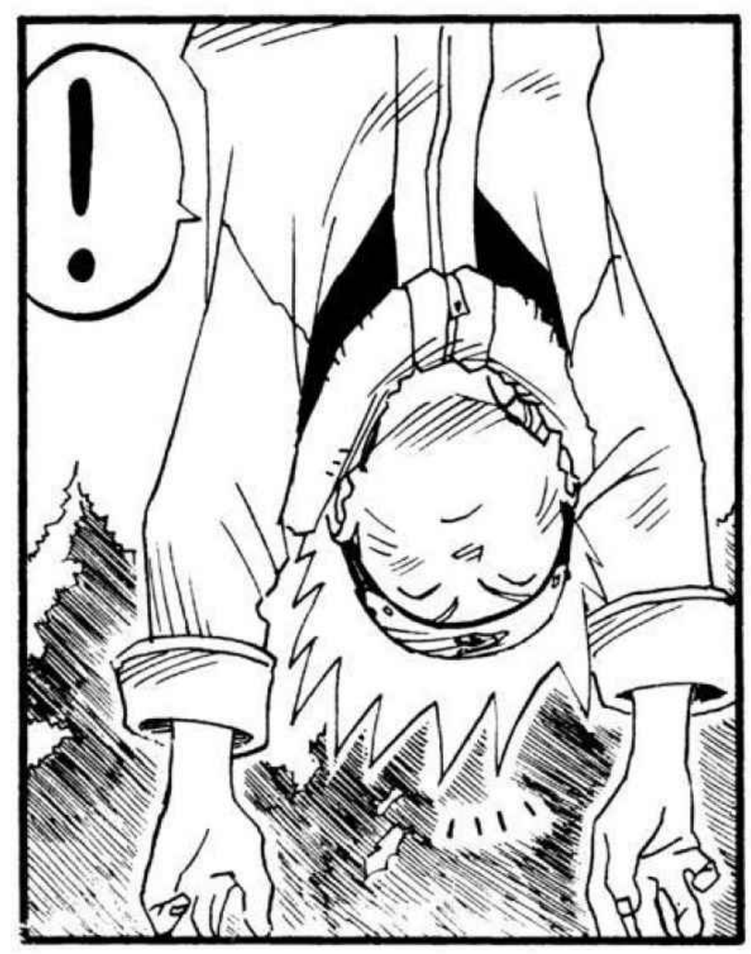
HUNH!?




URG
GR UNT
WHAT THE HECK--?!


SNAP

BUT EVEN MORE TROUBLING... MASTER KAKASHI DIDN'T DROP HIS GUARD EVEN ONCE DURING THE FIGHT WITH NARUTO...
OF COURSE IT'S A TRAP...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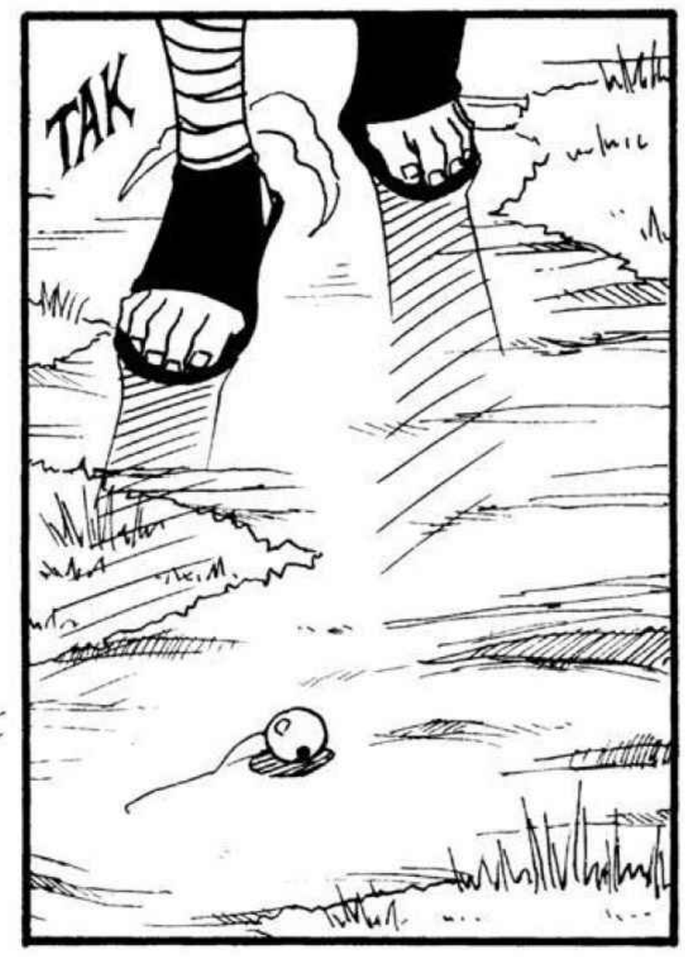

TAK

PLINK
AND TO BE CAUGHT IN SUCH AN OBVIOUS TRAP...
WAS STUPID!

ARGH--!!!

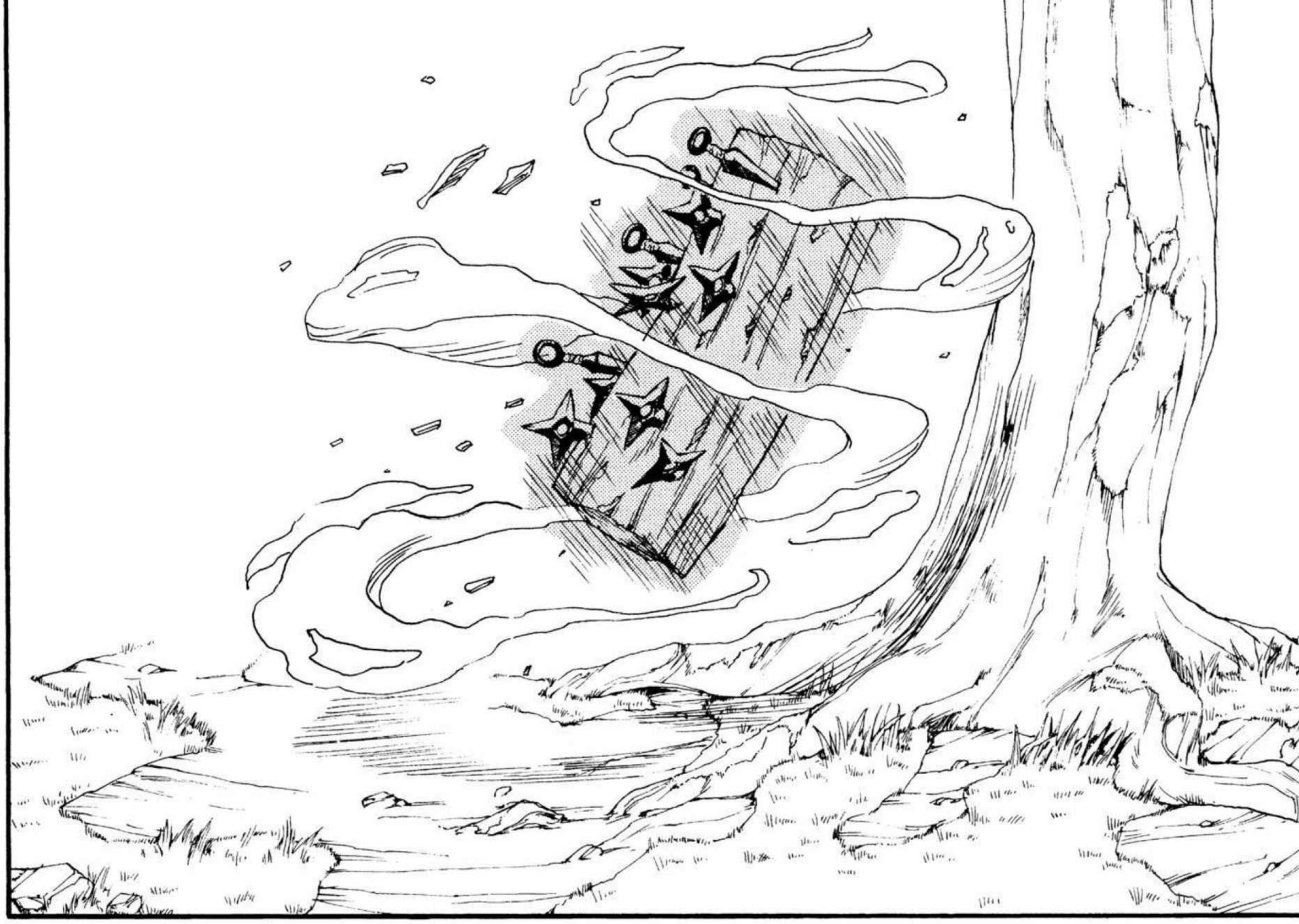
YOU USED YOUR TECHNIQUE WELL, BUT SO DID I...
AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GOT USED.
OH!

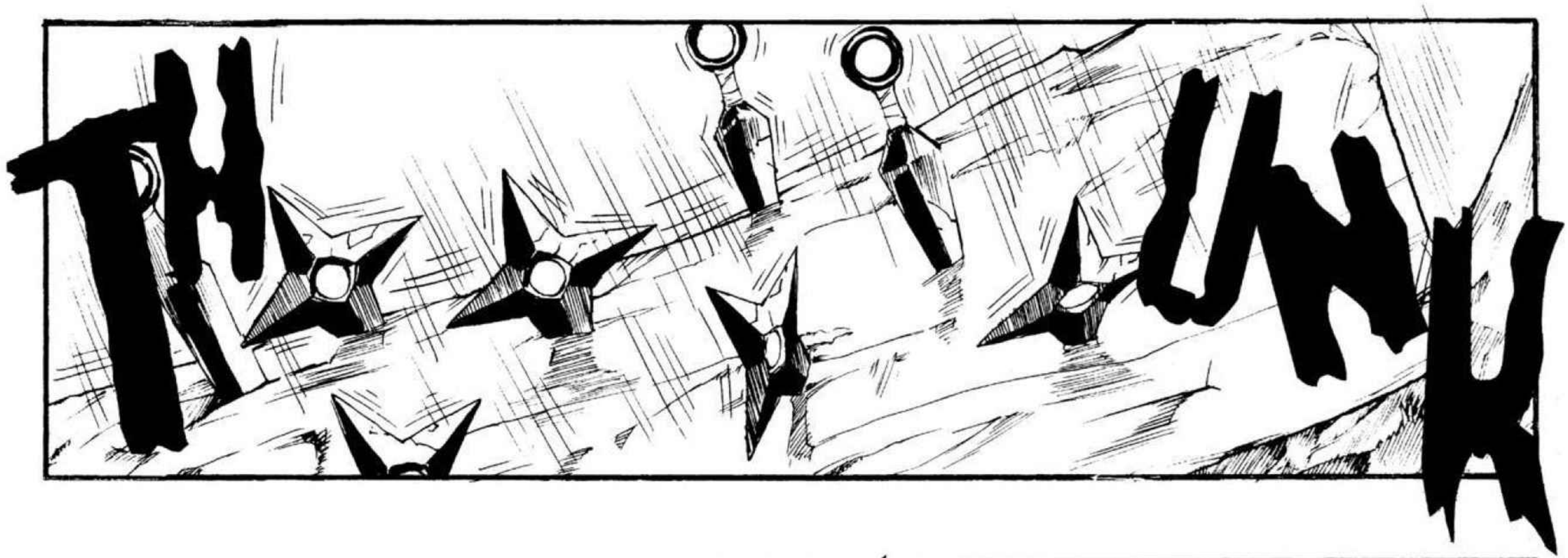
FLAP
FLAP
I KNOW THAT!!
UH, NO YOU DON'T. THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING IT.

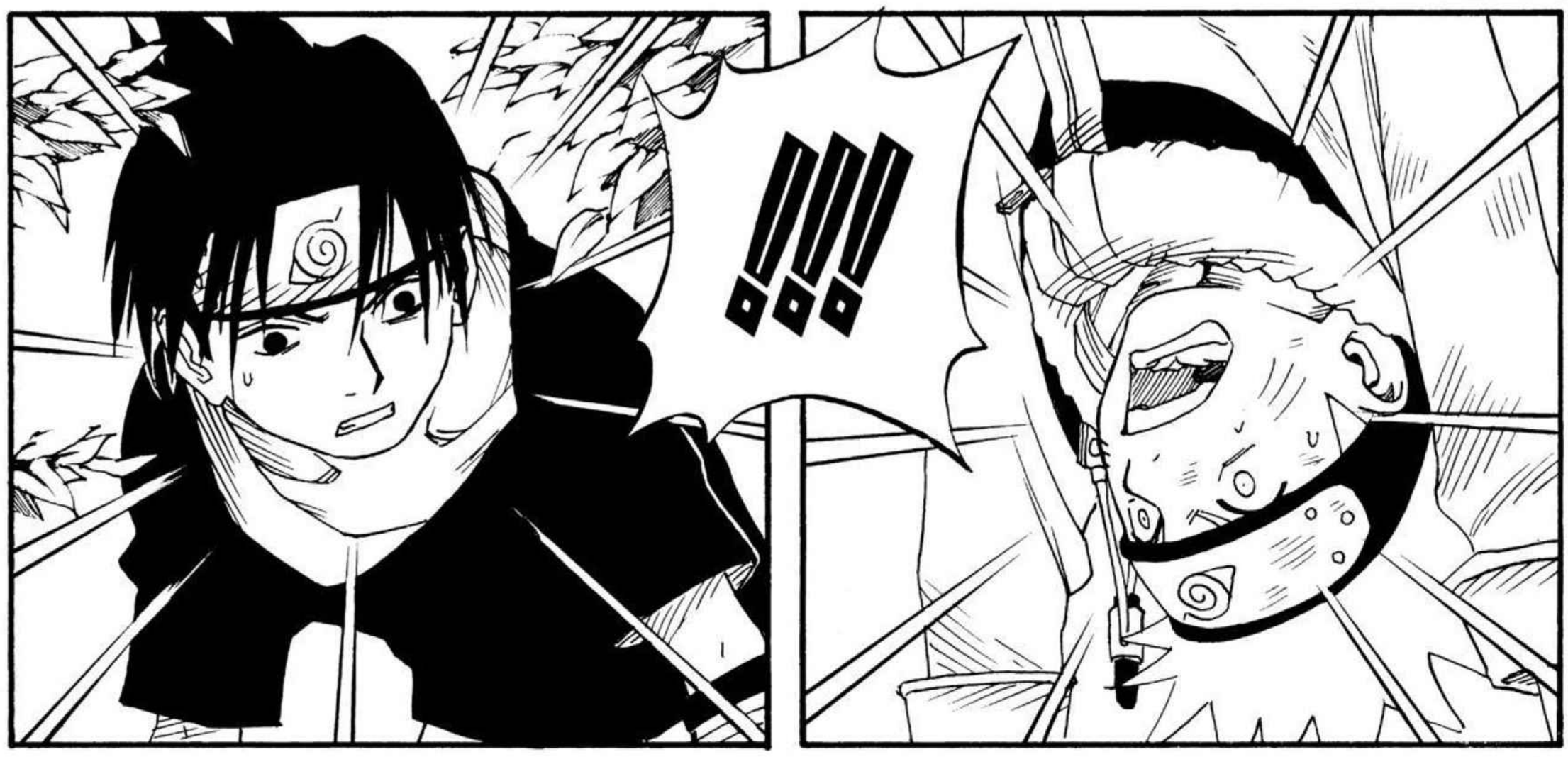
SHINOBI READ THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN THE HIDDEN MEANINGS!

HERE!

HE'S FINALLY OFF-GUARD!




TH
UNK

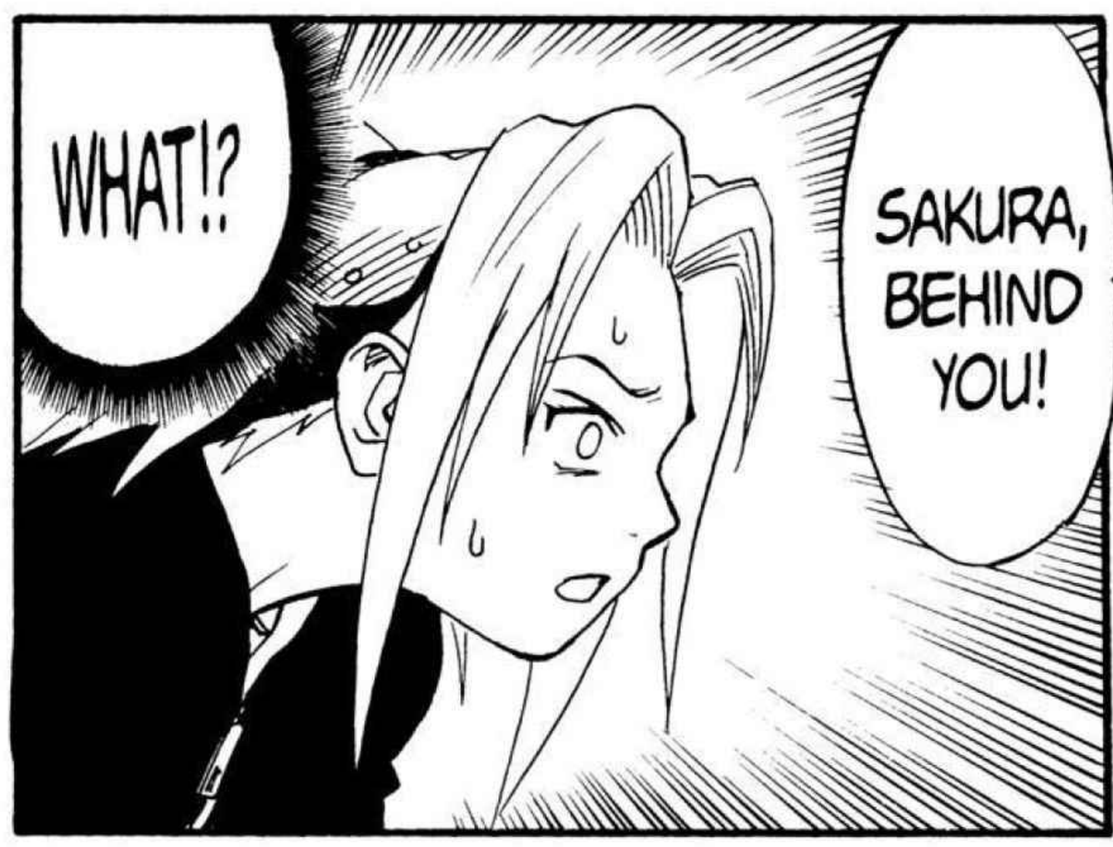

!!!!

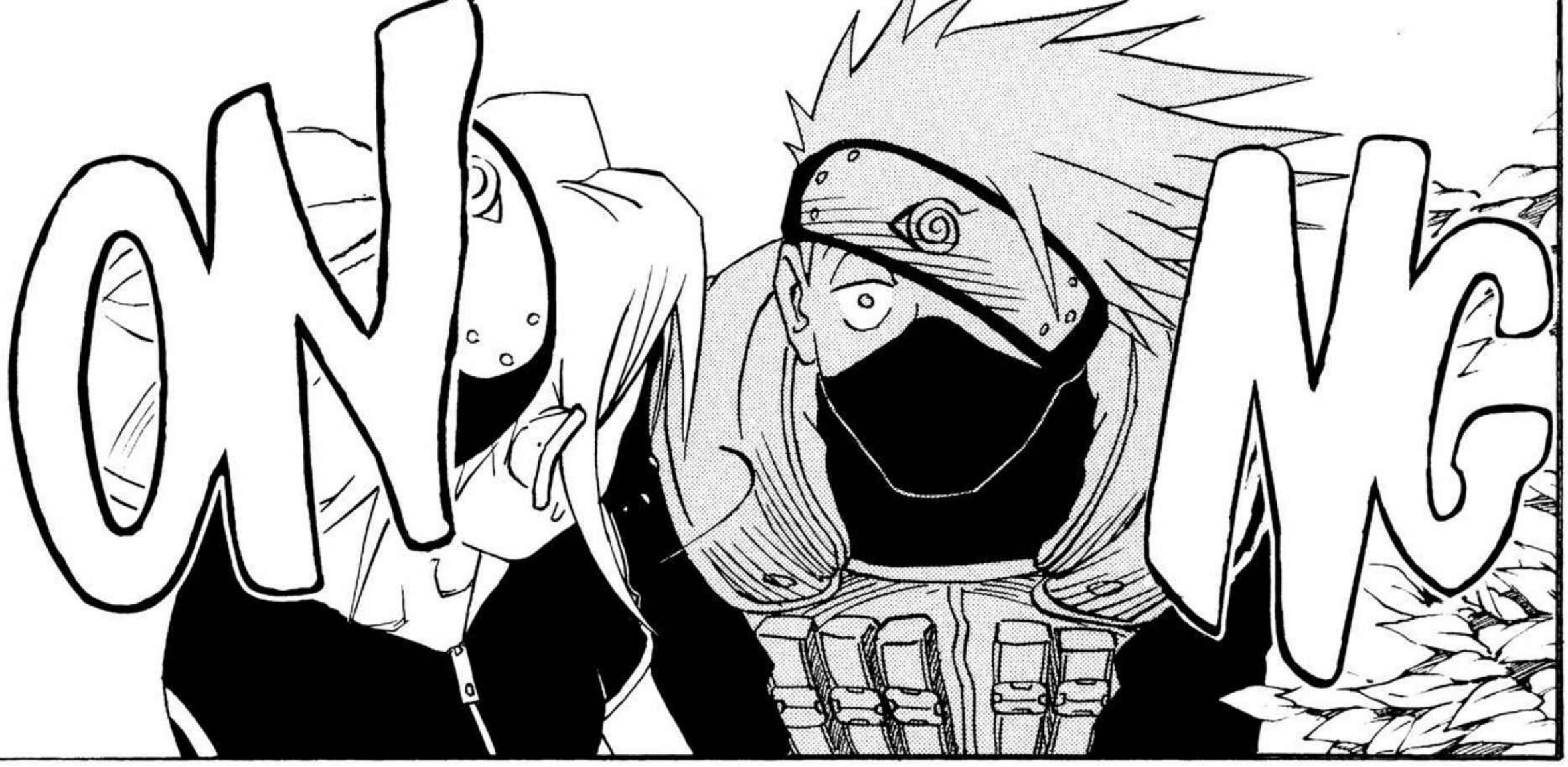
OVER THERE, EH?
SHM
HE USED THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION AGAIN...AND I JUST GAVE AWAY MY LOCATION!!
HE DELIBERATELY ACTED LIKE HE WAS OFF GUARD... AND I FELL FOR IT LIKE AN AMATEUR!

SHF SHF SHF SHF

WHERE ARE YOU!?

...SASUKE...



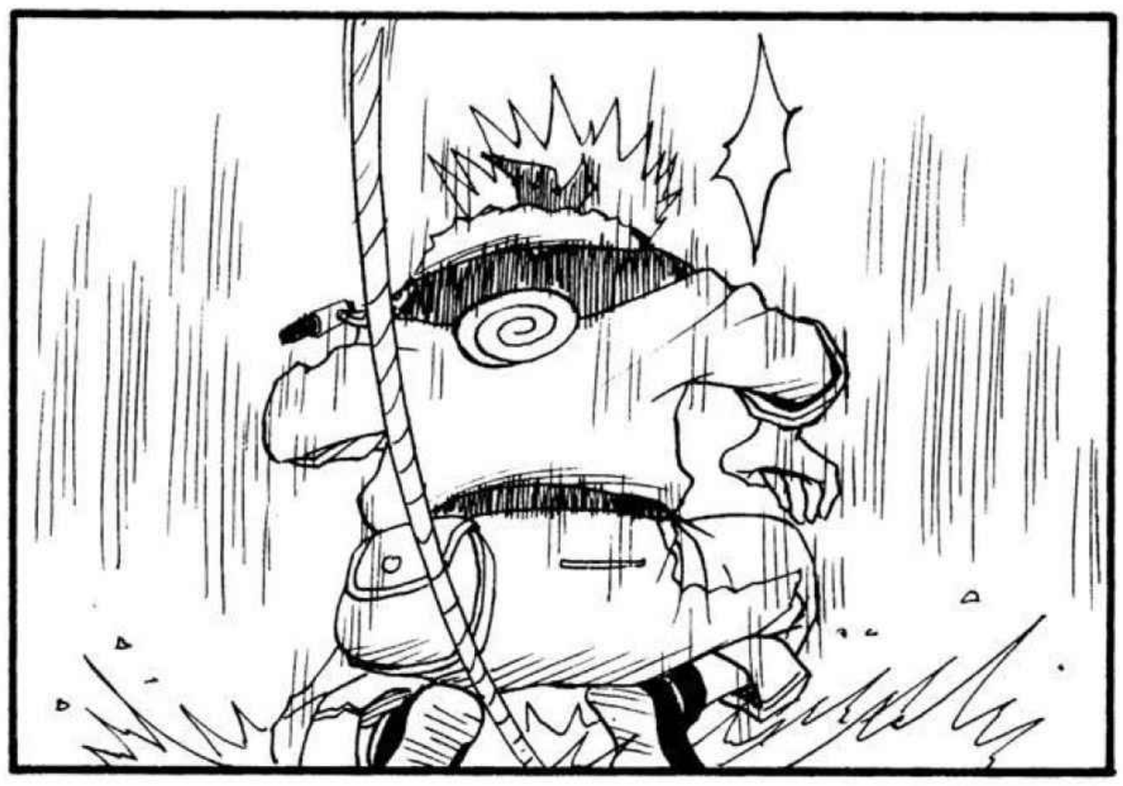

OH NO

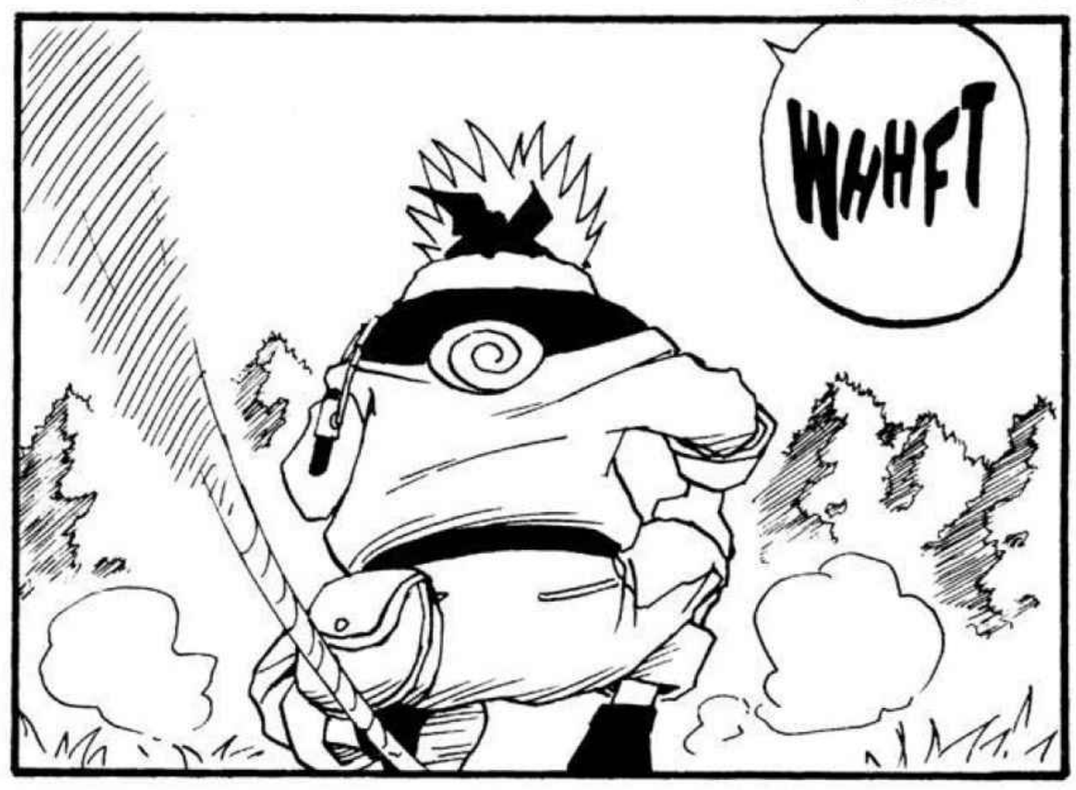
"READ THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN THE HIDDEN MEANINGS," MY BUTT!
WHOOOSH

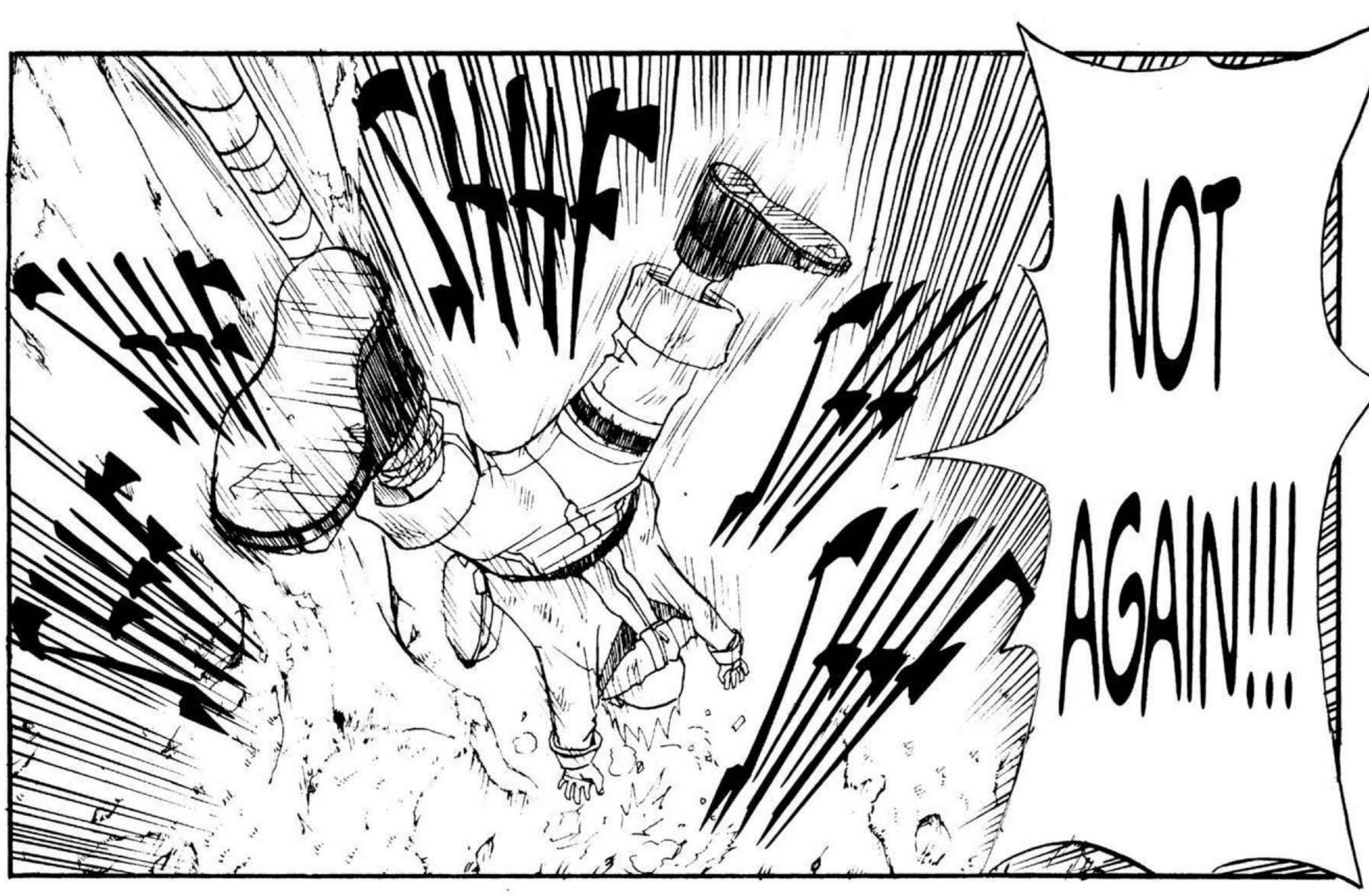
SLICE!

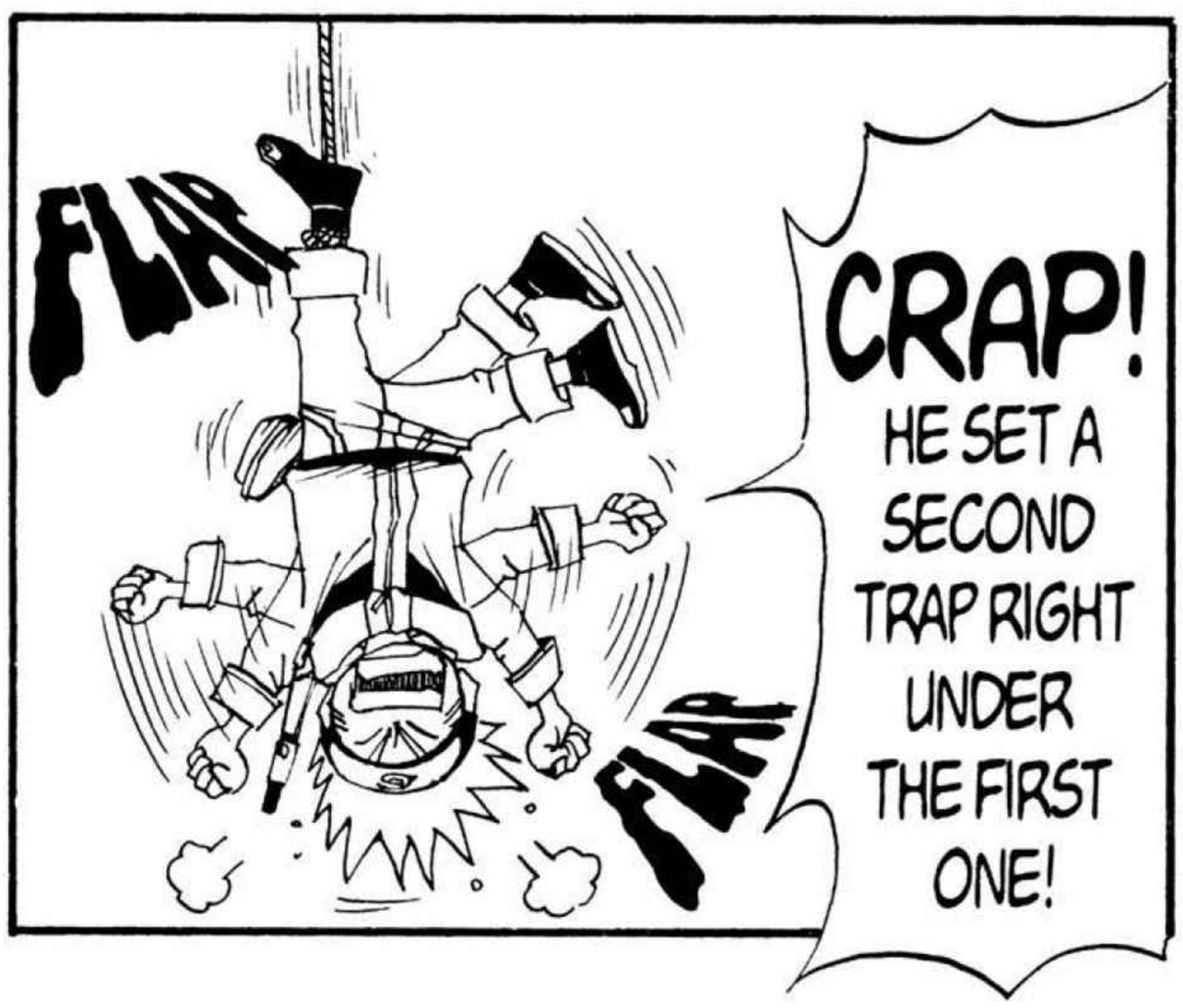
TAK

FLIP
NO WAY AM I GONNA GET CAUGHT...
... IN ANOTHER OF MASTER KAKASHI'S TRAPS!!!

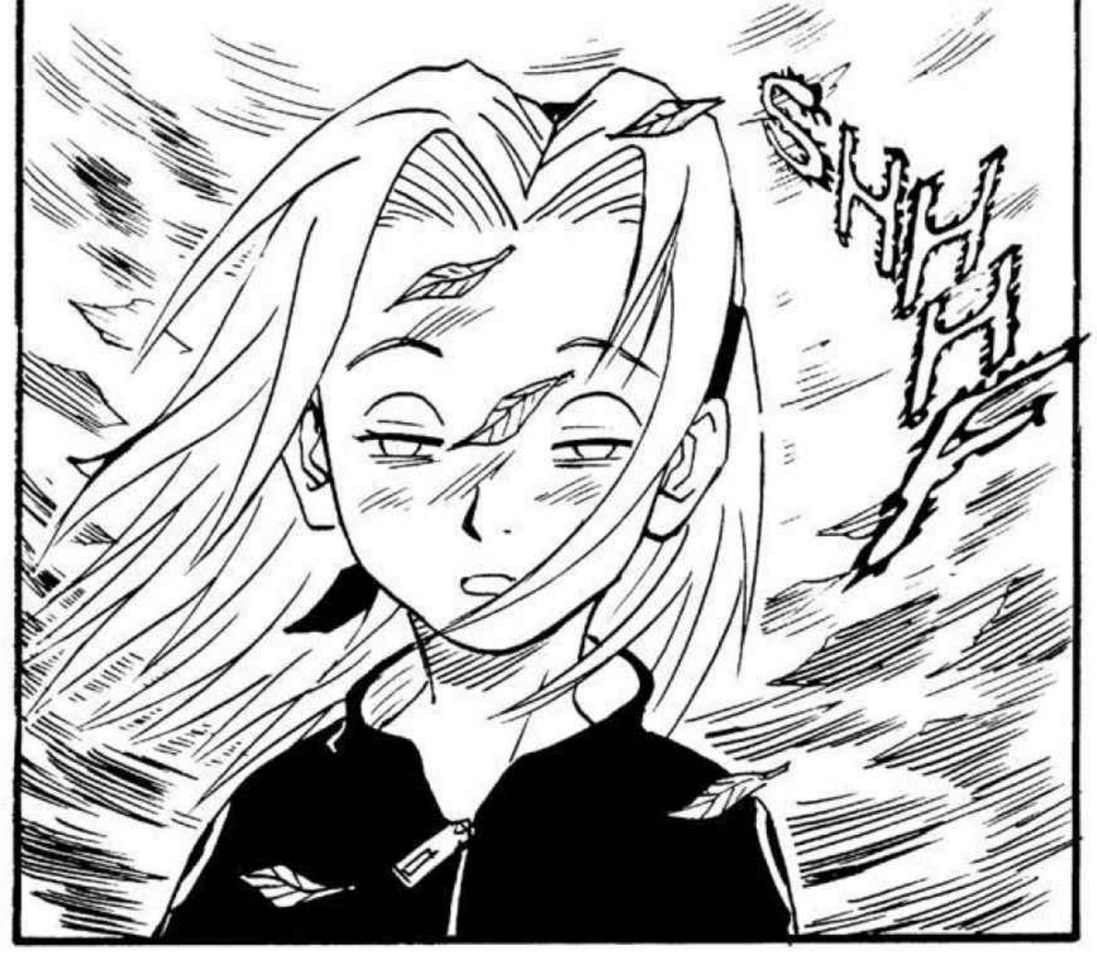



WHFT

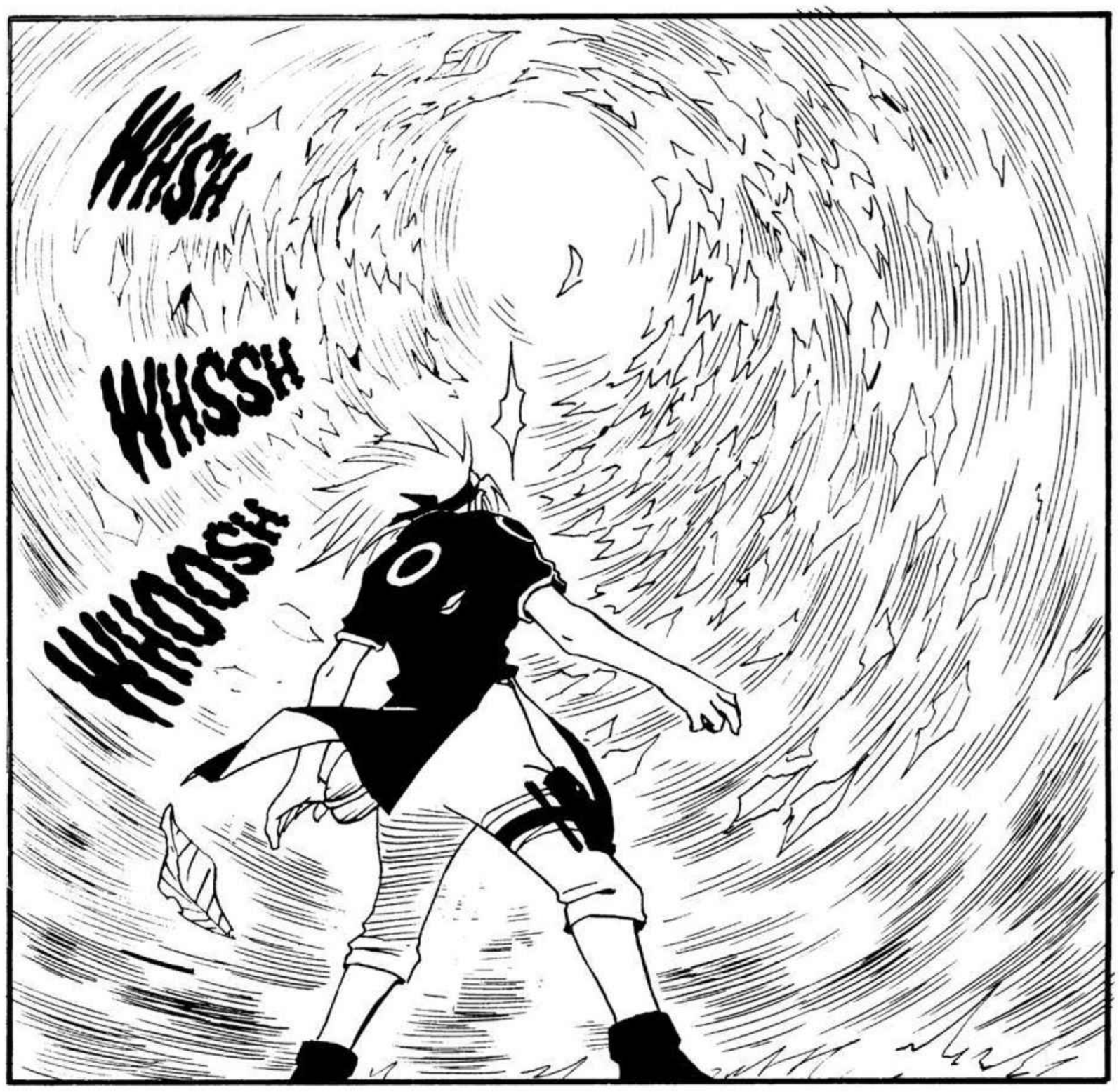

SHFF
NOT
AGAIN!!!


FLAP
FLAP
CRAP!
HE SET A SECOND TRAP RIGHT UNDER THE FIRST ONE!

KRAKLE
SHFF
SHFF


SHH

!
WHAT!?
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHERE'D OUR TEACHER GO?!
hmmm
hmmm

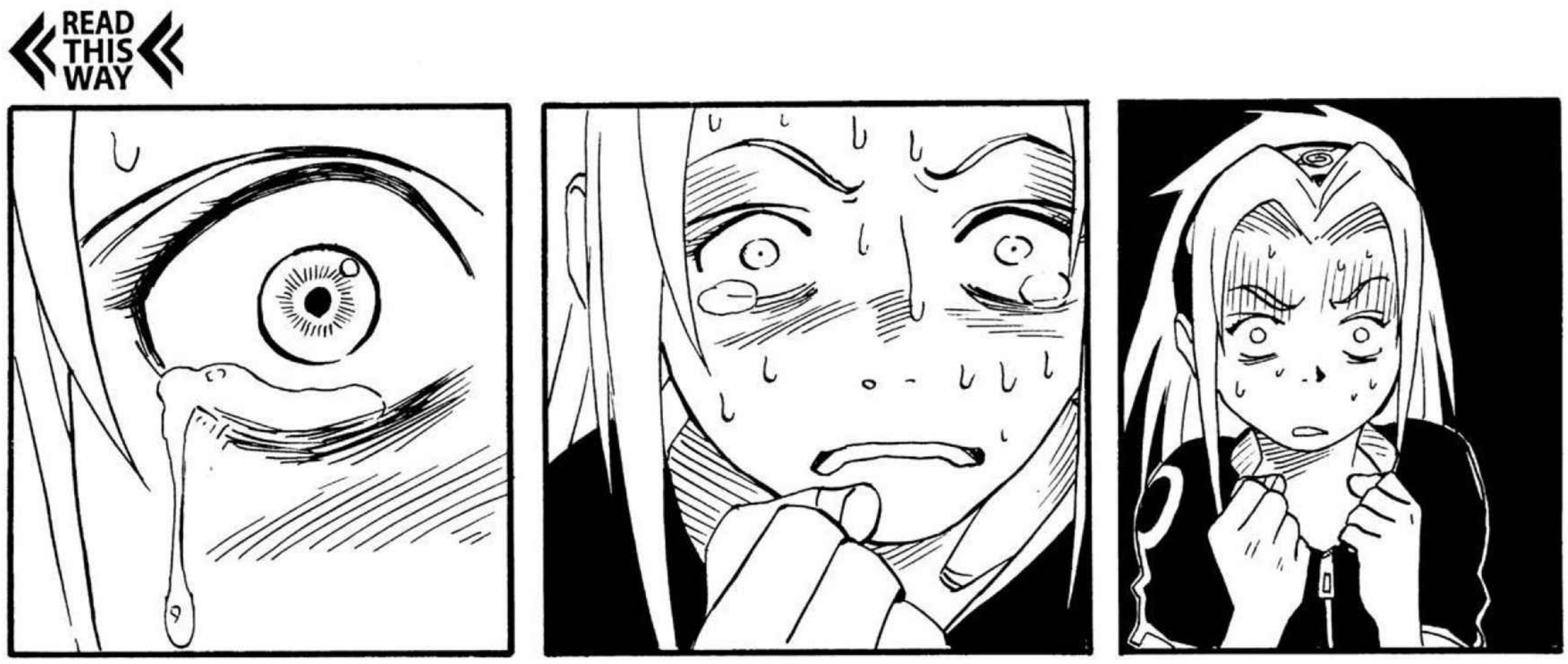

WHSSH
WHSSH
WHOOSH

SASUKE!!

!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE...

SAKURA...

H-HELP... ME...
HUFF
HUFF
...SA..... SAKU... RA...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

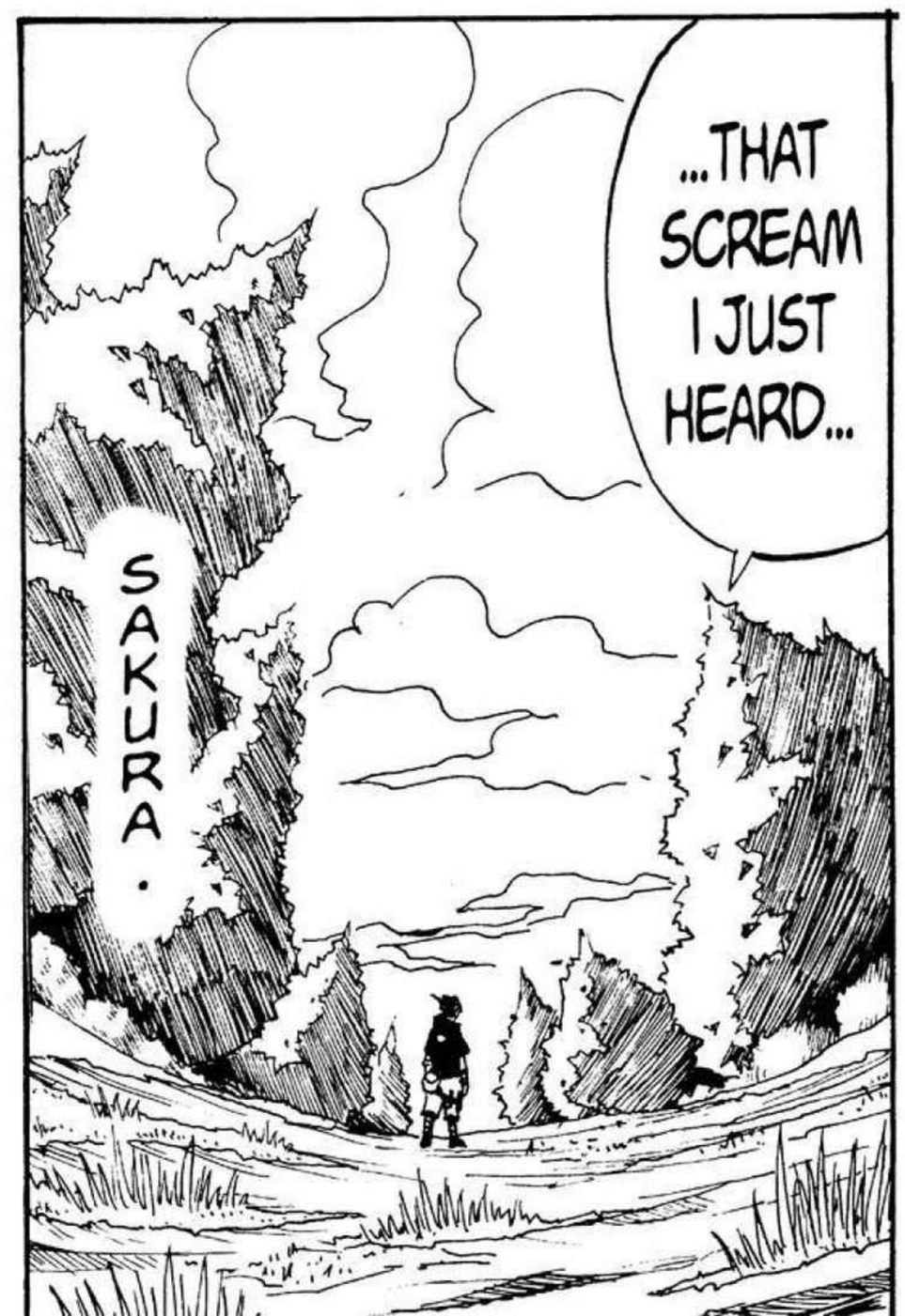

READ THIS WAY

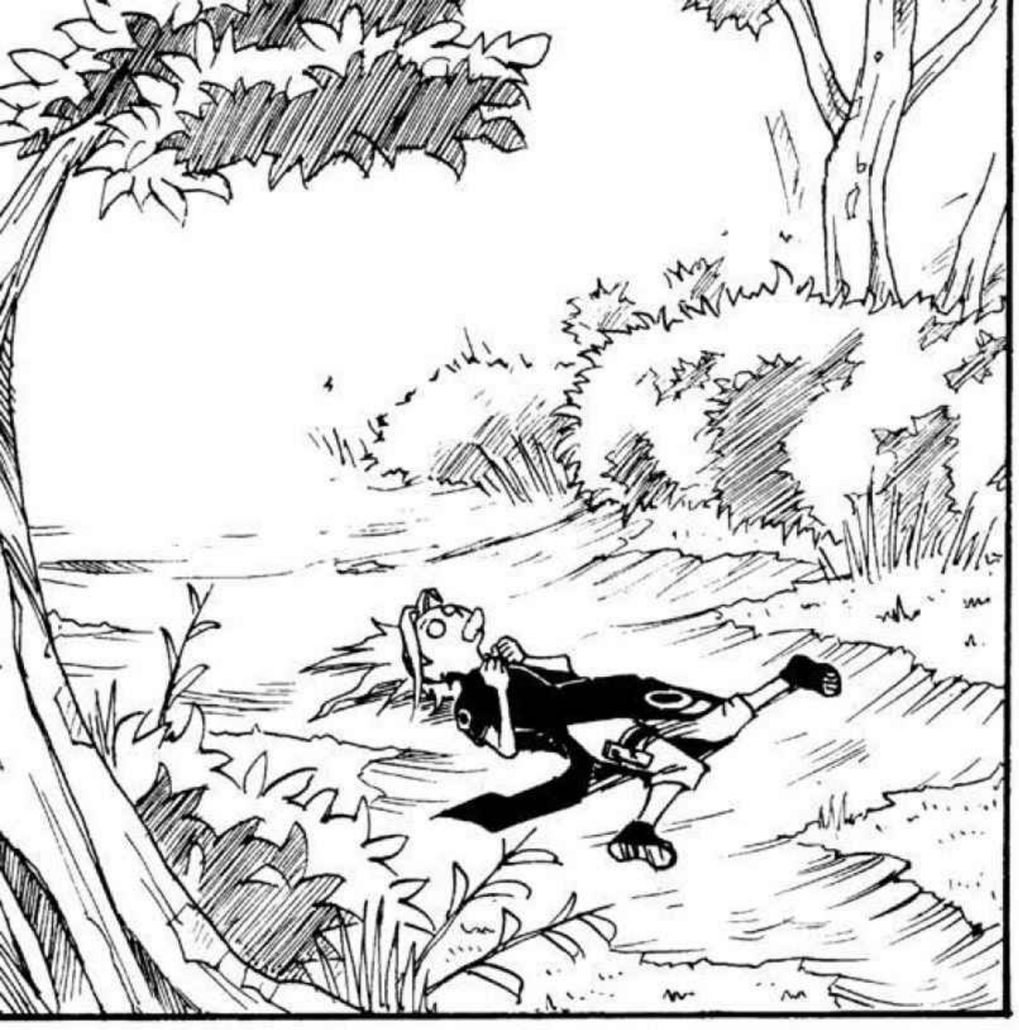
YEEAAAAAAAAAH!!!!

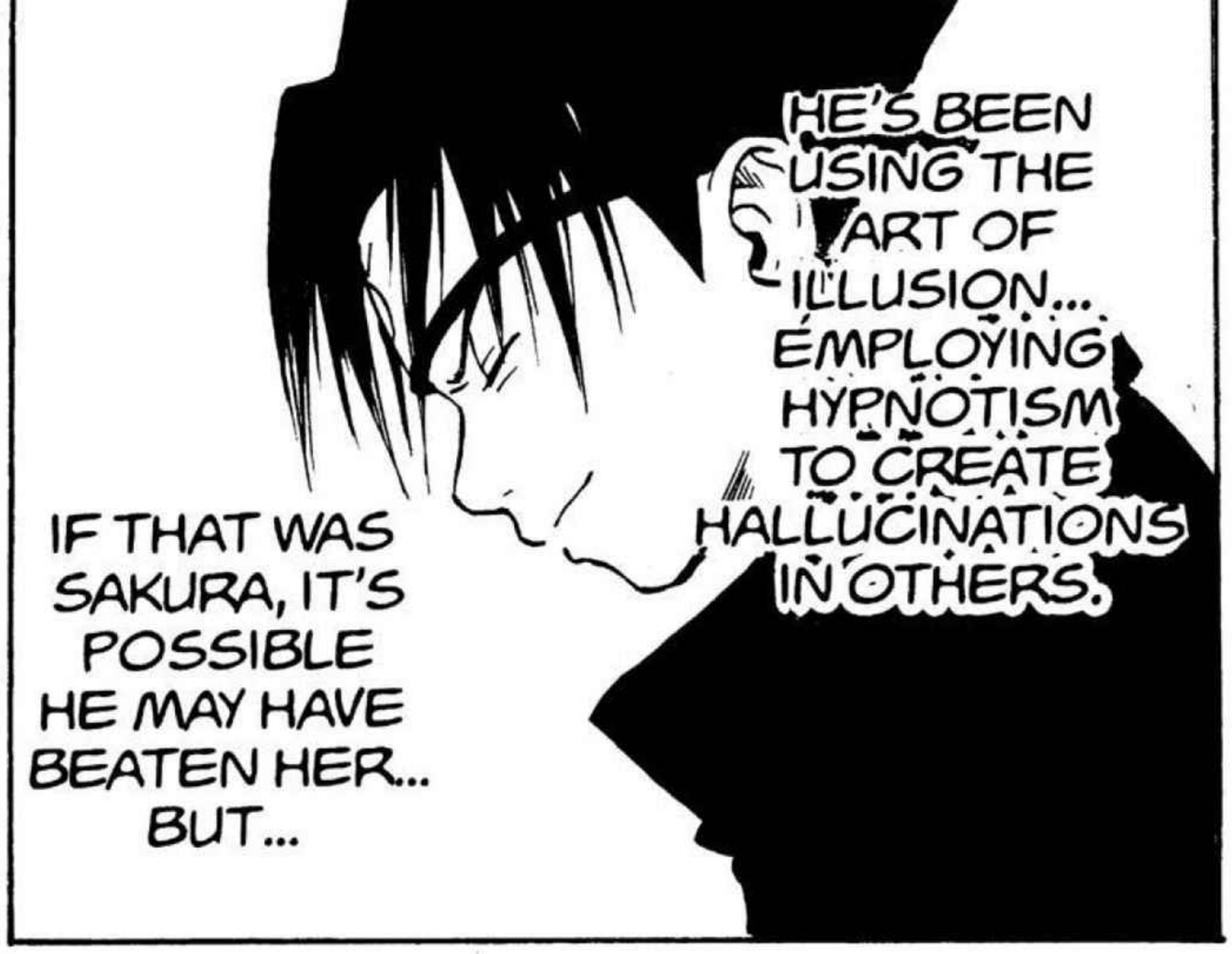
WAS THAT TOO MUCH?
.....
MAKE-OUT PARADISE

KER-WUMP

GENJUTSU- THE ART OF ILLUSION.
THE SECOND NINJUTSU SKILL -
AND SAKURA FELL FOR IT.
CHING

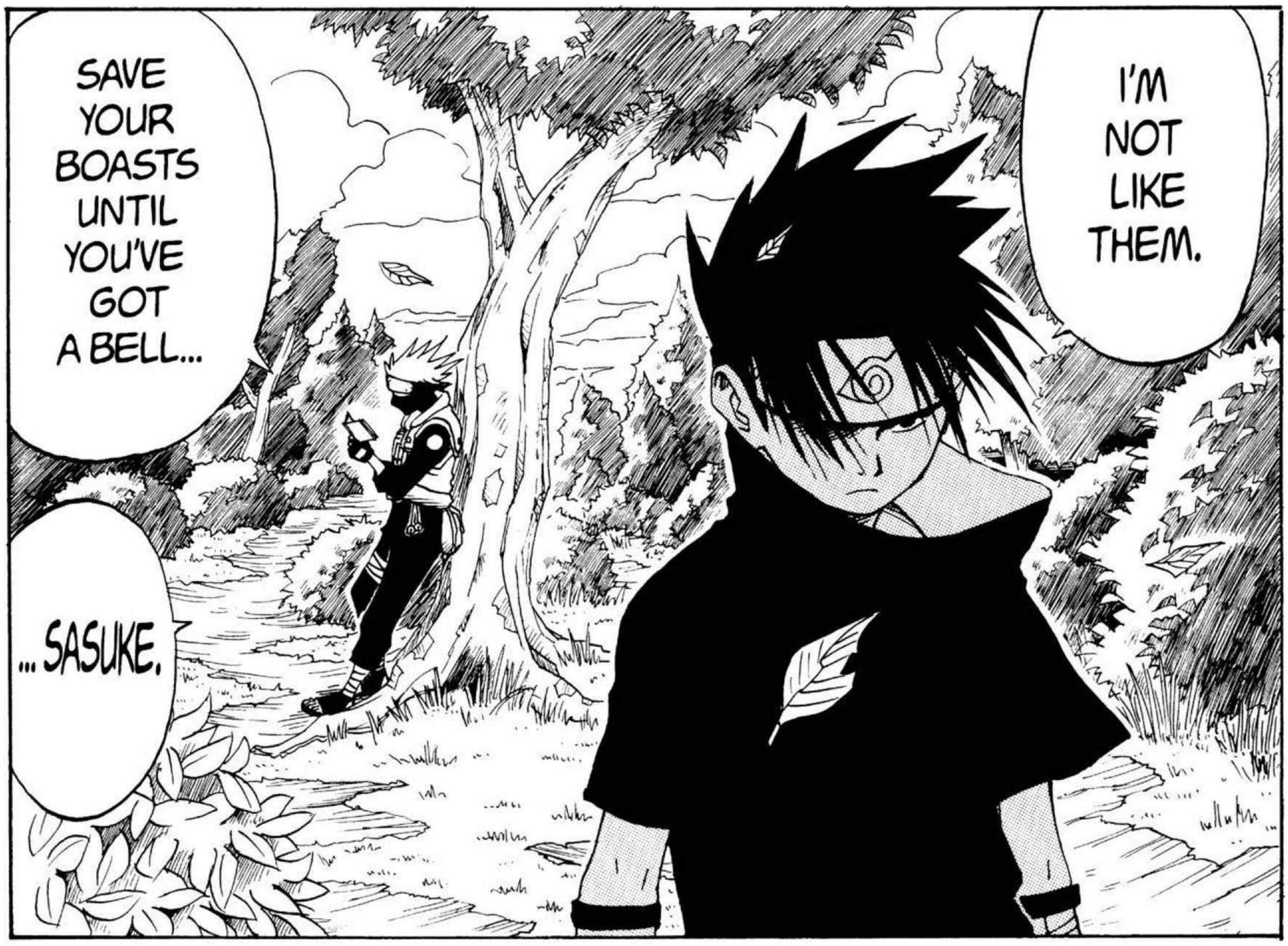

...THAT SCREAM I JUST HEARD...
SAKURA.




HE'S BEEN USING THE ART OF ILLUSION... EMPLOYING HYPNOTISM TO CREATE HALLUCINATIONS IN OTHERS.
IF THAT WAS SAKURA, IT'S POSSIBLE HE MAY HAVE BEATEN HER... BUT...

TAK

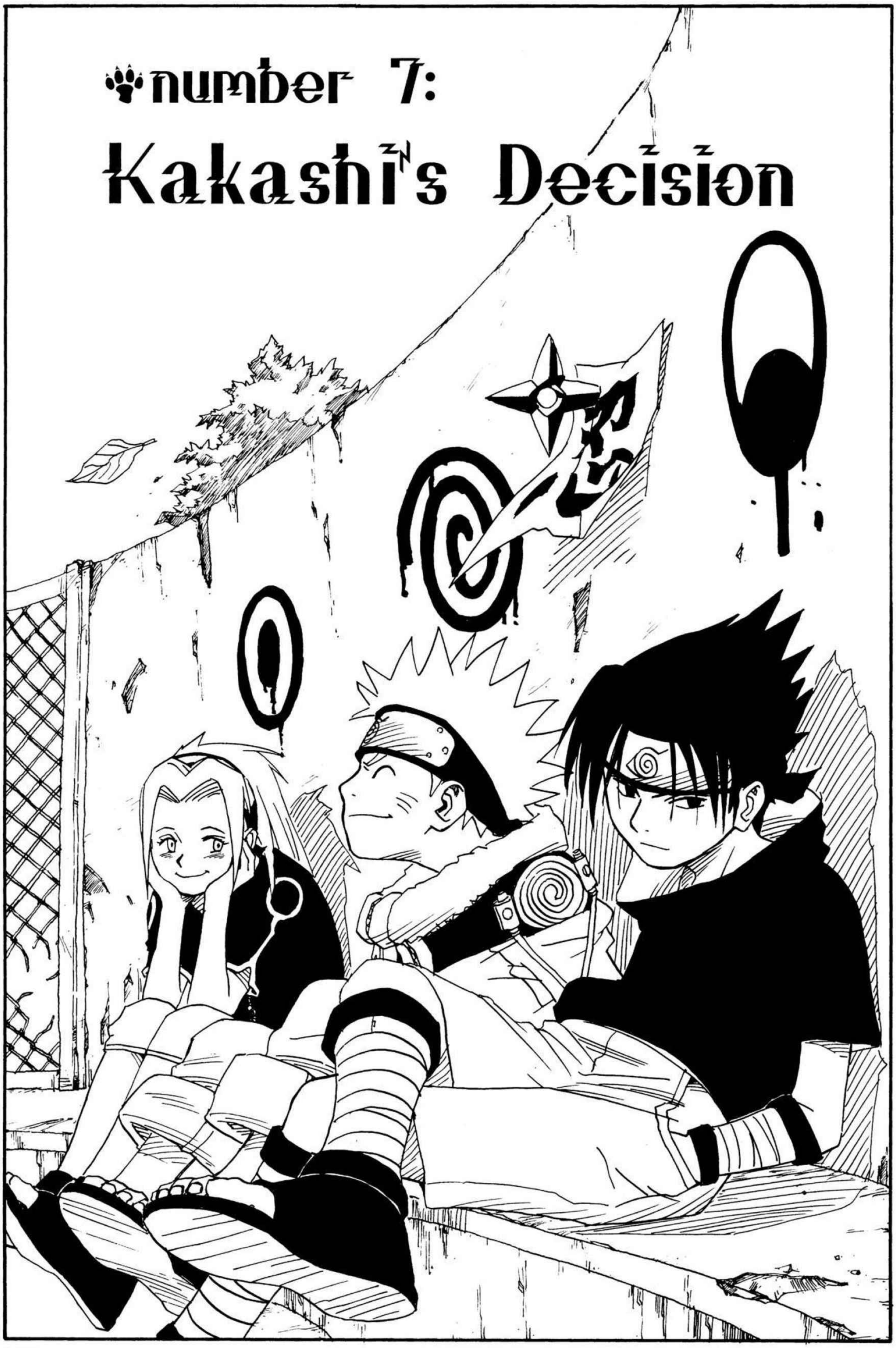
BLUB
FIZZZ


SAVE YOUR BOASTS UNTIL YOU'VE GOT A BELL...
I'M NOT LIKE THEM.
...SASUKE.

NARUTO STAFF

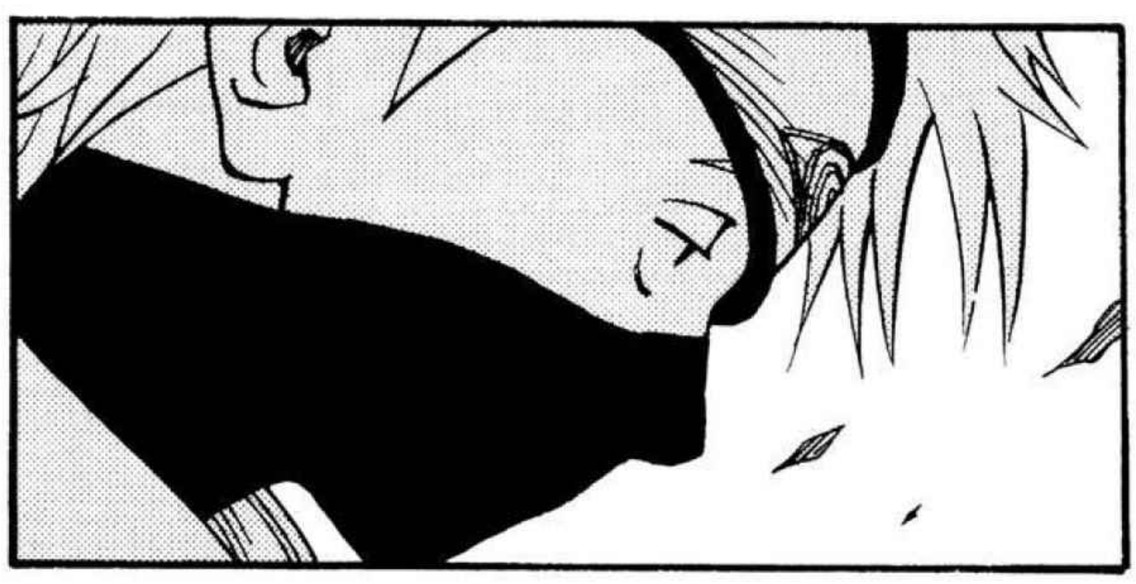
Kishimoto and his assistants work together to create **Naruto** for the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine…20 pages a week!

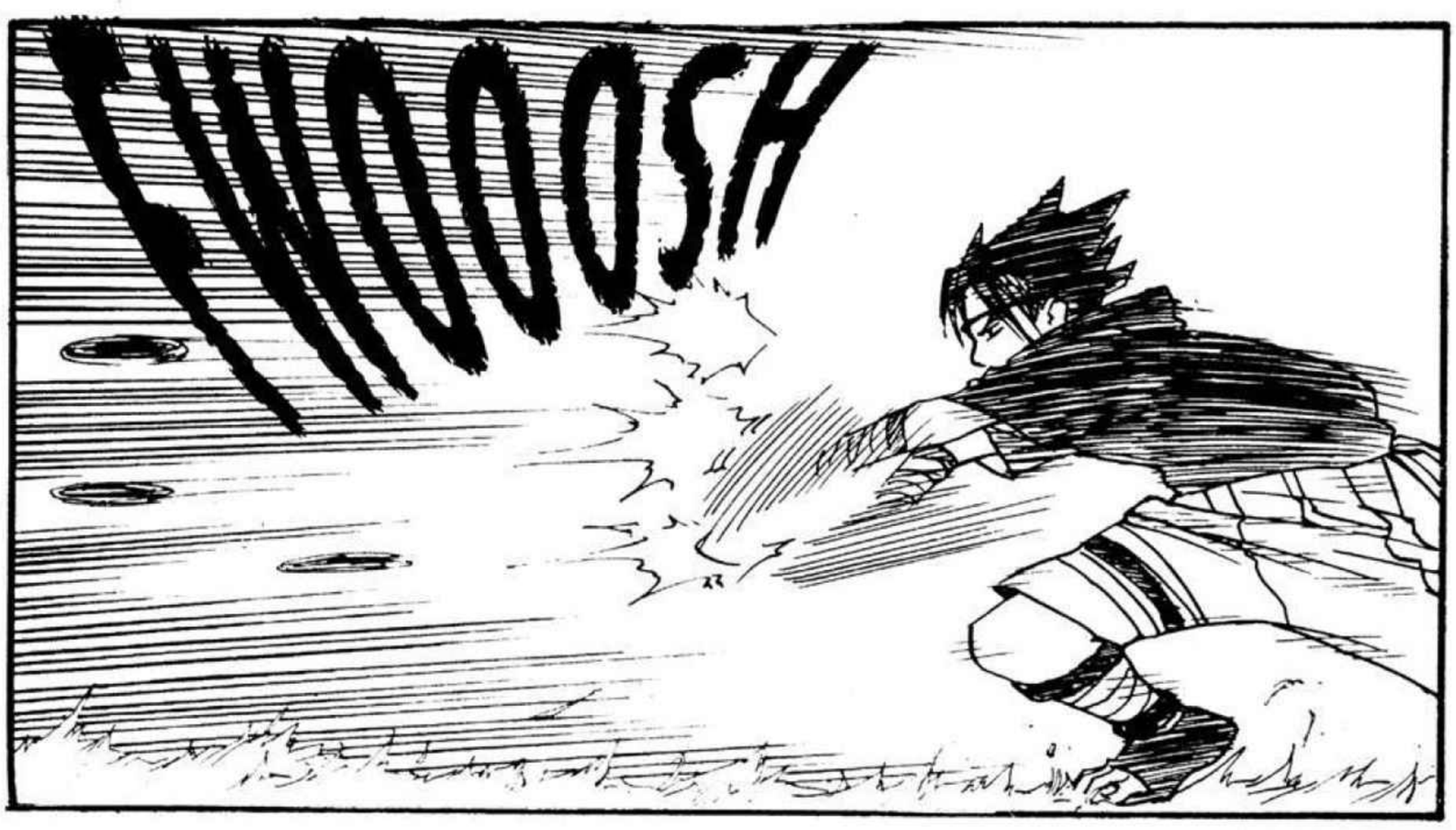
number 7:
Kakashi's Decision



I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...

THE STRENGTH OF THE UCHIHA CLAN... THE MOST ELITE FAMILY IN KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE...





A FRONTAL ASSAULT IS WASTED HERE.
ZIING
THOK

ZIING

A TRAP?!
TAK!

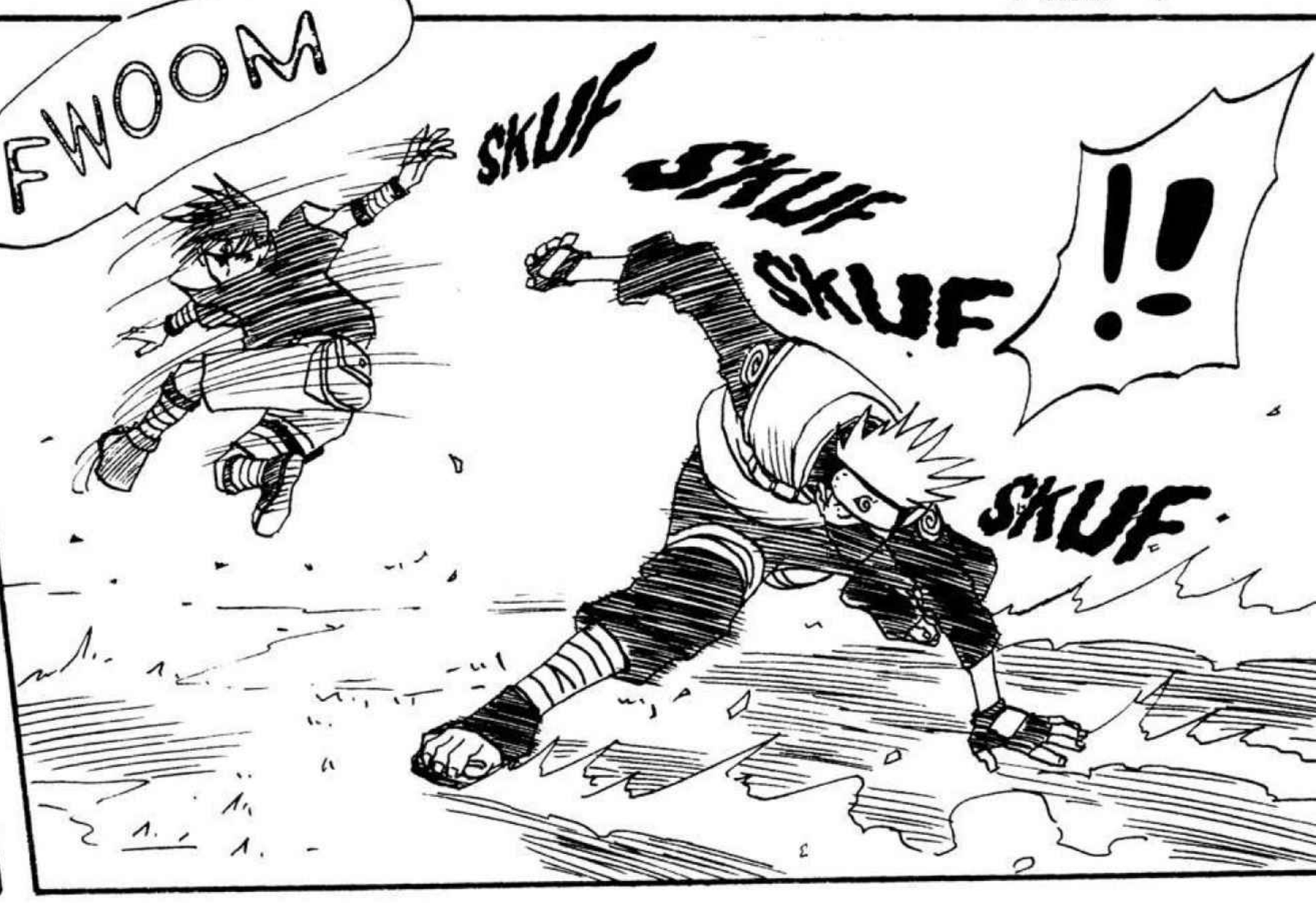
FWUP

HME

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK

WSH

WHAT--?!

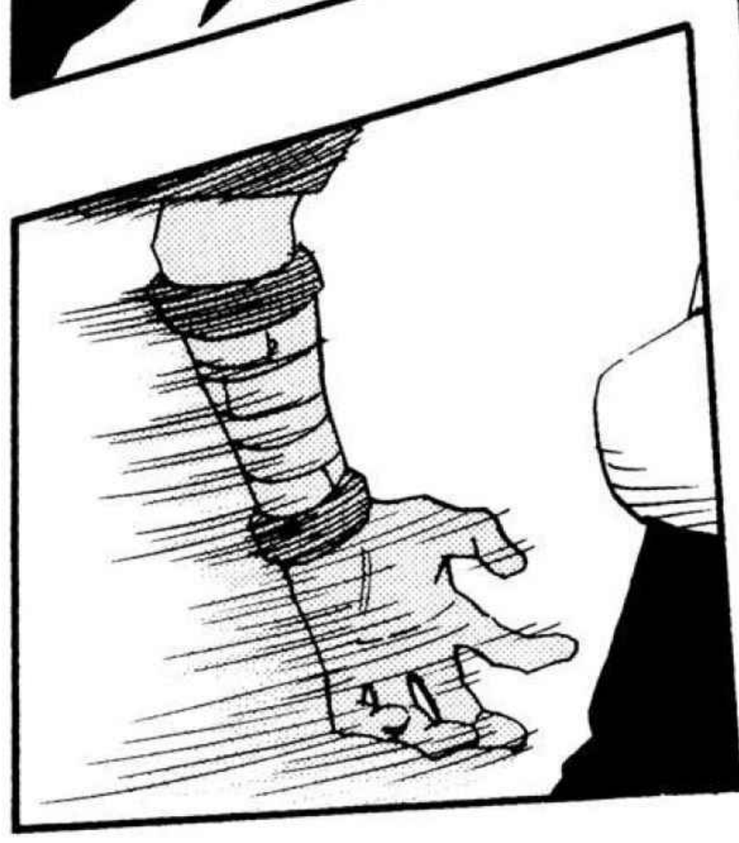

FWOOM
SKUF
SKUF
SKUF
SKUF
!!

DOW

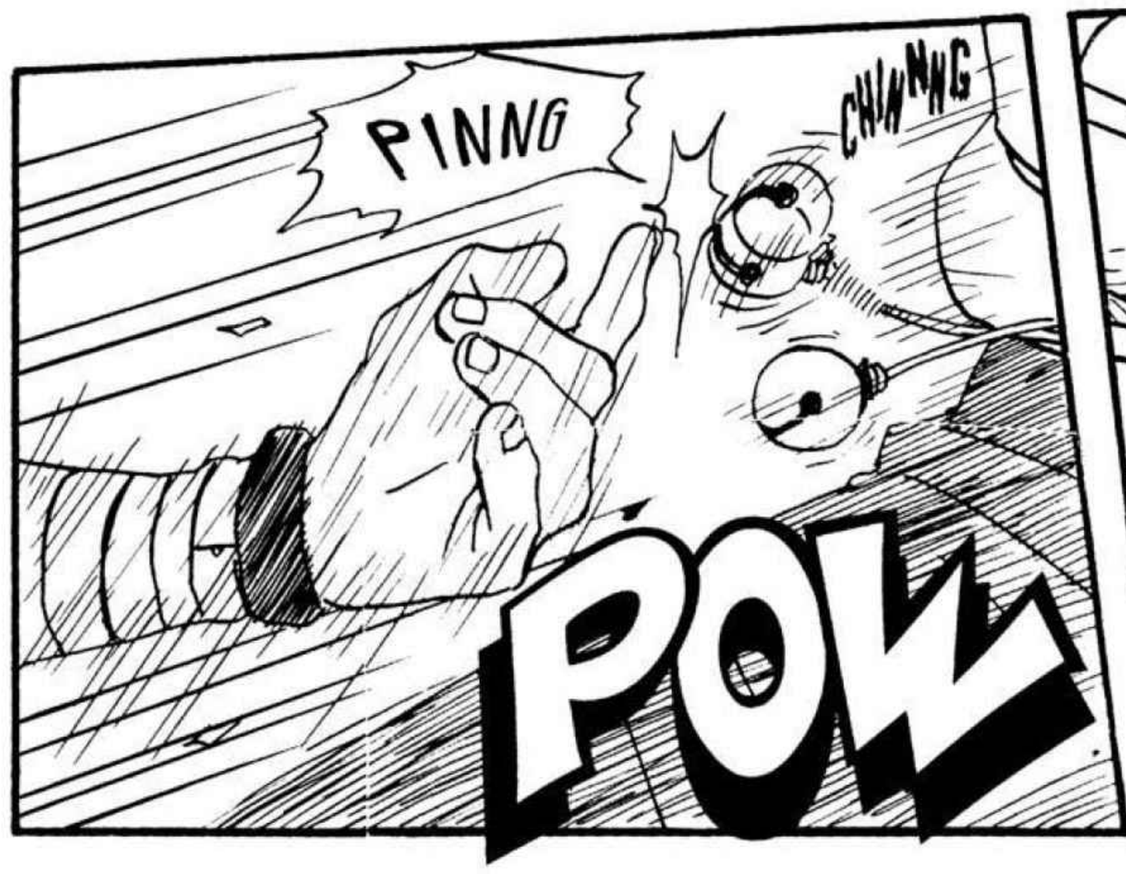
YANK
PAFF!
!!

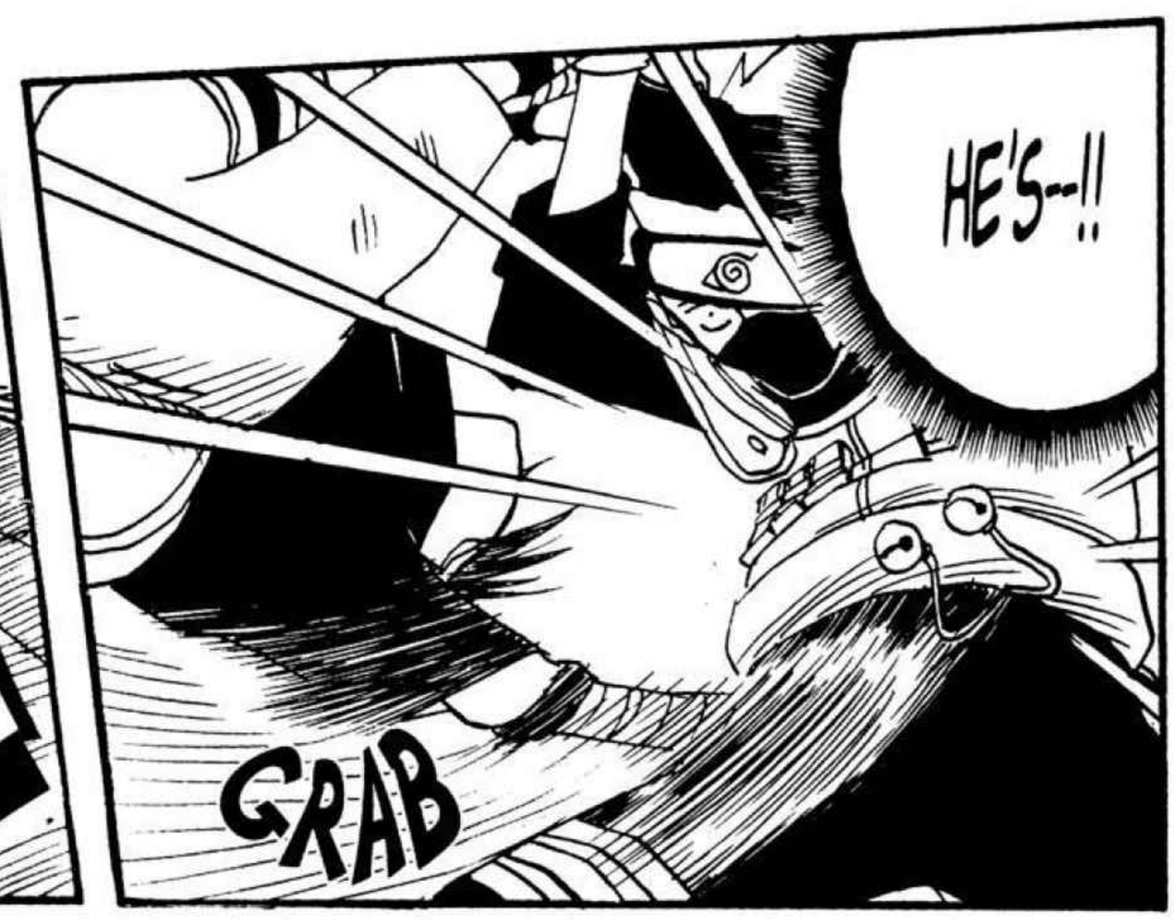
CHIANG

!
HEH...

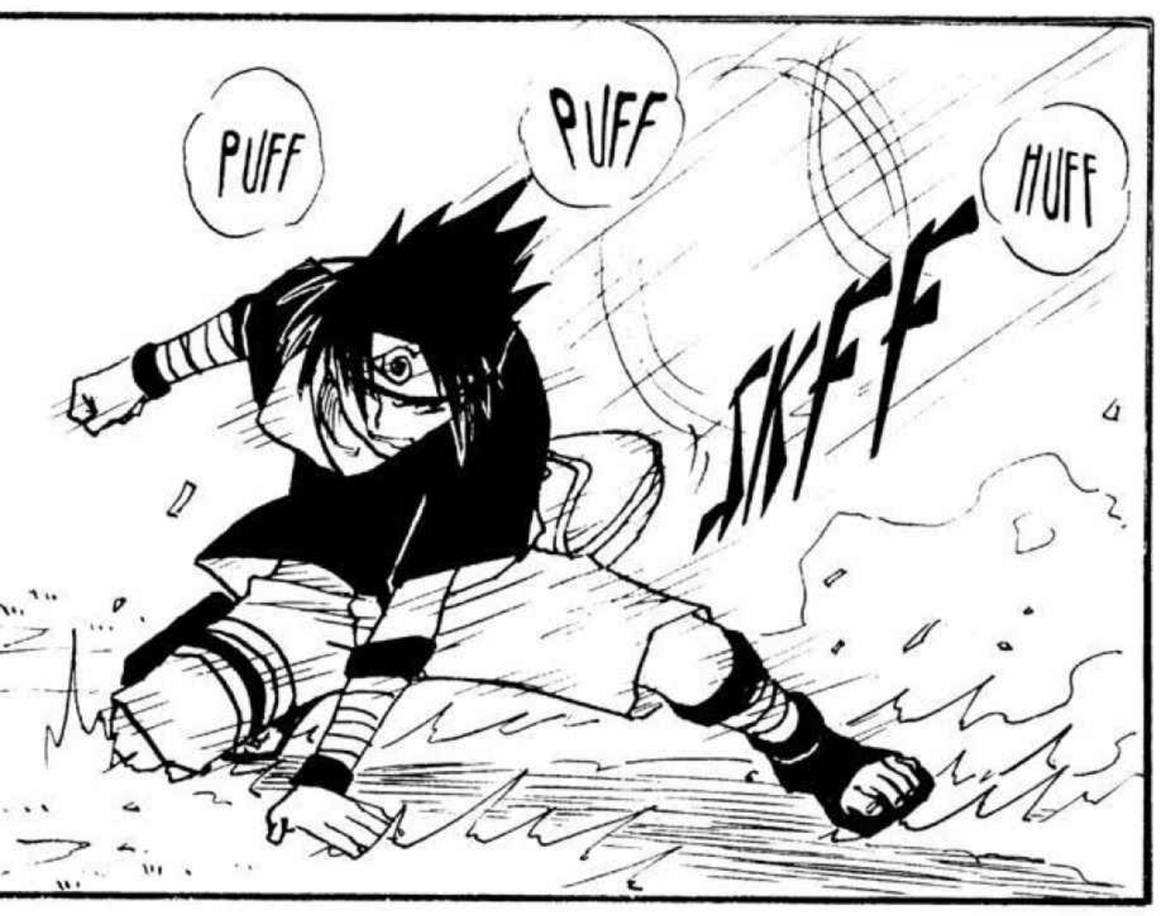


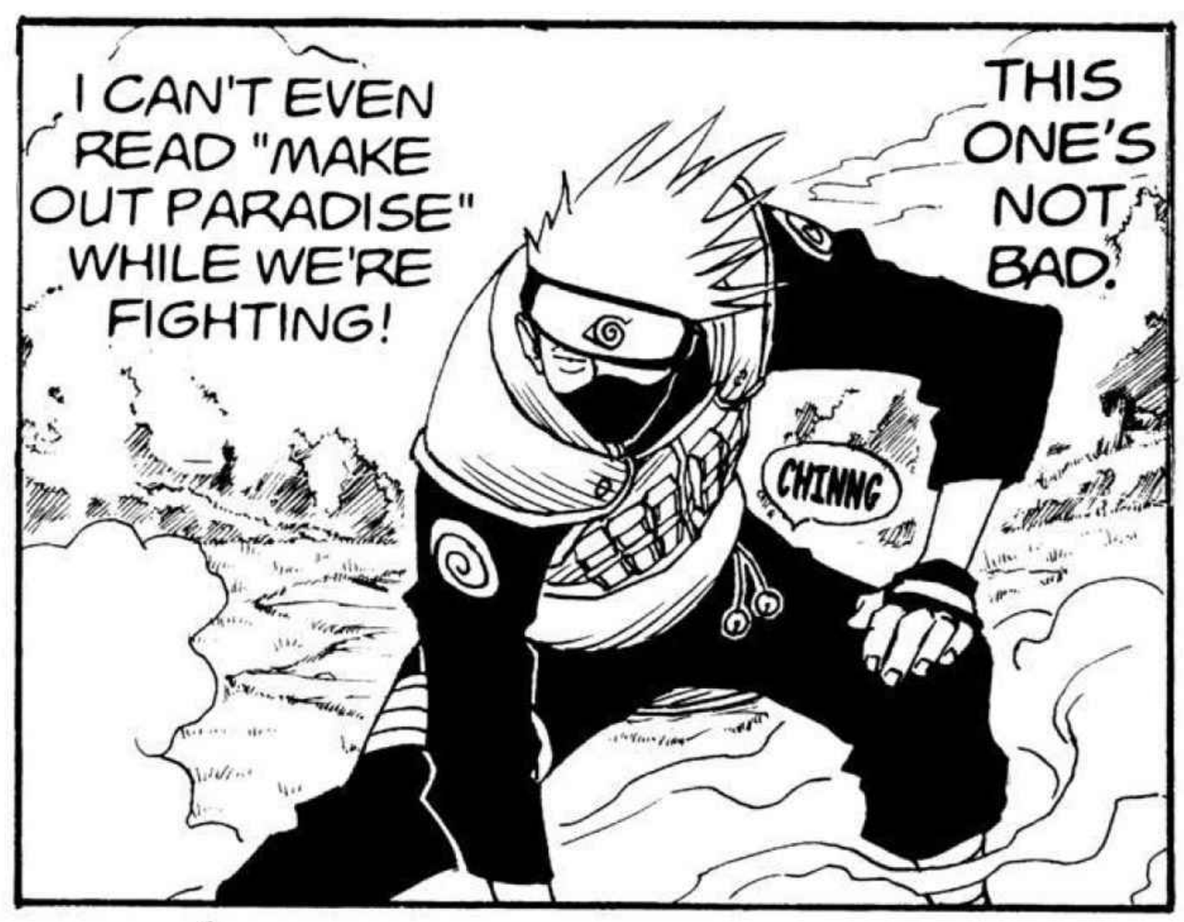
FLIP


PINNG
CHIANNNG
POW


HE'S--!!
GRAB

TAK TAK

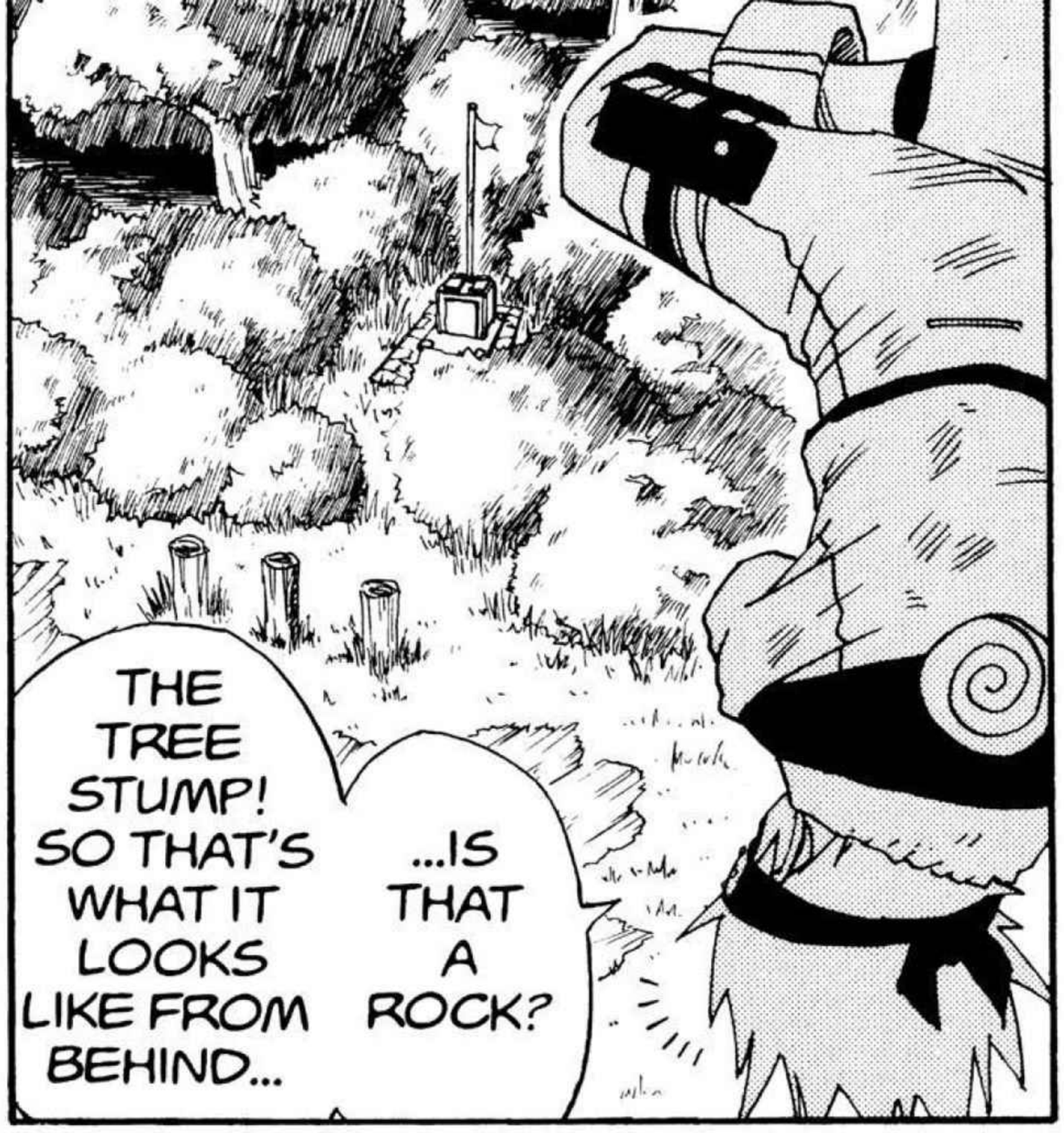

PUFF
PUFF
HUFF
SKFF

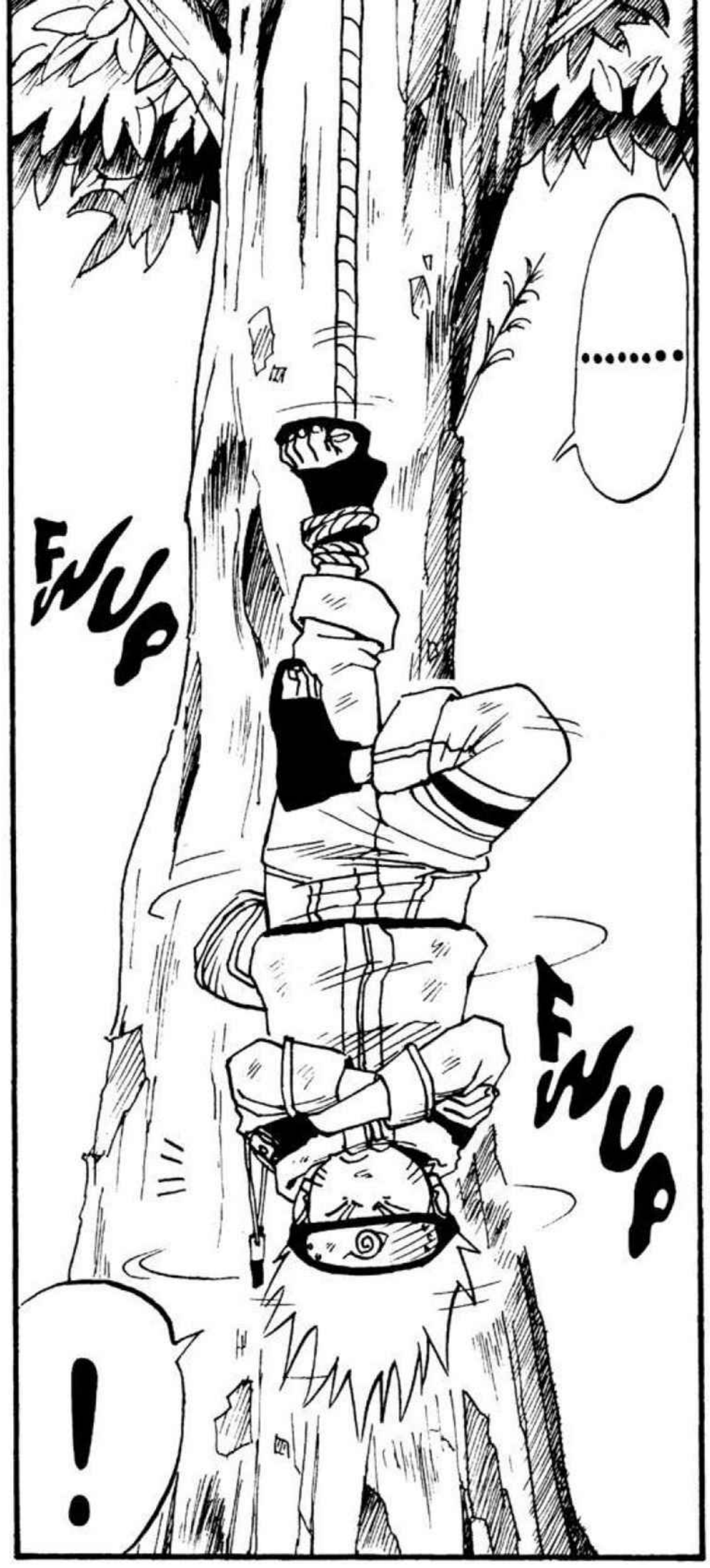

I CAN'T EVEN READ "MAKE OUT PARADISE" WHILE WE'RE FIGHTING!
THIS ONE'S NOT BAD.
CHINNG

SA-SUKE--!!
DON'T DIE... DON'T LEAVE ME!
WHERE ARE YOU?!

!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...AND WHEN I SAW THAT I.....
I REMEMBER! SASUKE WAS DYING....

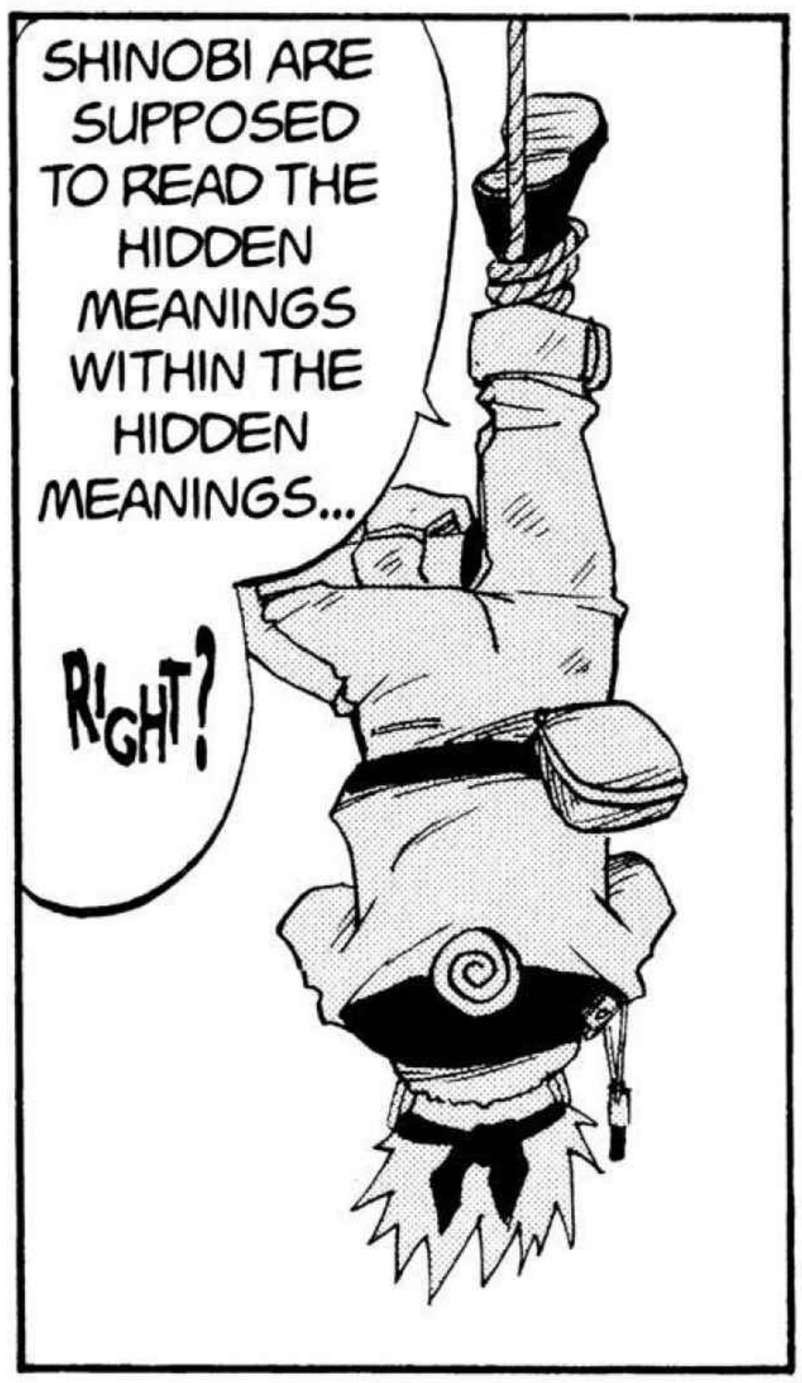
HUNH?
.....
...I.....

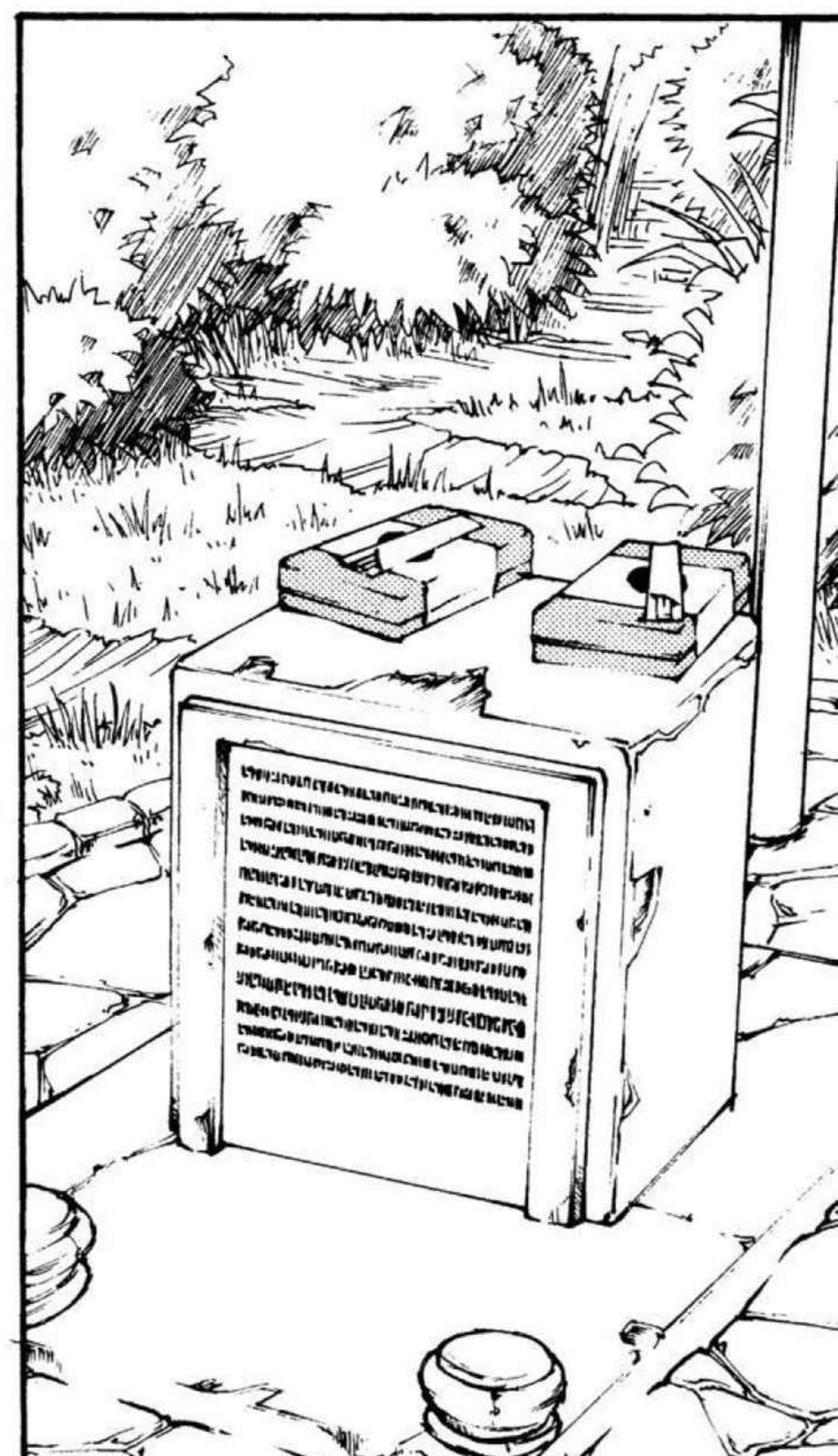

THE TREE STUMP! SO THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FROM BEHIND...
...IS THAT A ROCK?


FWUP
FWUP
.....
!

HEY... THE LUNCH BOXES ARE ON TOP OF THE BOULDER!
FWUP
!

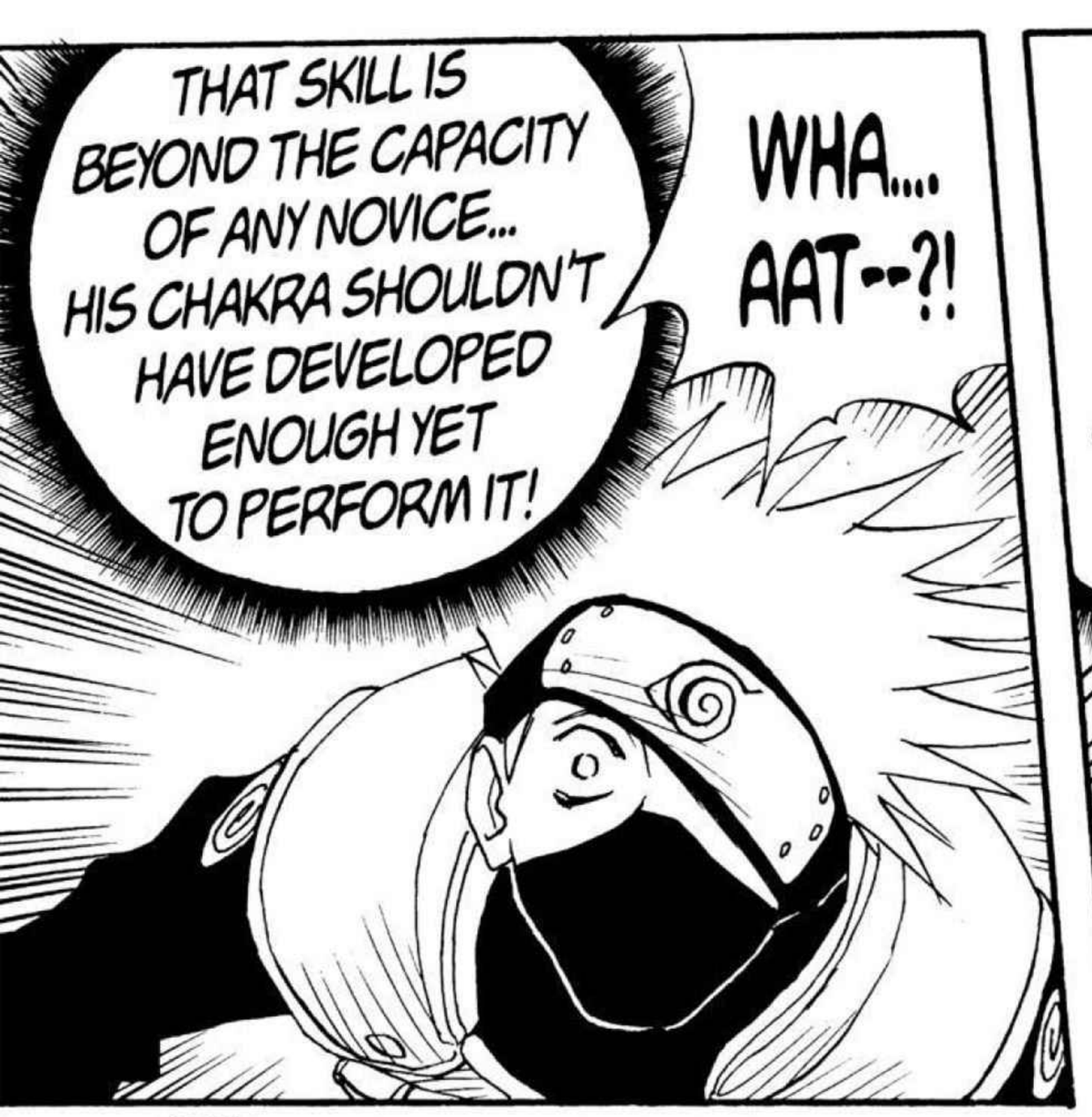
HEE- HEE- HEE- HEE!


SHINOBI ARE SUPPOSED TO READ THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN THE HIDDEN MEANINGS...
RIGHT?

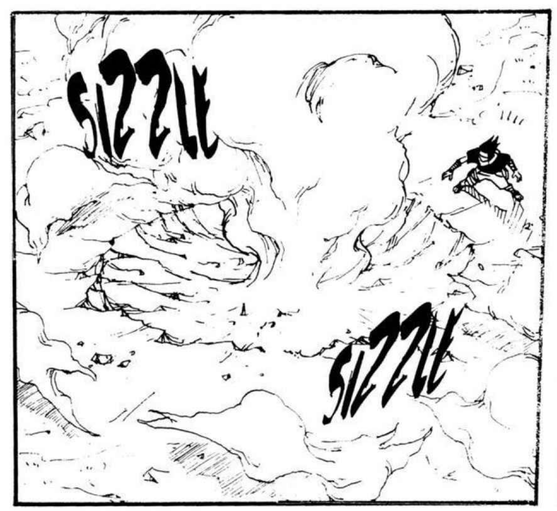


YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS.

I ADMIT IT.



FWOOOSH


SIZZLE
SIZZLE

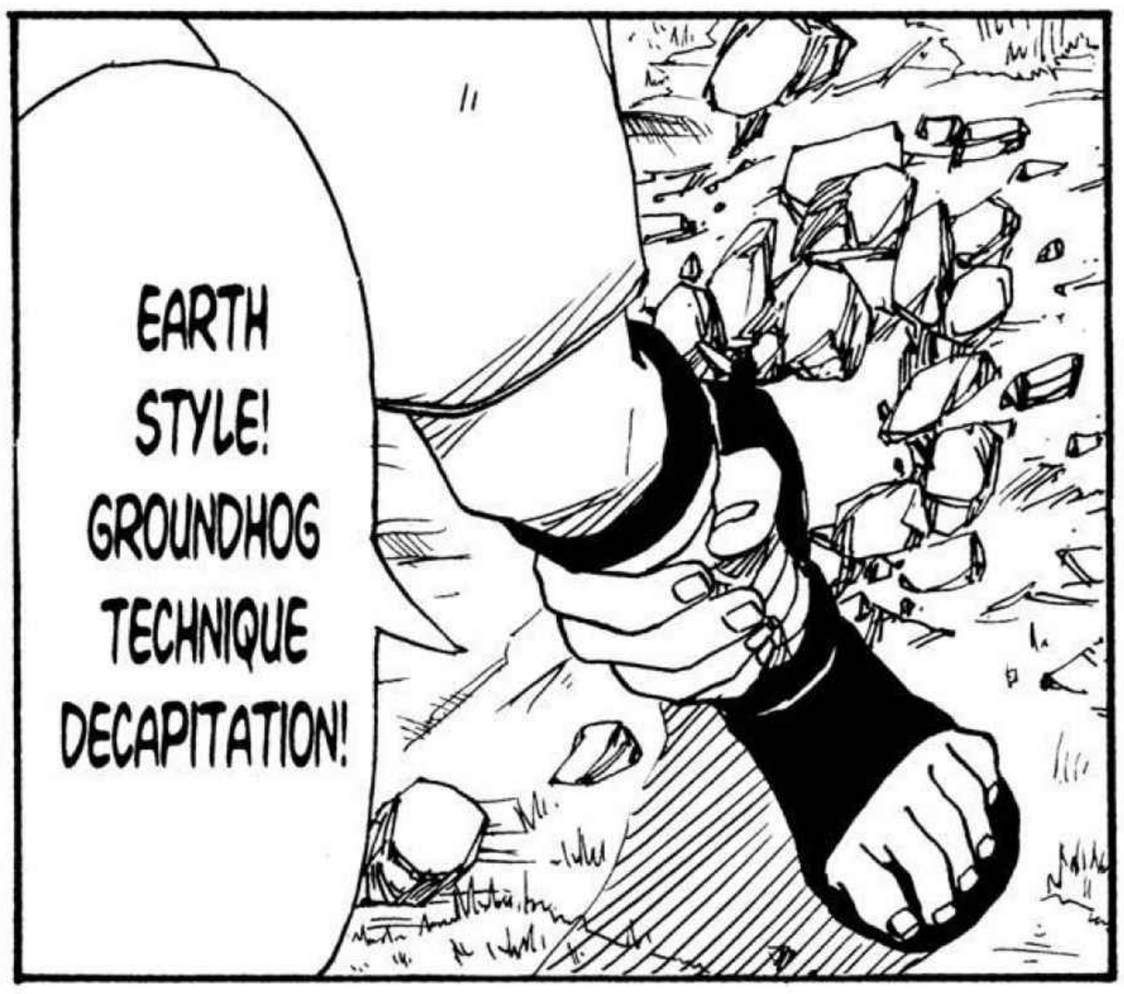
EFFFT

!!
BELOW.

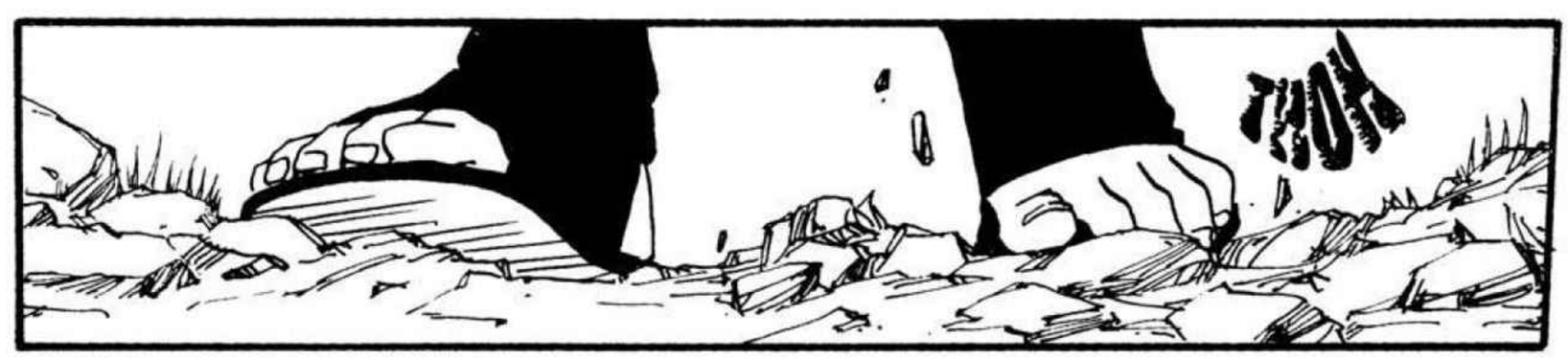
WHERE'D HE GO?!
BEHIND ME...?
ABOVE...?
RIGHT?
LEFT?

!
HE'S GONE!

WHA...!

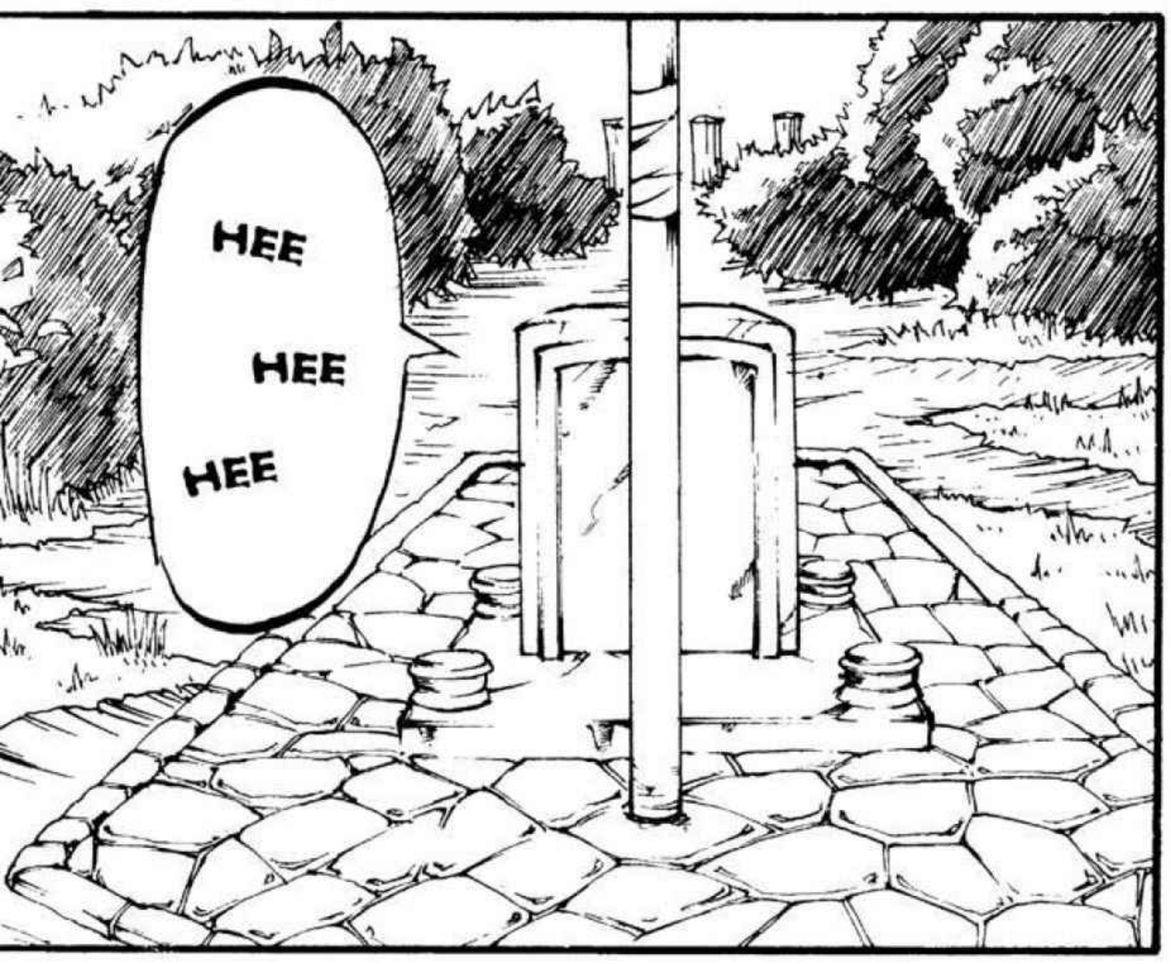

EARTH STYLE! GROUNDHOG TECHNIQUE DECAPITATION!

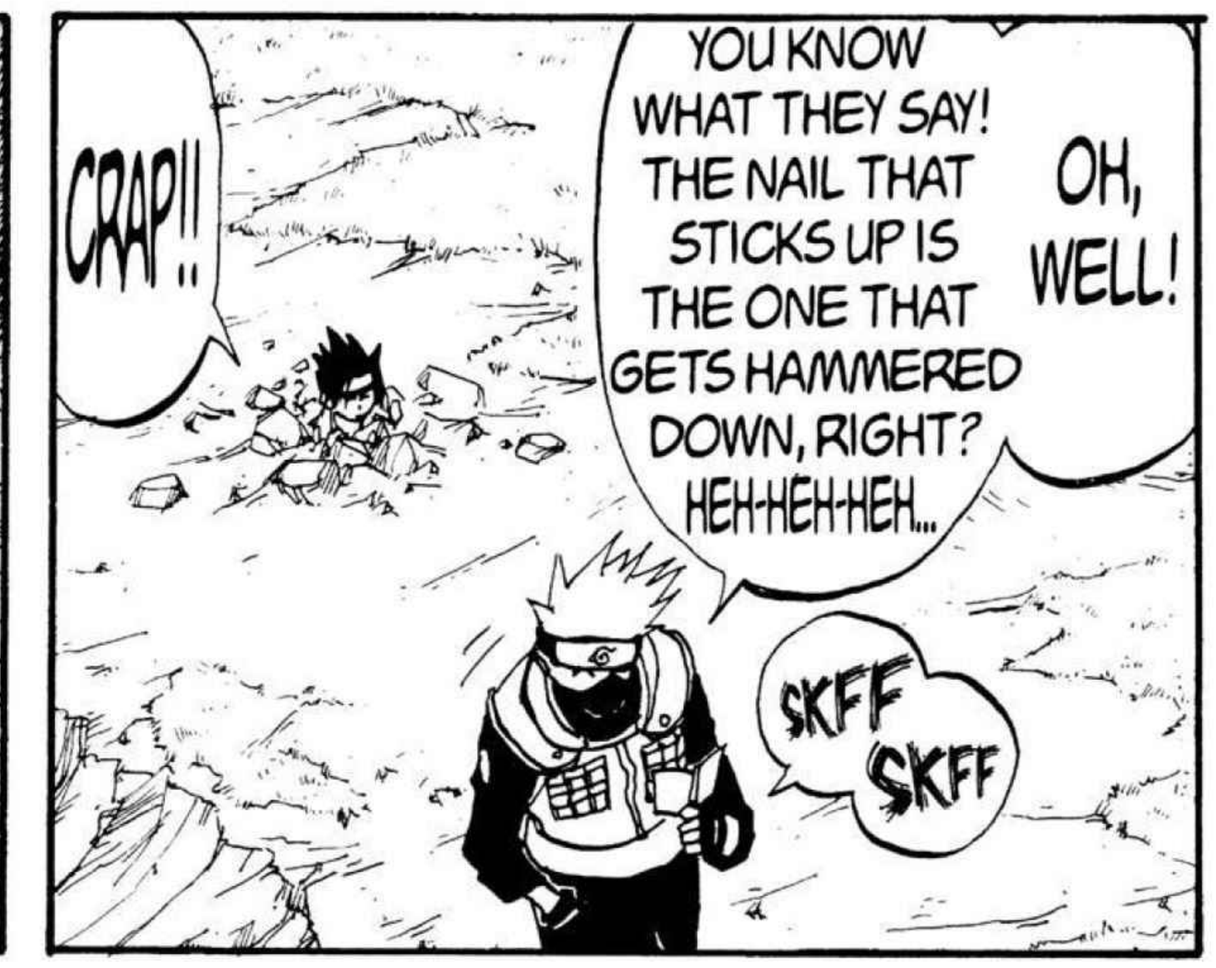
CHRANK!


THOK

NOOOO--!
RUMBLE

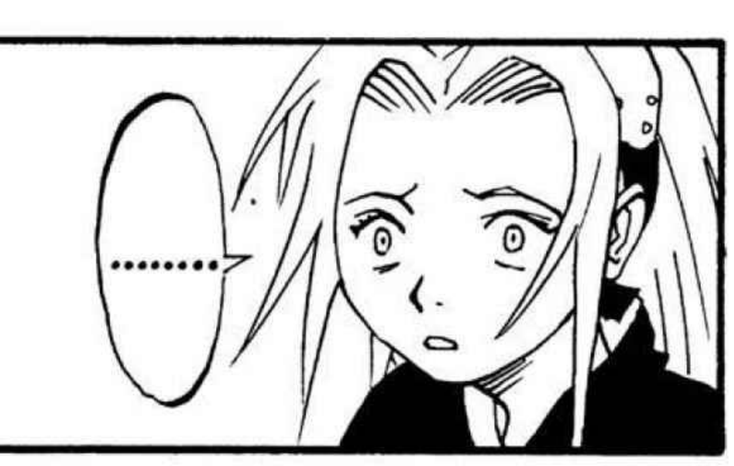
...BUT AT LEAST, AS YOU PREDICTED, YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THAT OF YOUR COMPANIONS.
SHINOBI BATTLE TECHNIQUE, LESSON NUMBER THREE - NINJUTSU.
.....


HEE
HEE
HEE


CRAP!!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY! THE NAIL THAT STICKS UP IS THE ONE THAT GETS HAMMERED DOWN, RIGHT? HEH-HEH-HEH...
OH, WELL!
SKFF SKFF

-AHEM!-
HOP
UUUH... JUST KIDDING!
TOO LATE!

I'LL JUST HANG OUT HERE AND EAT EVERY-BODY'S LUNCH!
I CAN DEAL WITH IT.
EVEN IF I CAN'T TAKE THOSE BELLS FAIR AND SQUARE...

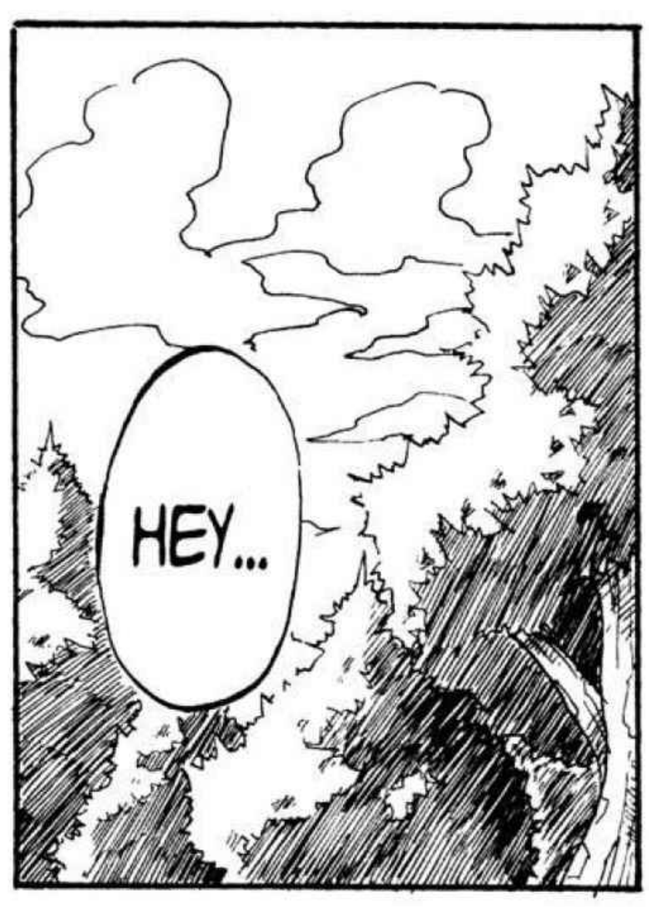

.....

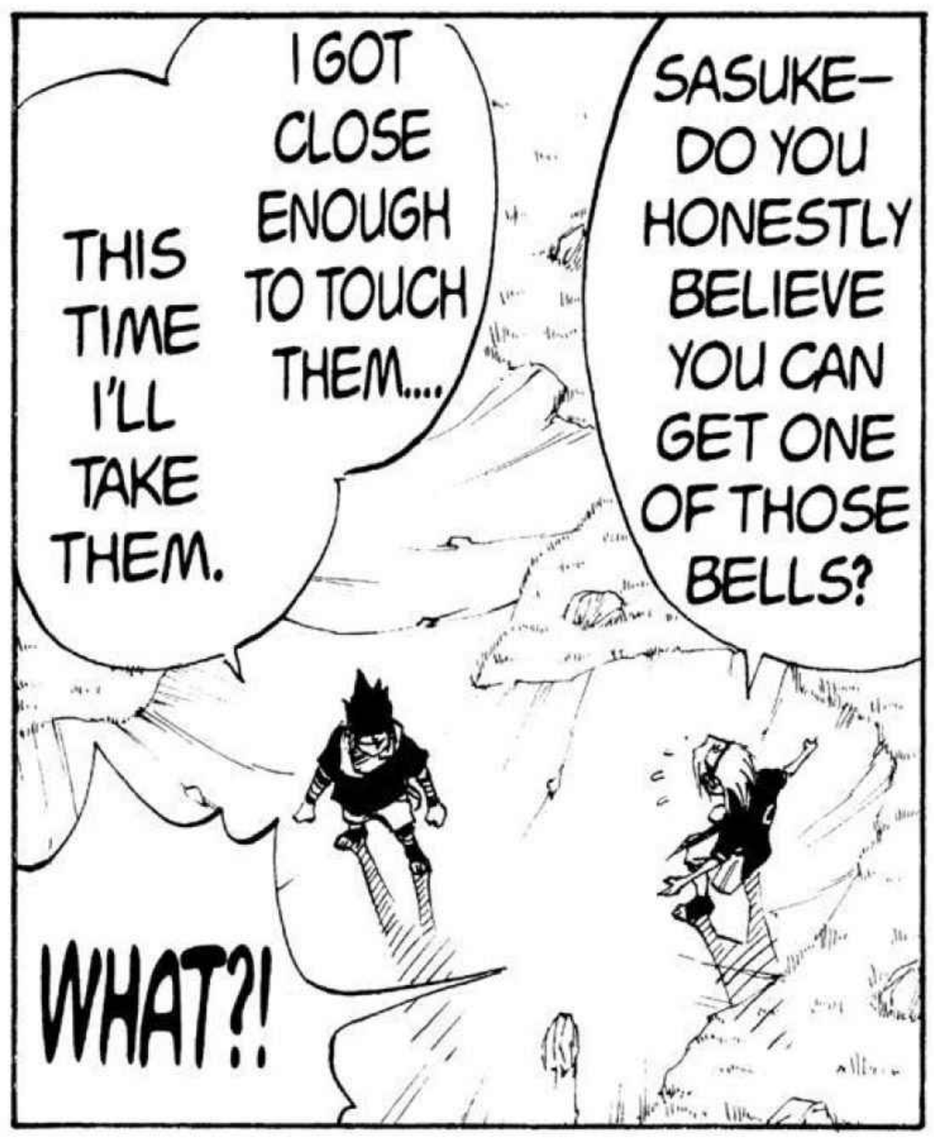
!
!
TAK

CRAP... I THOUGHT I WAS SO CLOSE...

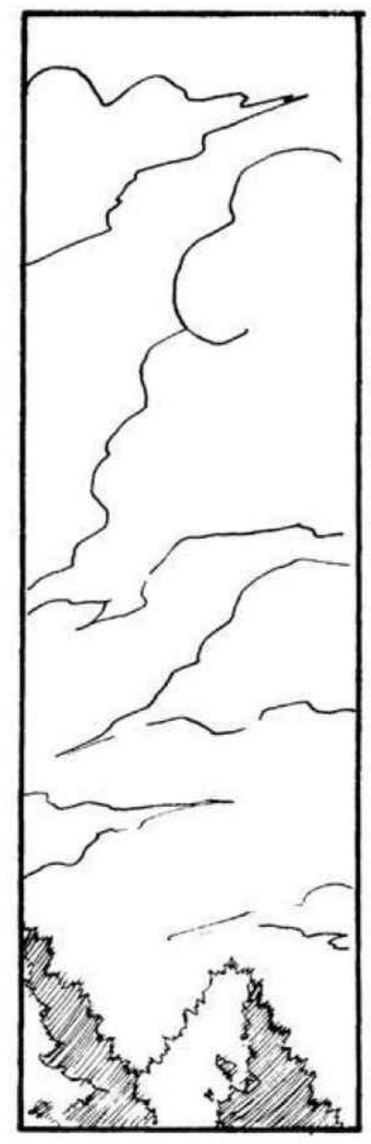
IT'S SASUKE'S HEAD... IT'S BEEN SEVERED!!!

EEEYAAGH!

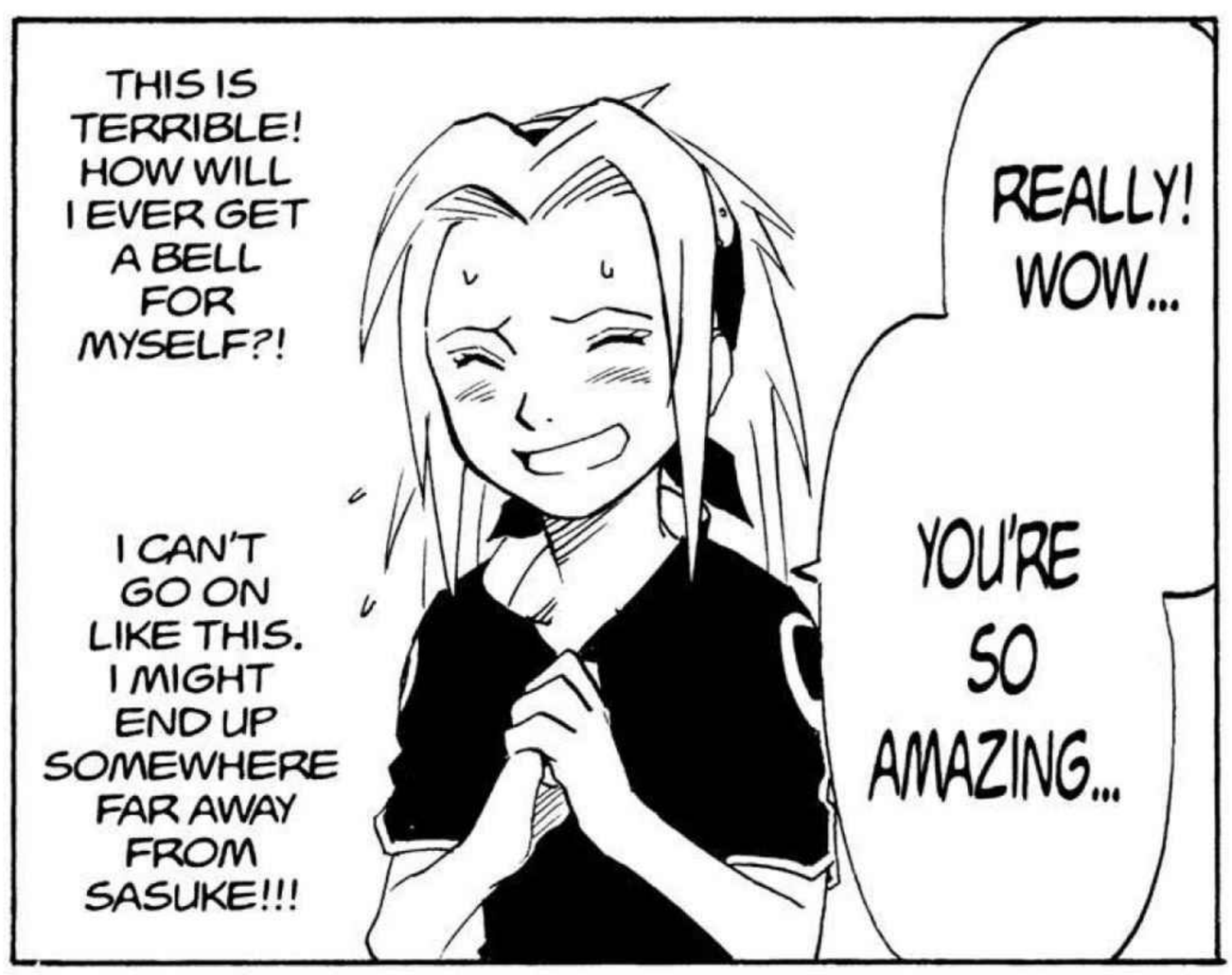


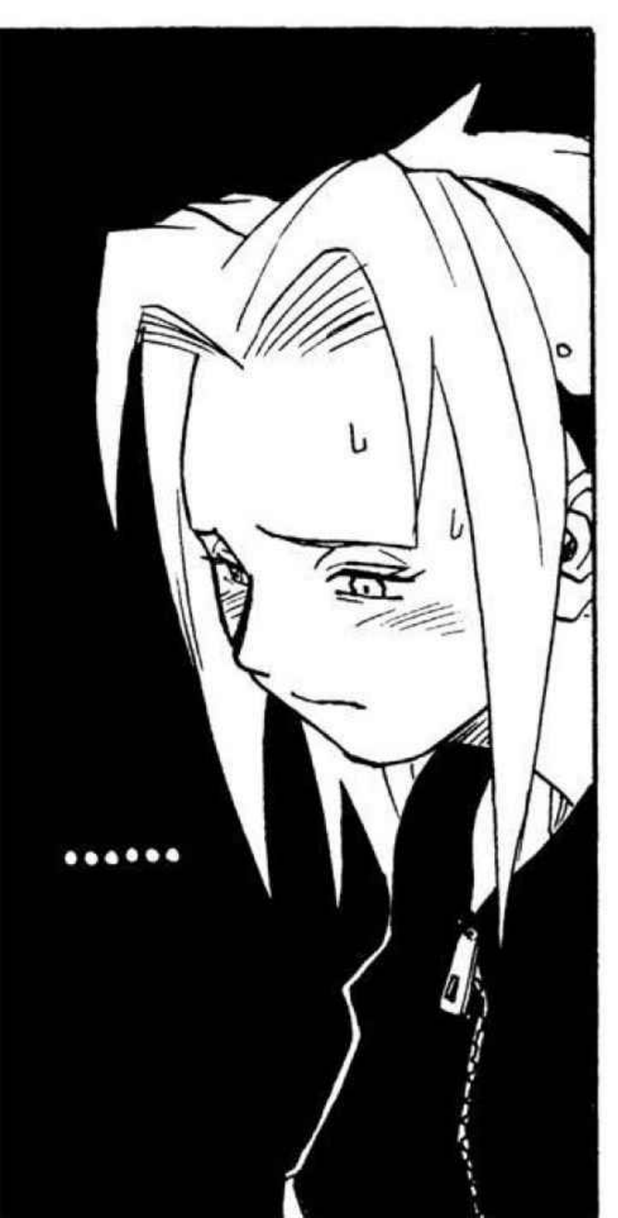

THIS TIME I'LL TAKE THEM.
I GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH THEM....
SASUKE— DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU CAN GET ONE OF THOSE BELLS?
WHAT?!

TIME'S RUNNING OUT. IT'S ALMOST NOON.
I'M OFF.

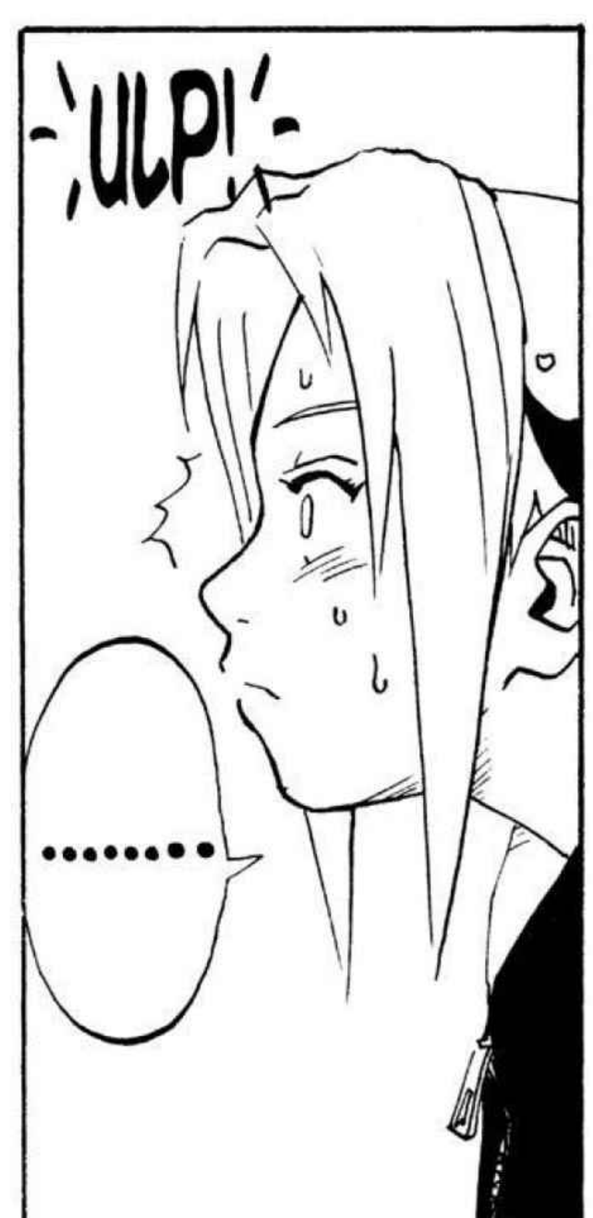


...EVEN IF WE COULDN'T MANAGE IT THIS TIME... I'M SURE, NEXT TIME, IF WE GIVE IT OUR ALL...
UH... I MEAN... THERE'S NO MORE TIME AND.....

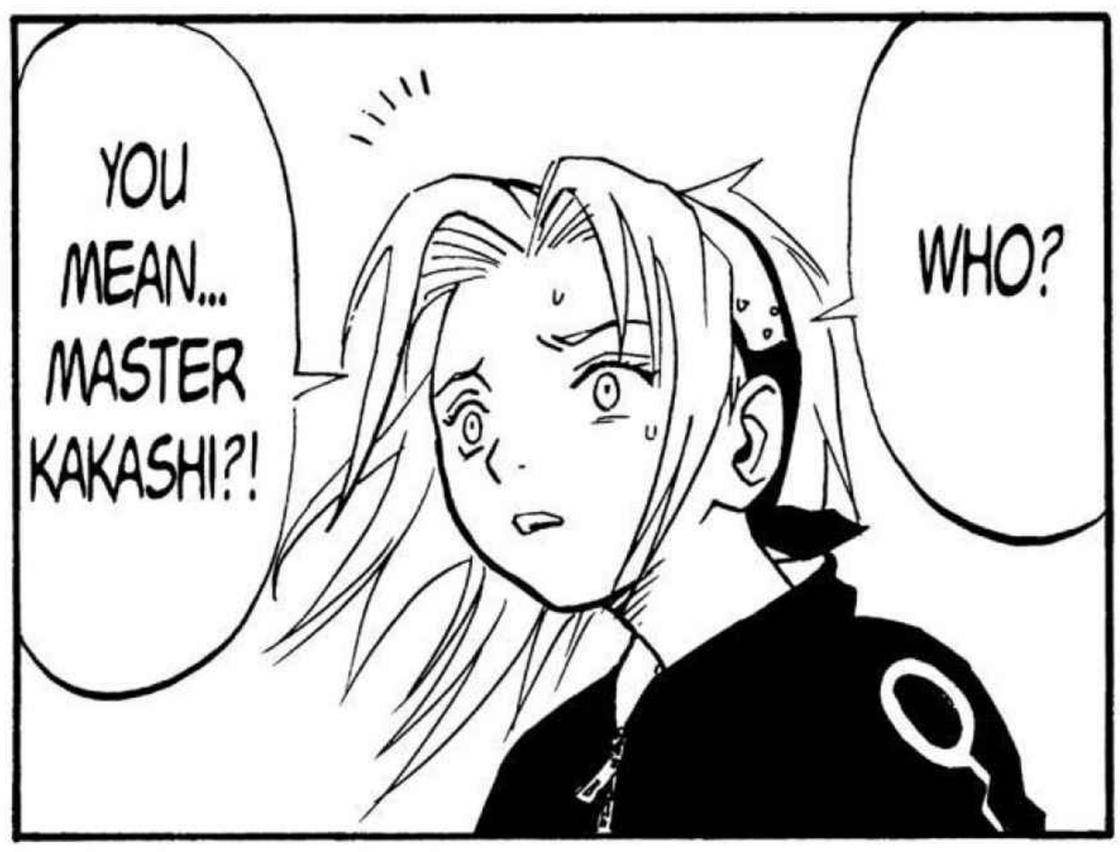

THIS IS TERRIBLE! HOW WILL I EVER GET A BELL FOR MYSELF?!
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS. I MIGHT END UP SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FROM SASUKE!!!
REALLY! WOW...
YOU'RE SO AMAZING...

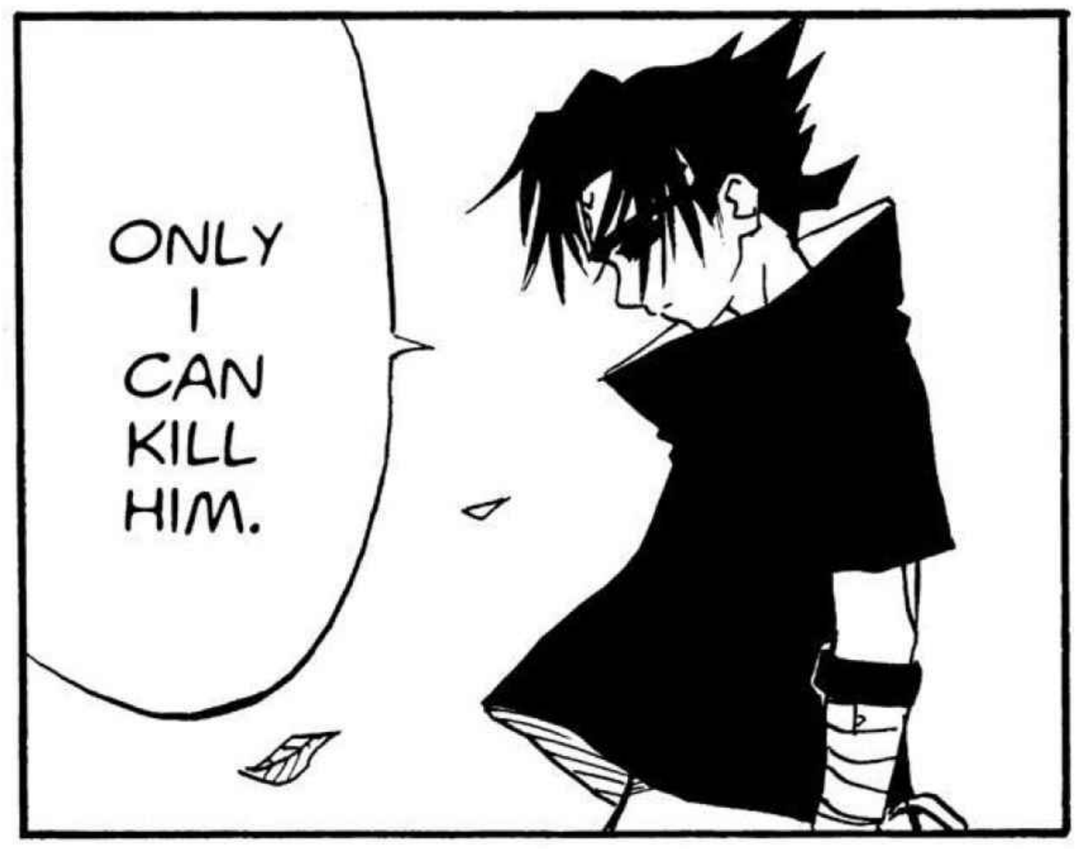

.....

HMF

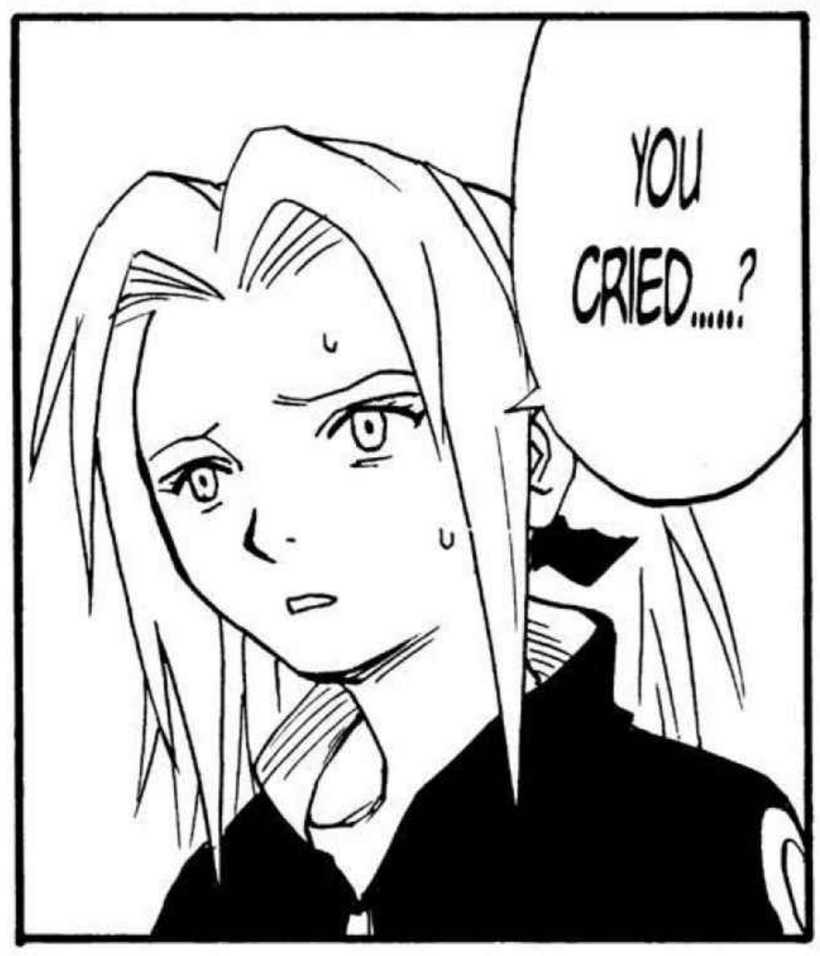

ULP!
.....

GRR

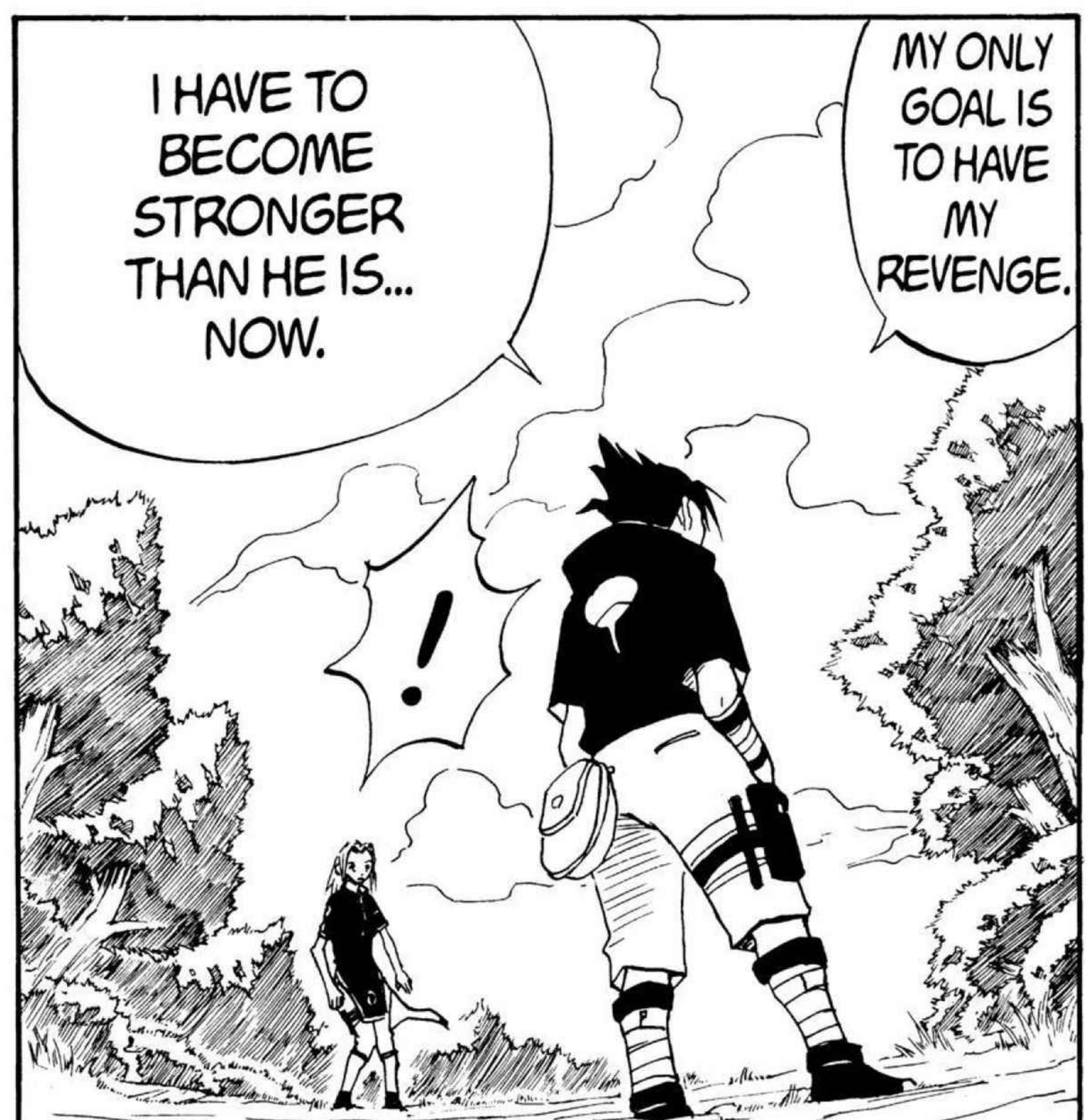

YOU MEAN... MASTER KAKASHI?!
WHO?

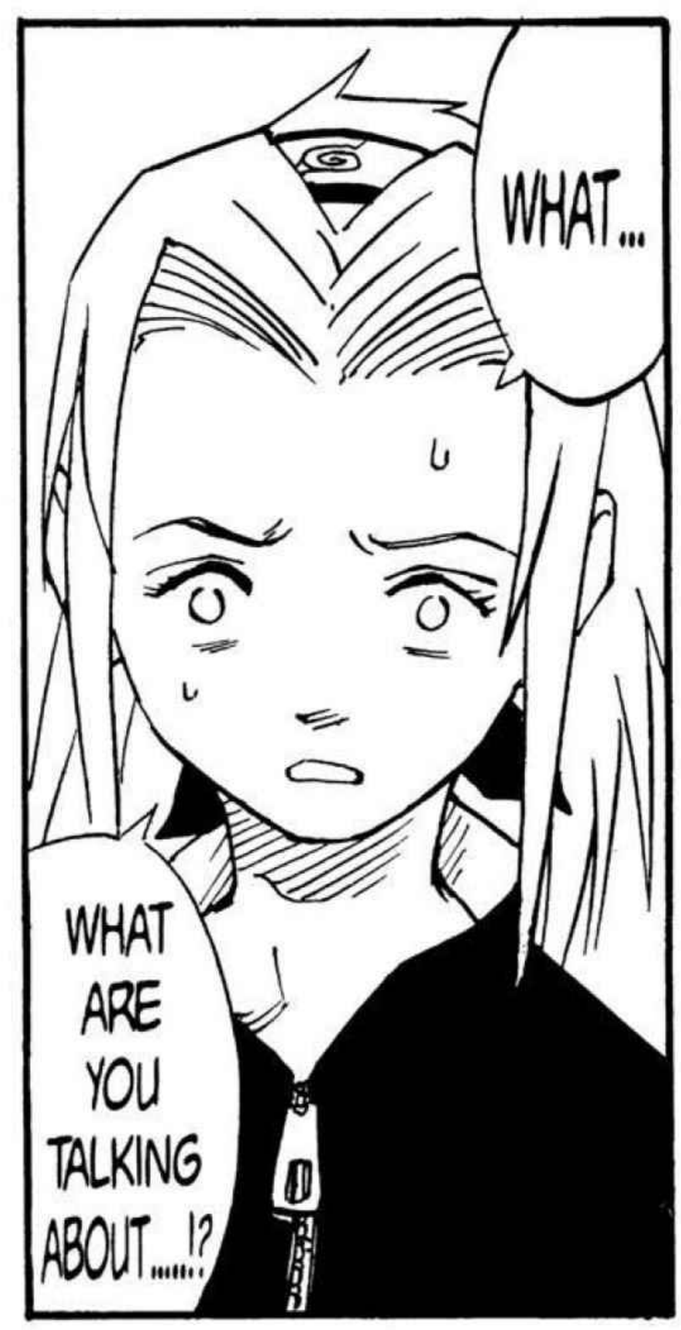

ONLY I CAN KILL HIM.

MY.....

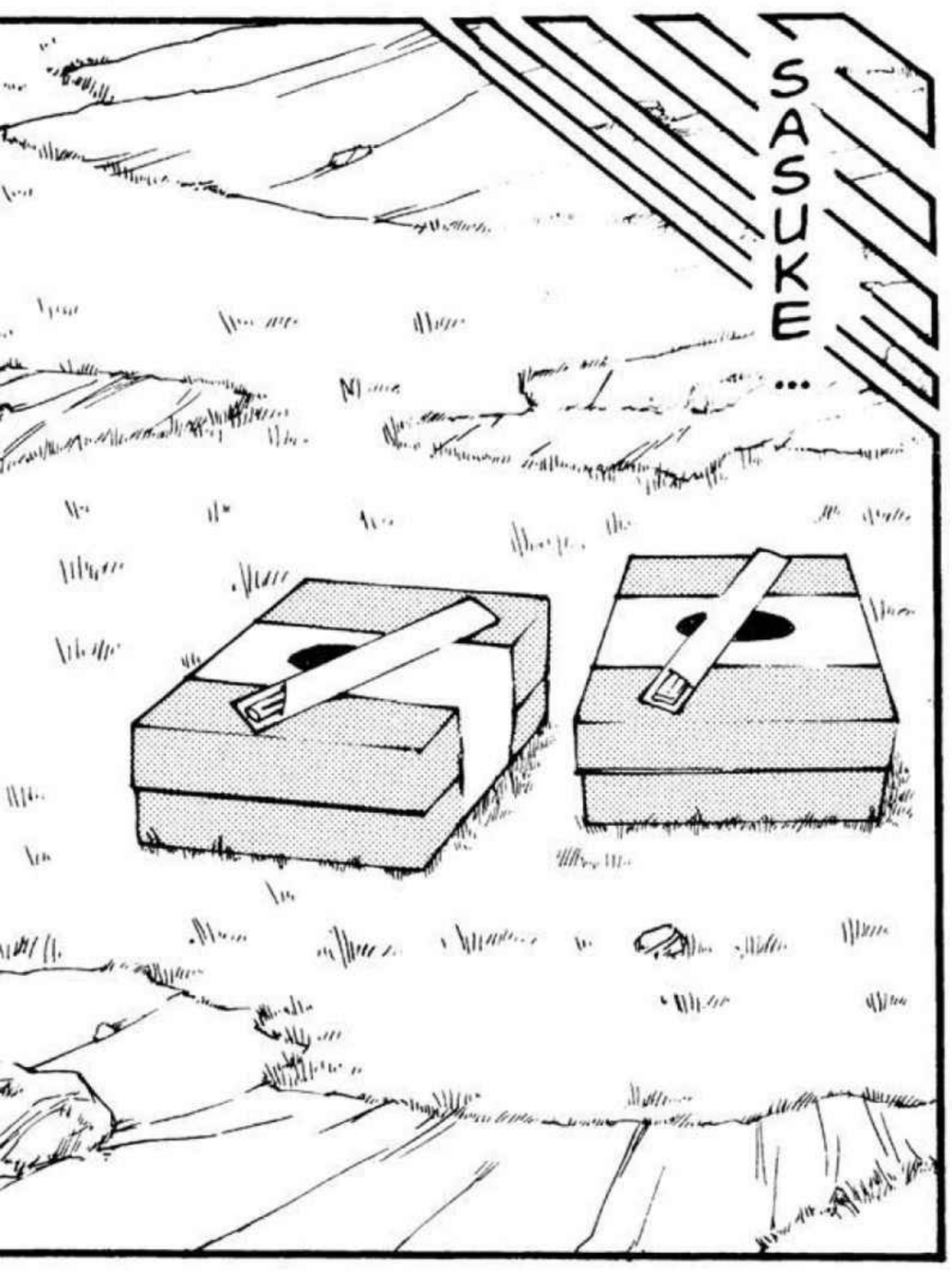

YOU CRIED.....?

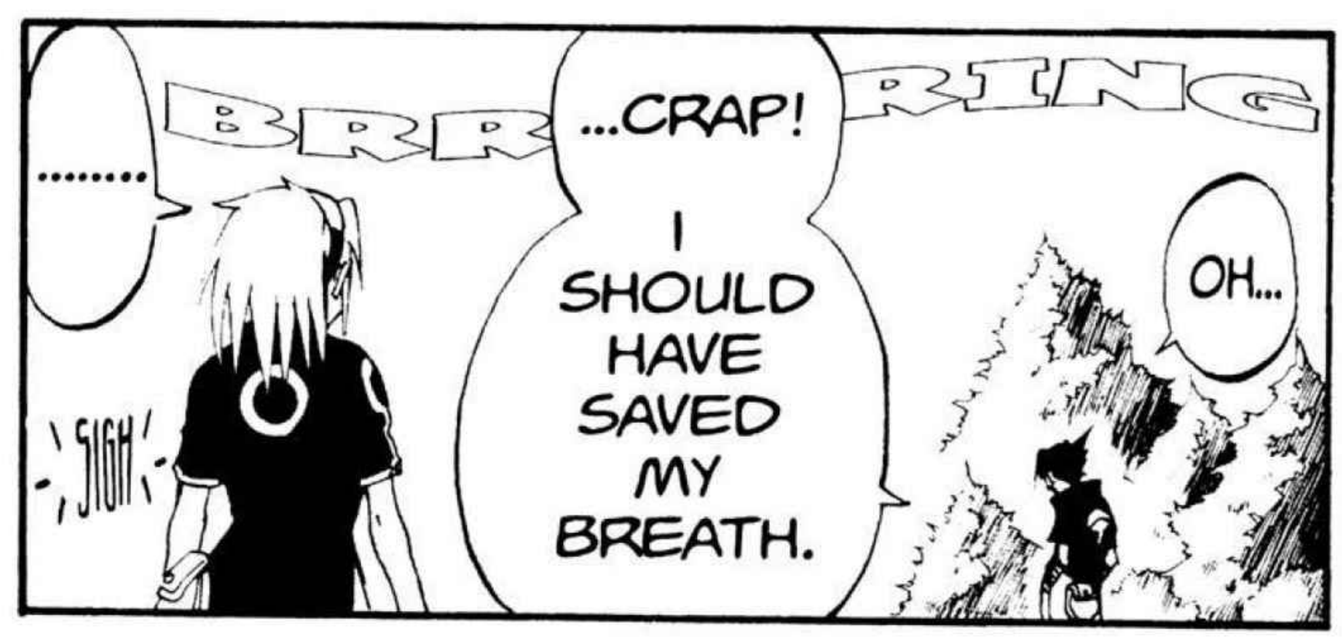
HE MADE ME... CRY...


I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER THAN HE IS... NOW.
MY ONLY GOAL IS TO HAVE MY REVENGE.
!


WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT.....!?

THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN... TO KILL.

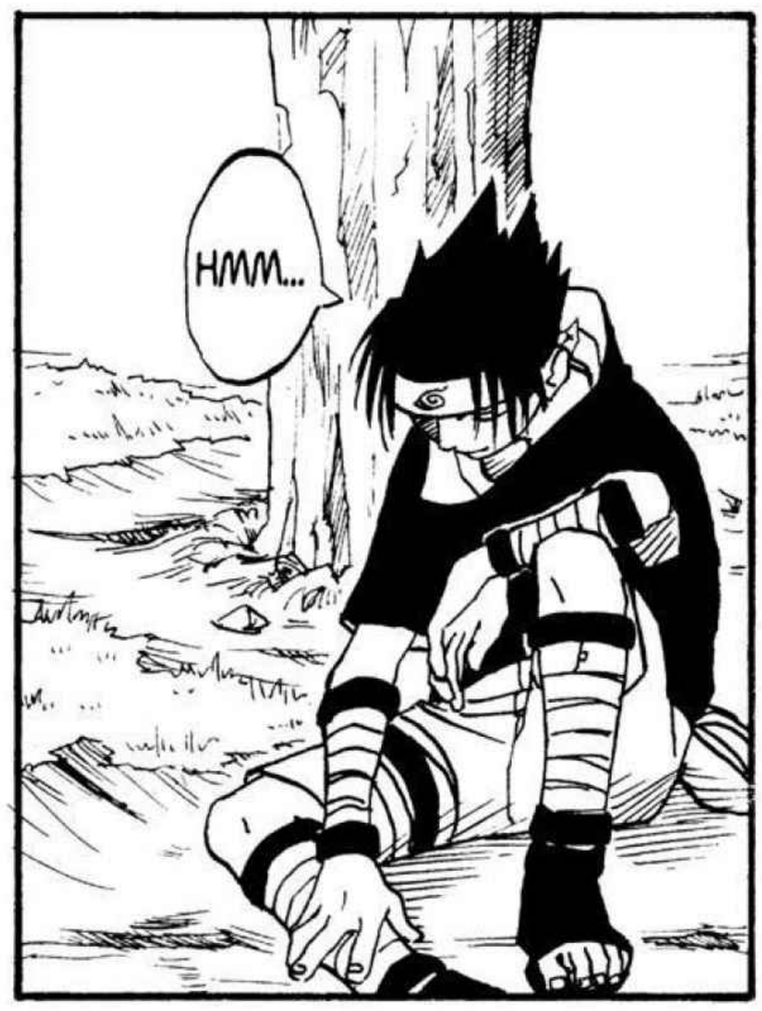


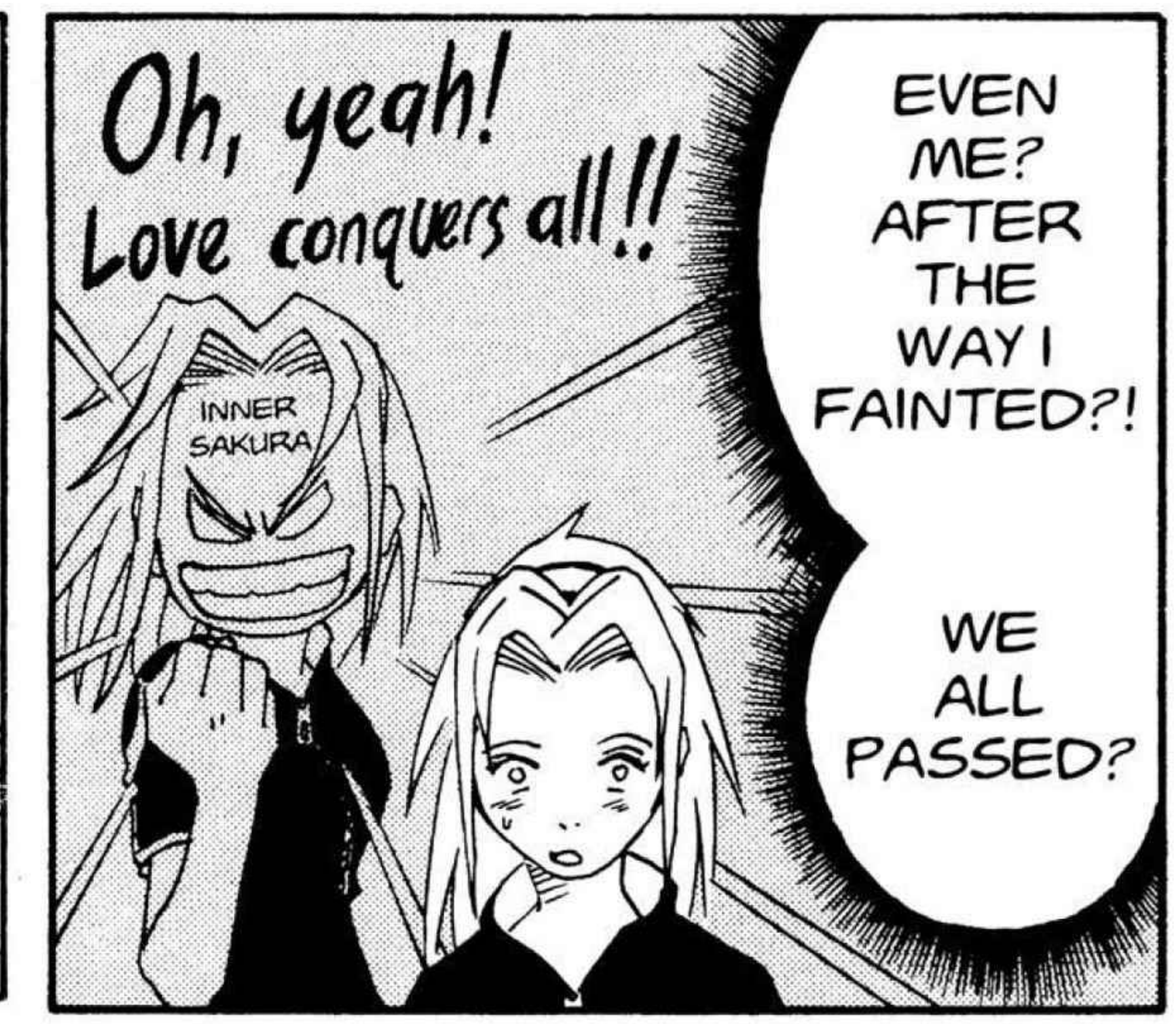


!!

...NEED WORRY ANY MORE ABOUT BEING SENT BACK TO THE NINJA ACADEMY.

NONE OF YOU...





NONE OF YOU WILL EVER BE SHINOBI!!!

.....ARE HOPELESS. MORE SCHOOLING WOULD BE POINTLESS.

!!!?

TO BE CONTINUED...

岸本斉史

Greetings. With everyone's support, my first comic has been published. I'm ecstatic. Speaking of ecstatic, the first time I won an award for one of my manga, I was so happy I was flying high. But this time is 10 times better than that. I don't know how to say it, but this is the happiest moment of my life. But I guess I'm happiest knowing that this comic will be read and enjoyed. Yup, that's it!

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2000*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 1
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #2-5.

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Katy Bridges
English Adaptation/Jo Duffy
Touch-Up Art & Lettering/Heidi Szykowny
Cover Design, Graphics & Layout/Sean Lee
Senior Editor/Jason Thompson

Managing Editor/Elizabeth Kawasaki
Director of Production/Noboru Watanabe
Vice President of Publishing/Alvin Lu
Vice President & Editor-in-Chief/Yumi Hoashi
Sr. Director of Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
Vice President of Sales & Marketing/Liza Coppola
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
Naruto is rated "T" for Teen. It contains fantasy violence, language, partial nudity and tobacco usage. It is recommended for ages 13 and up.