

Story & Art by

**Masashi Kishimoto** volume

**1**



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. I**  
**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**

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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.



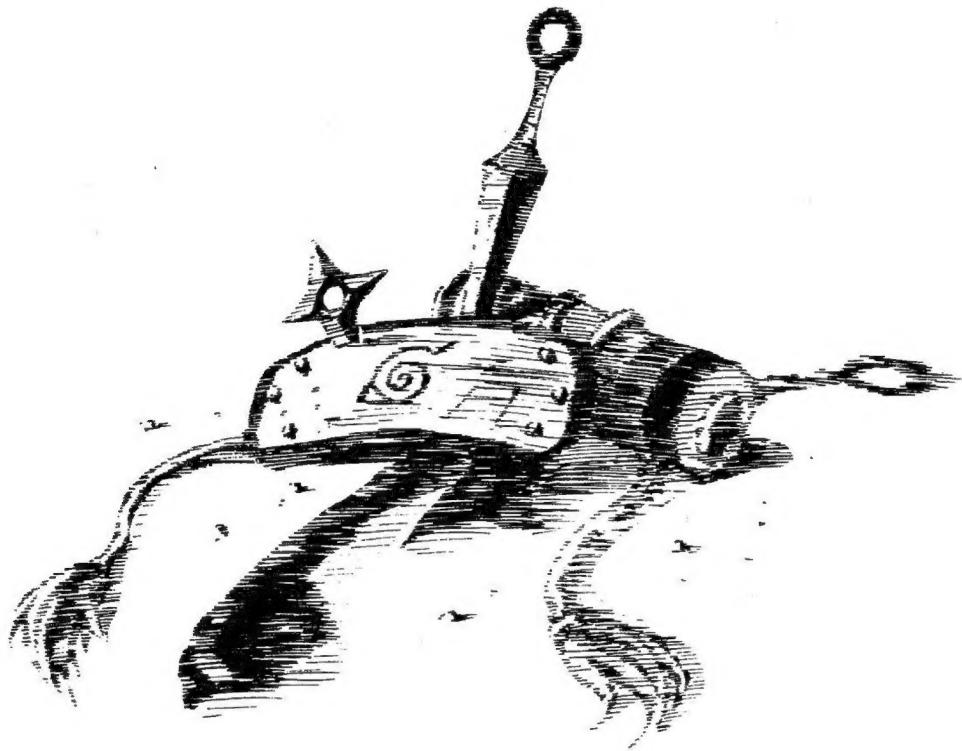
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SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

# NARUTO

VOL. 1  
THE TESTS OF THE NINJA



STORY AND ART BY  
MASASHI KISHIMOTO



# NARUTO

VOL. I  
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...

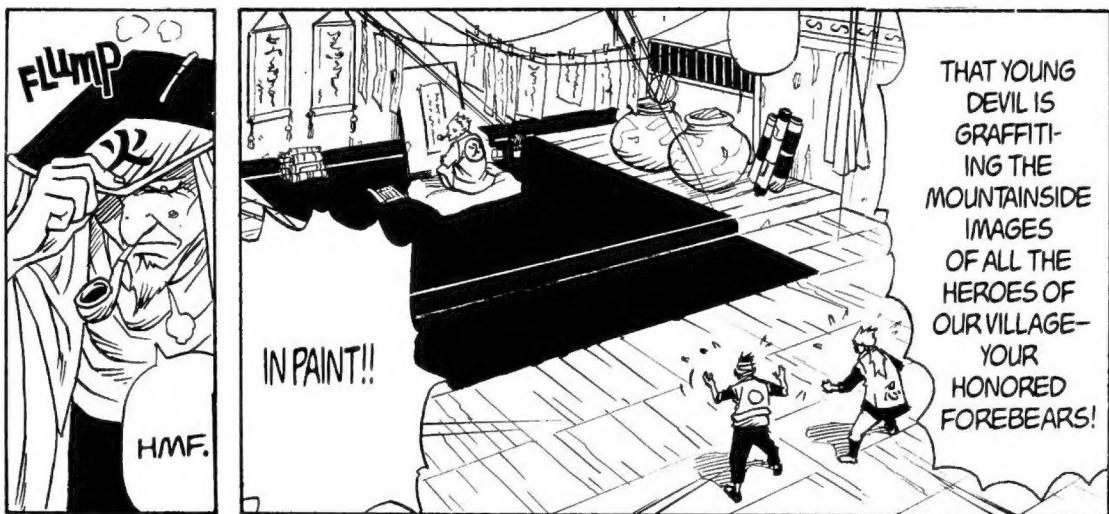


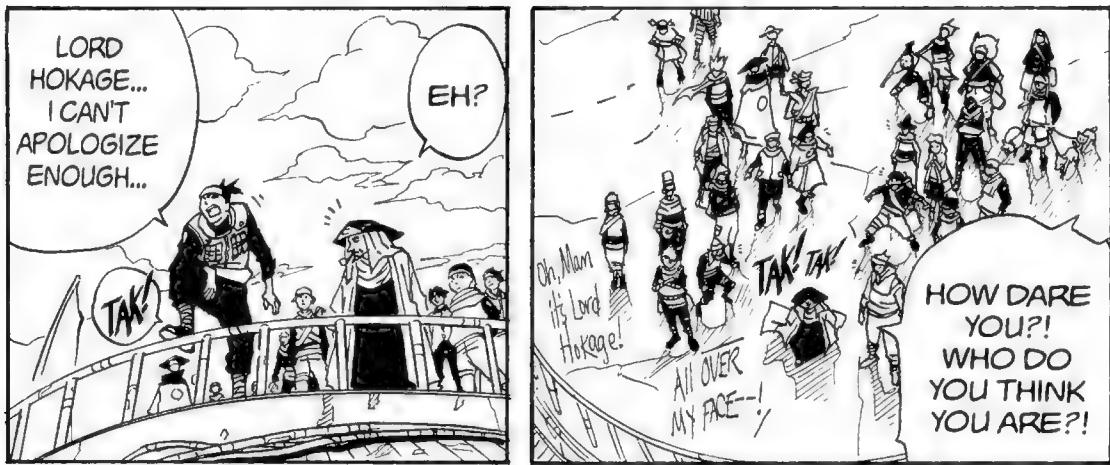
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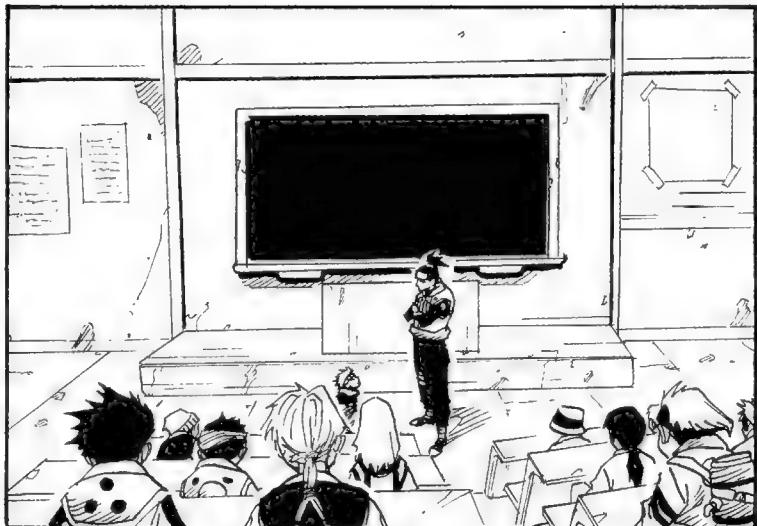


**NARUTO**



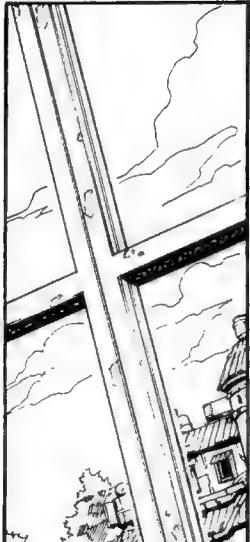
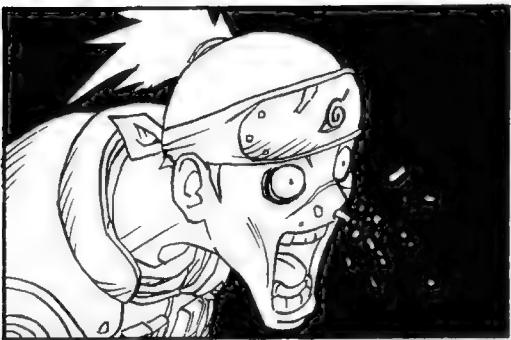


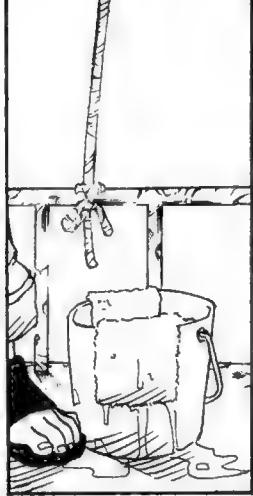
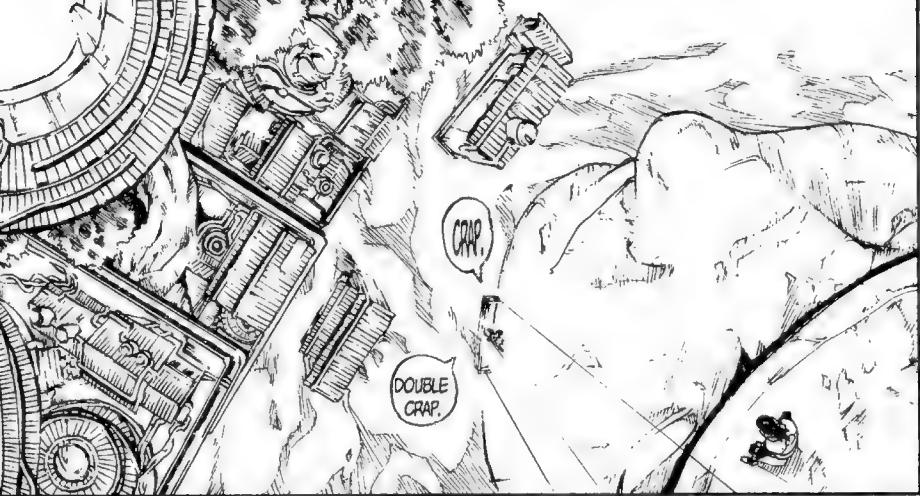


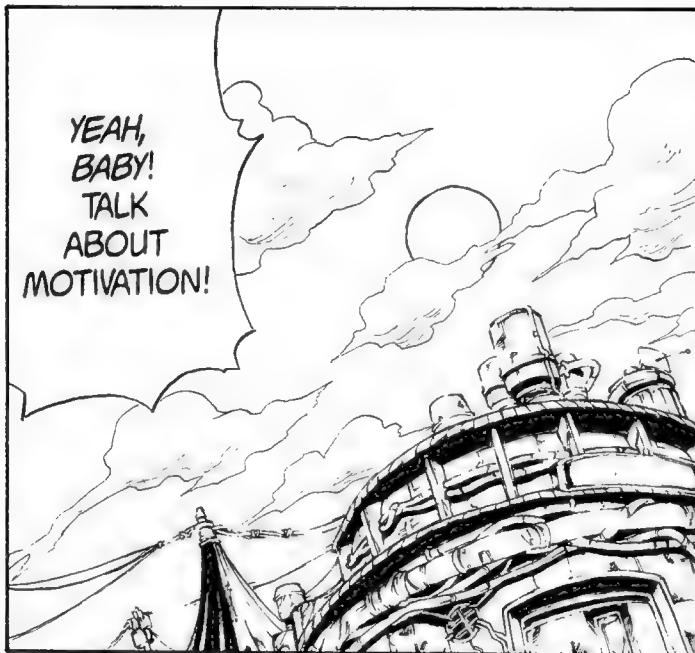




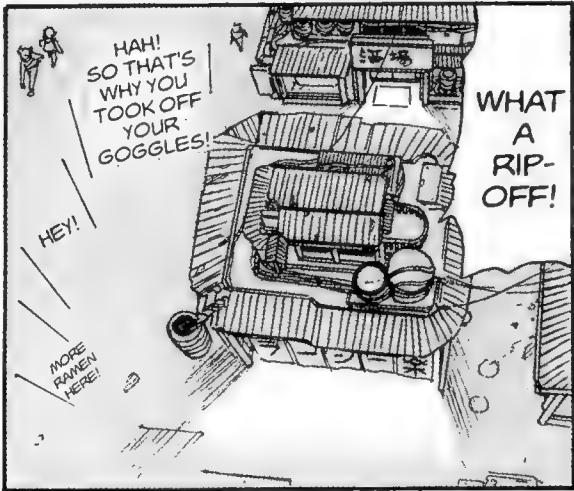
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THIS  
WAY



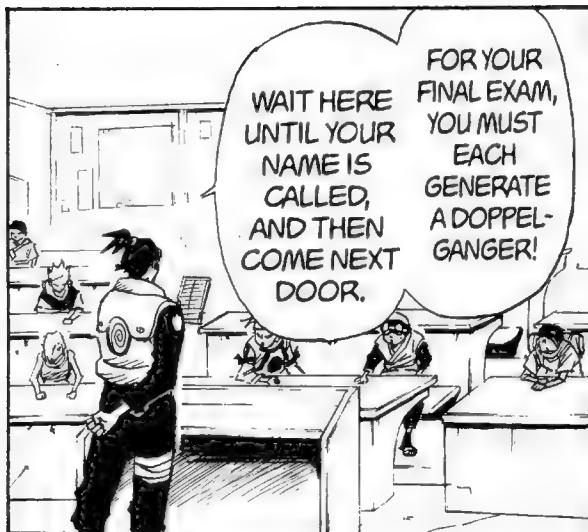




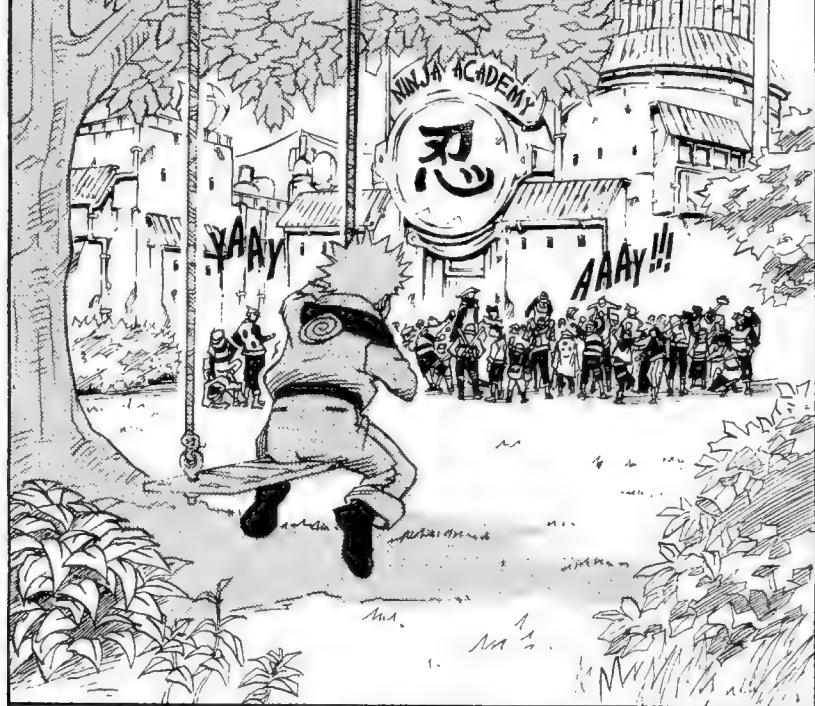


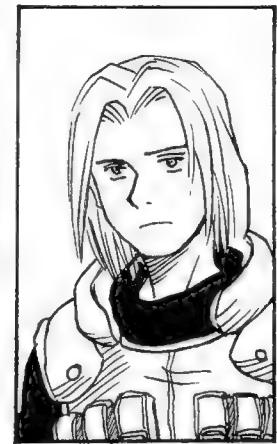
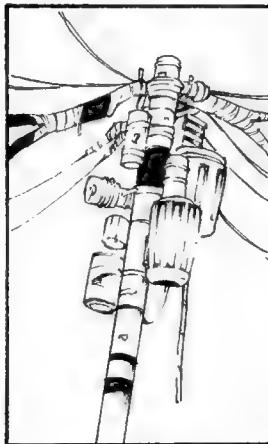
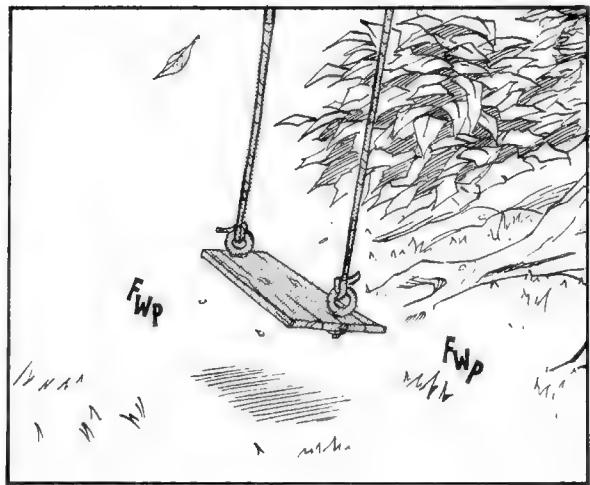


READ  
THIS  
WAY









HE THINKS  
HE'S HELPING  
YOU TO  
GROW  
STRONG.



SO YOU  
REMIND  
HIM OF  
HIMSELF.

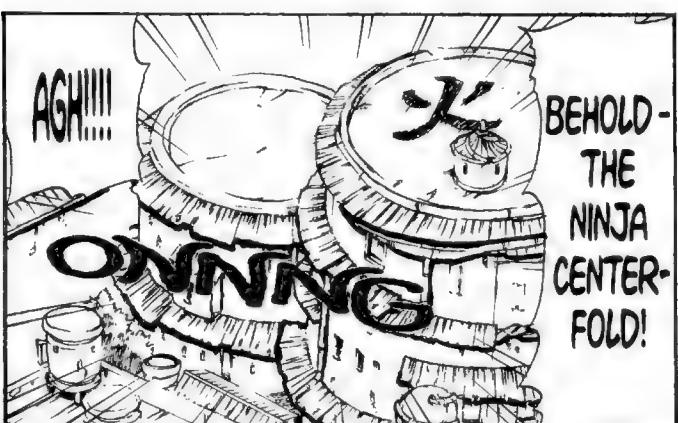
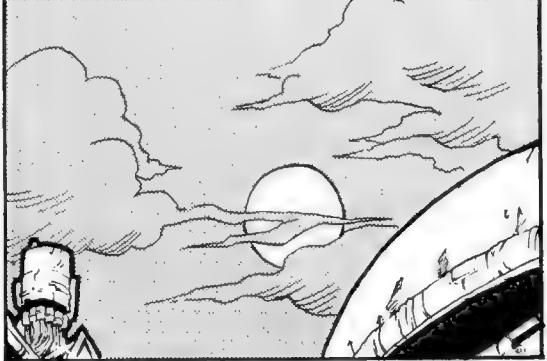
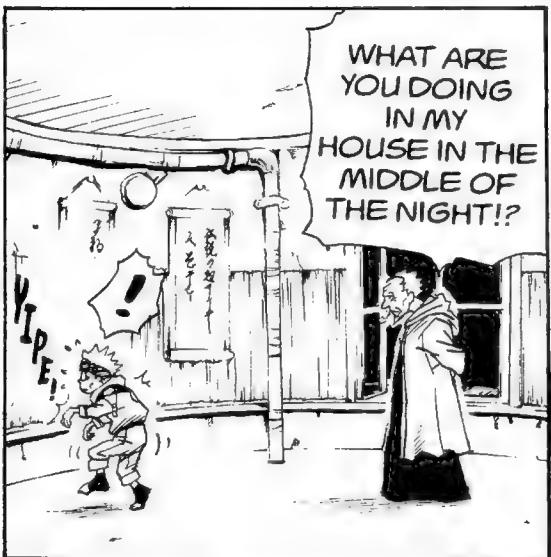


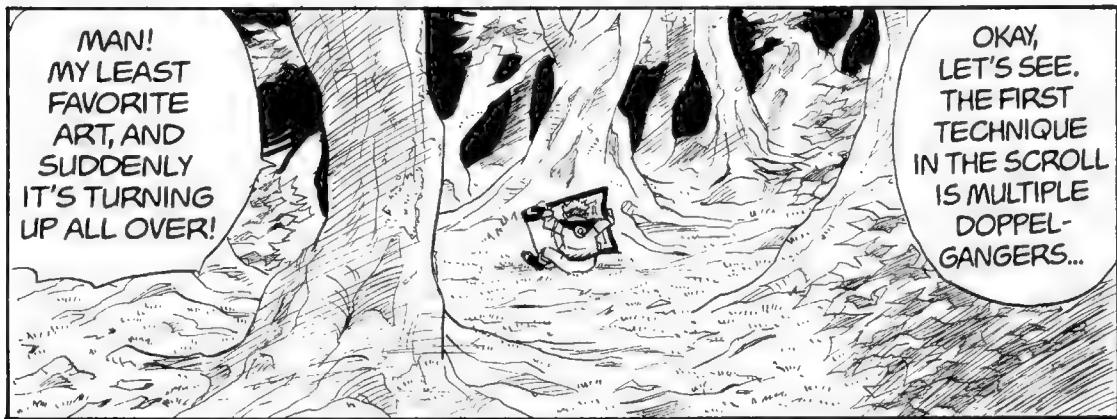
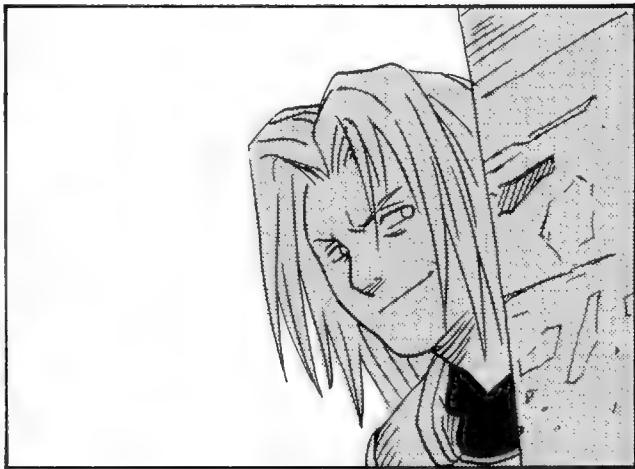
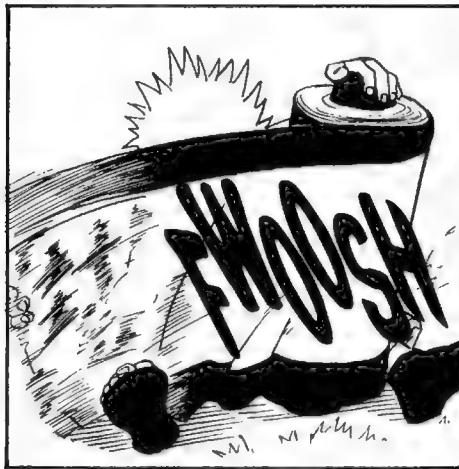
....ONE  
ORPHAN  
TO  
ANOTHER?....

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



READ  
THIS WAY



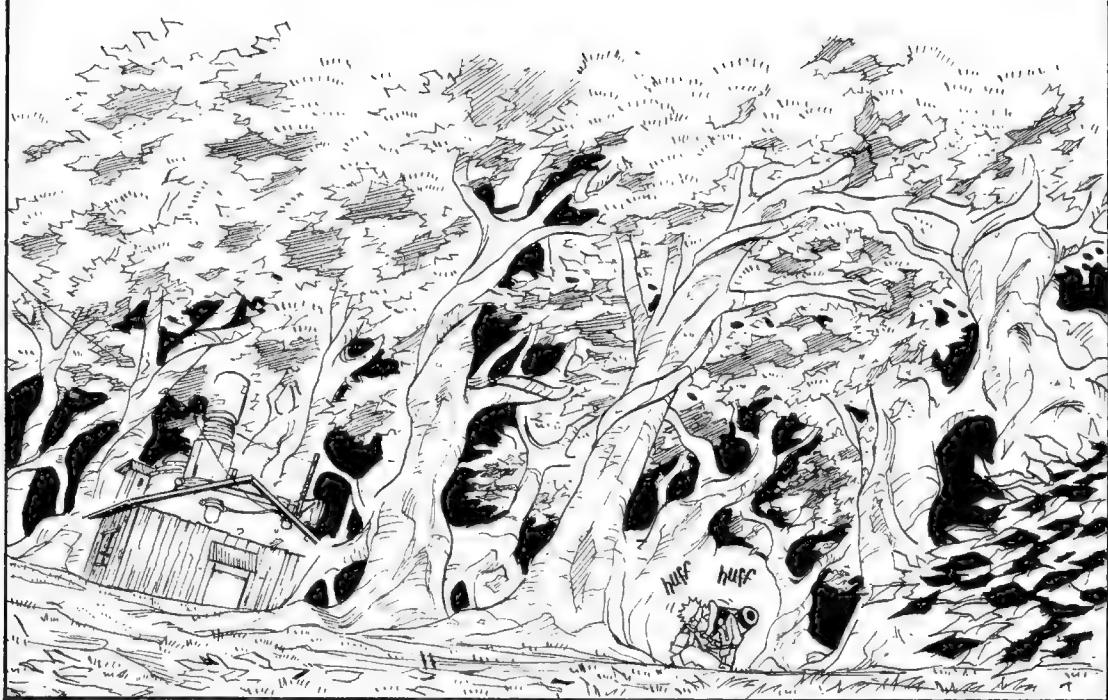


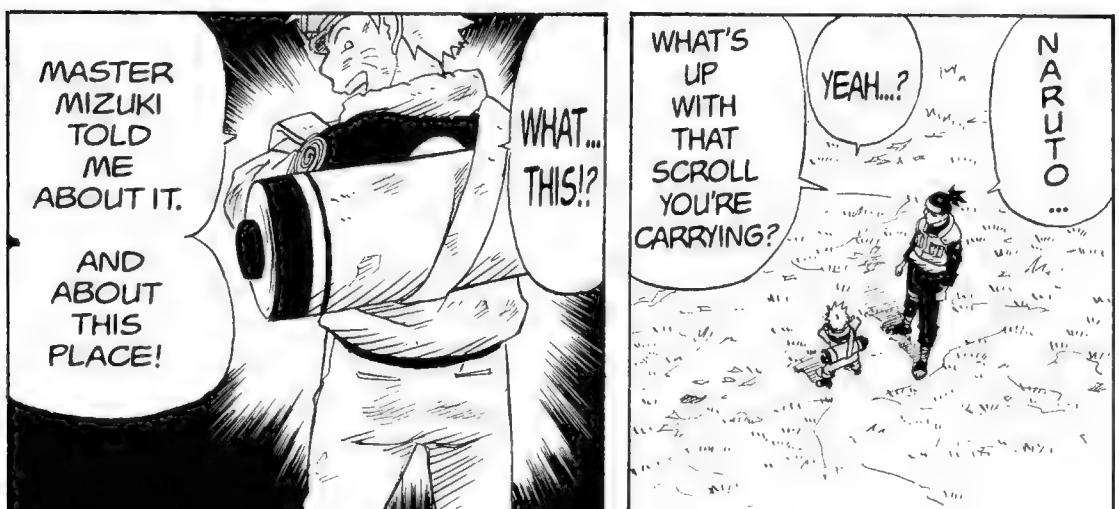


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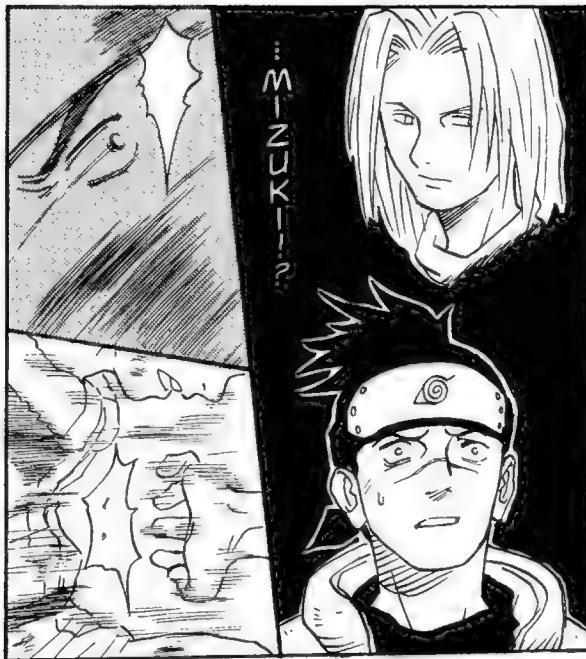


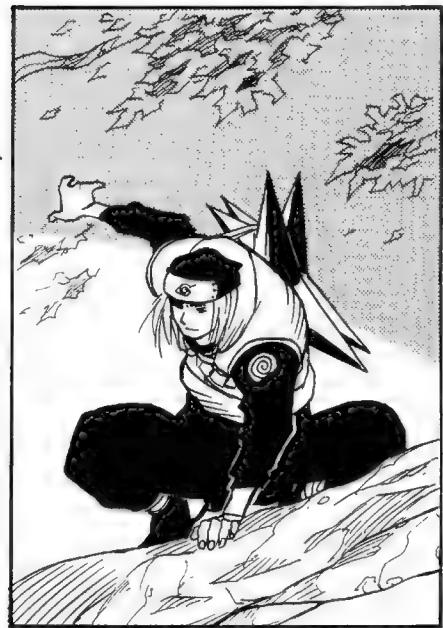






READ  
THIS  
WAY





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!

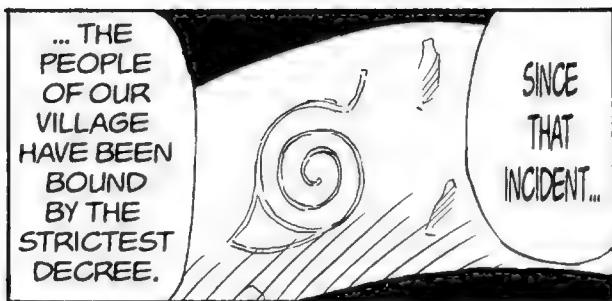
I  
CAN  
SHOW  
YOU  
WHAT  
IT  
MEANS!

NARUTO,  
EVEN IF  
YOU'VE  
READ IT,  
IT WILL  
STILL BE  
MEANINGLESS!

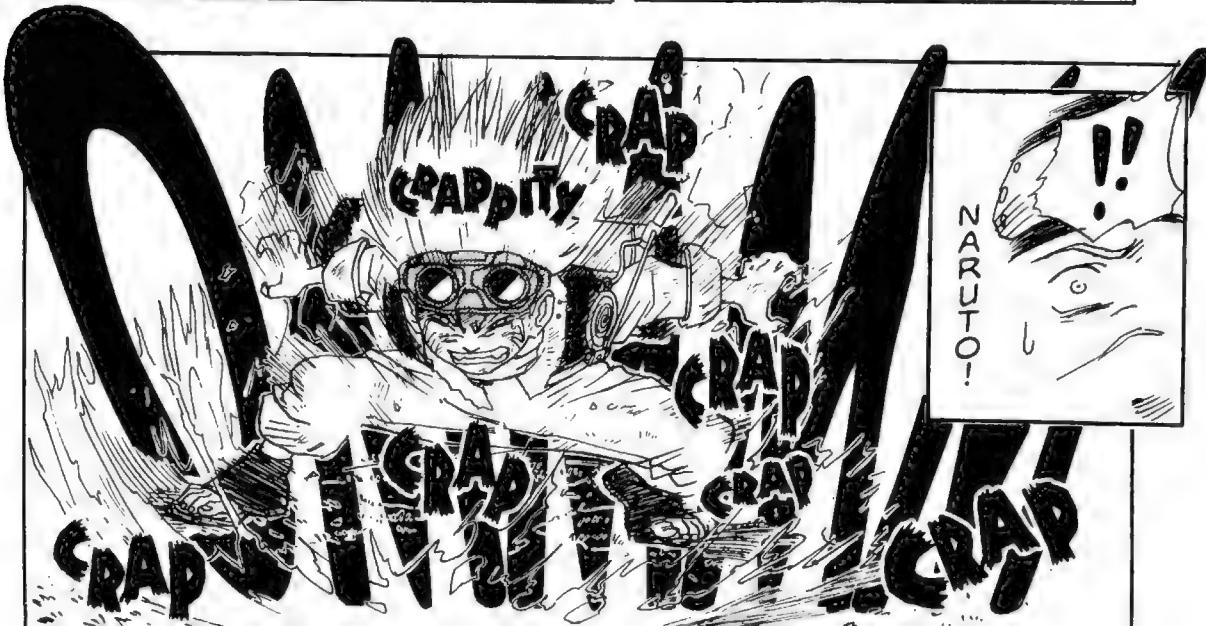
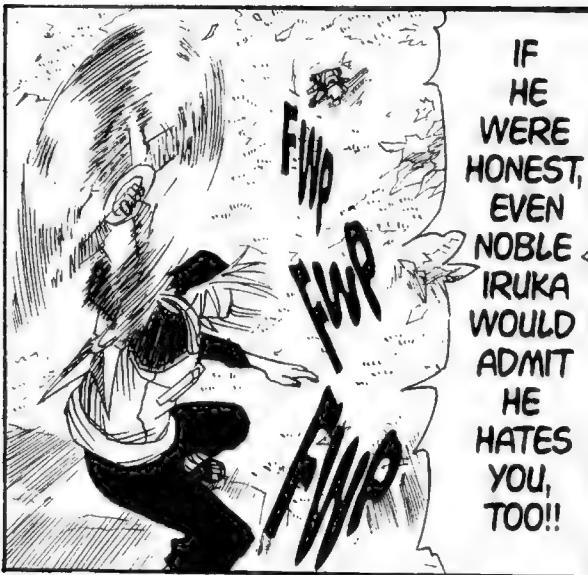
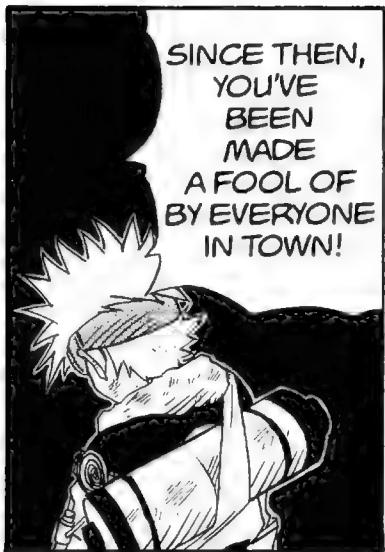
-GASP-

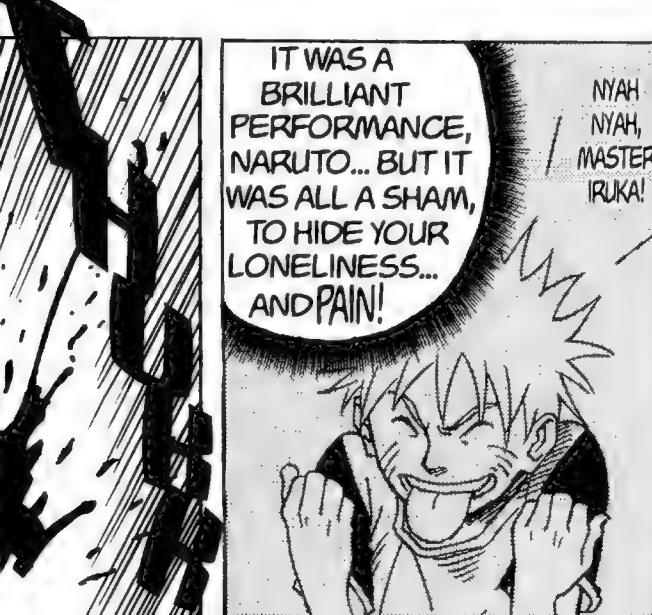
YOU...  
KNOW WHAT  
REALLY  
HAPPENED  
IN THE  
INCIDENT  
WHERE  
THE FOX  
DEMON  
WAS SEALED  
UP AGAIN  
TWELVE  
YEARS AGO,  
DON'T  
YOU...?

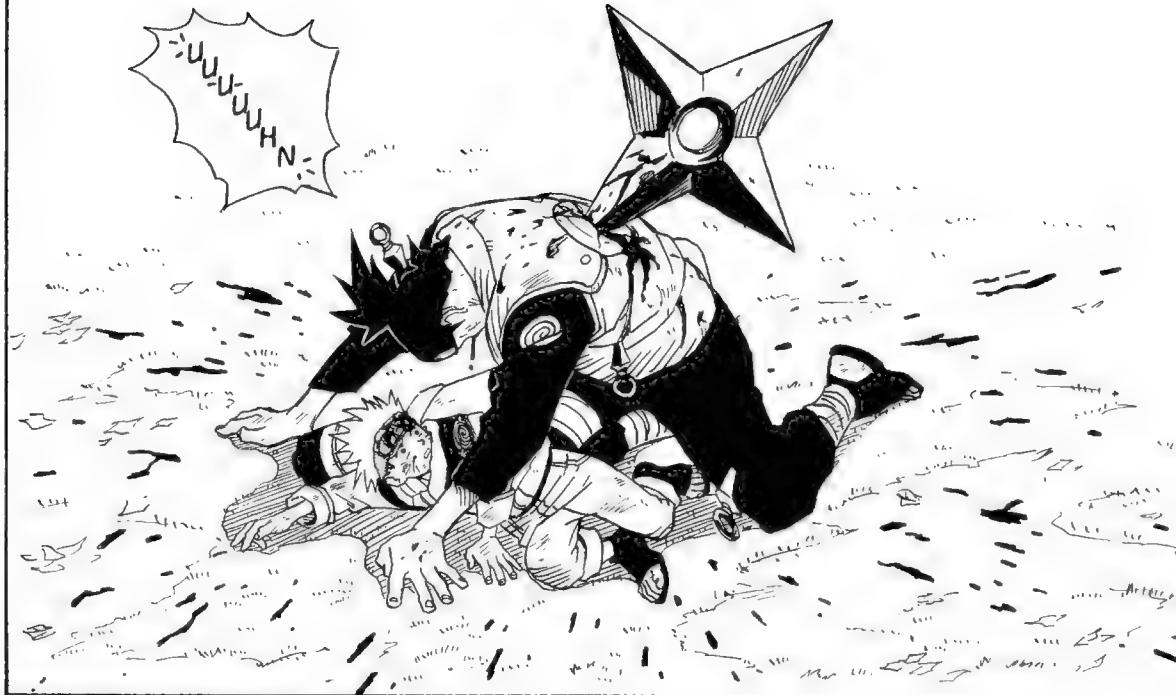
SHUT  
UP,  
YOU  
FOOL!

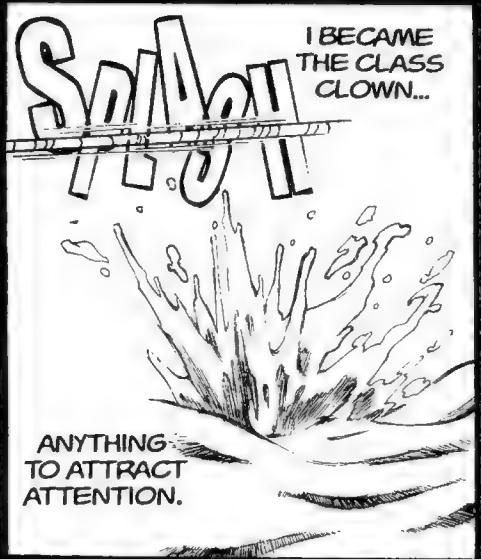




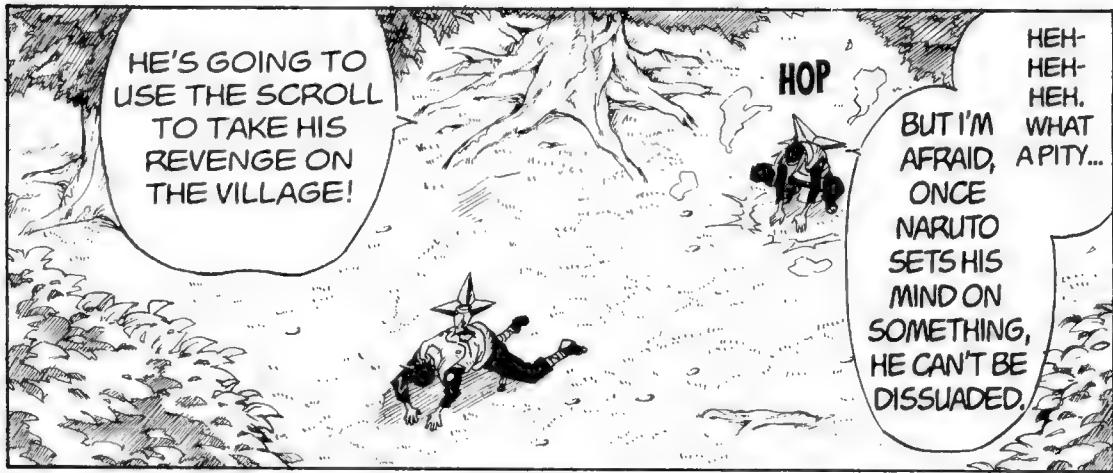


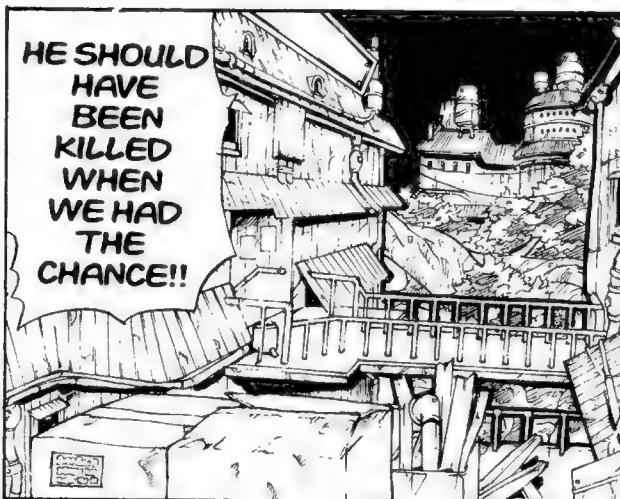


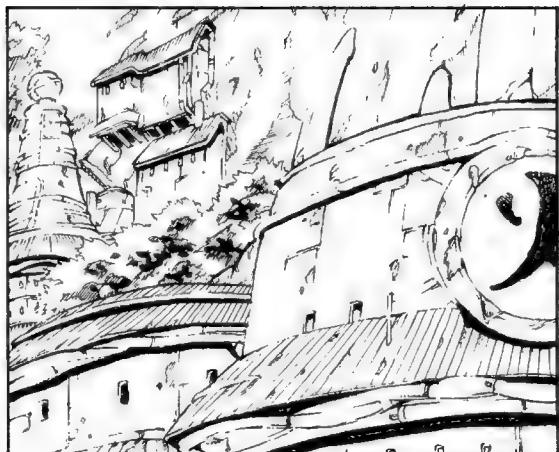


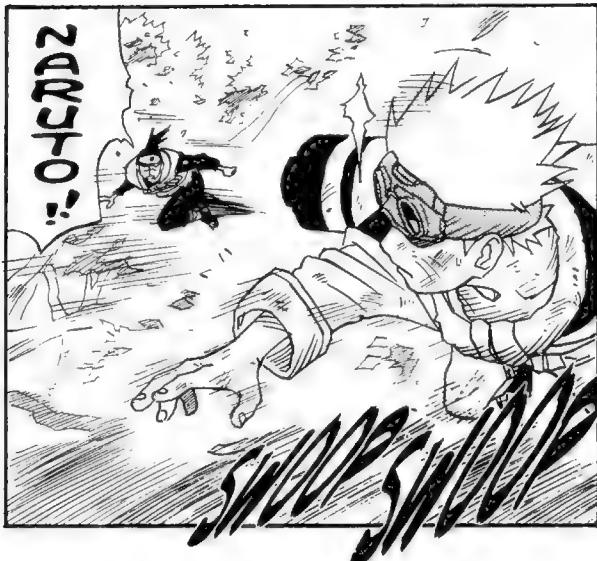








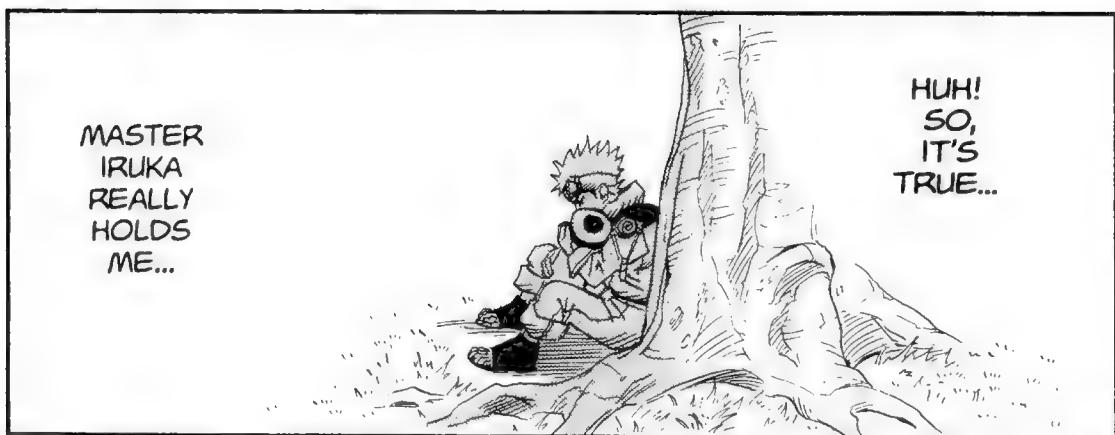
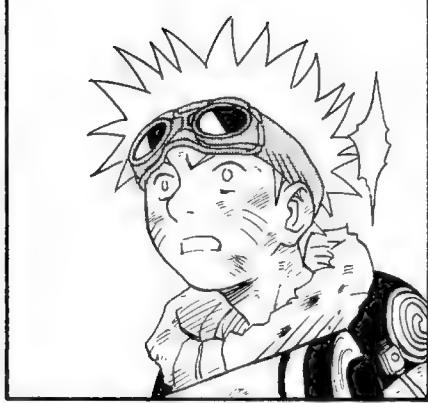




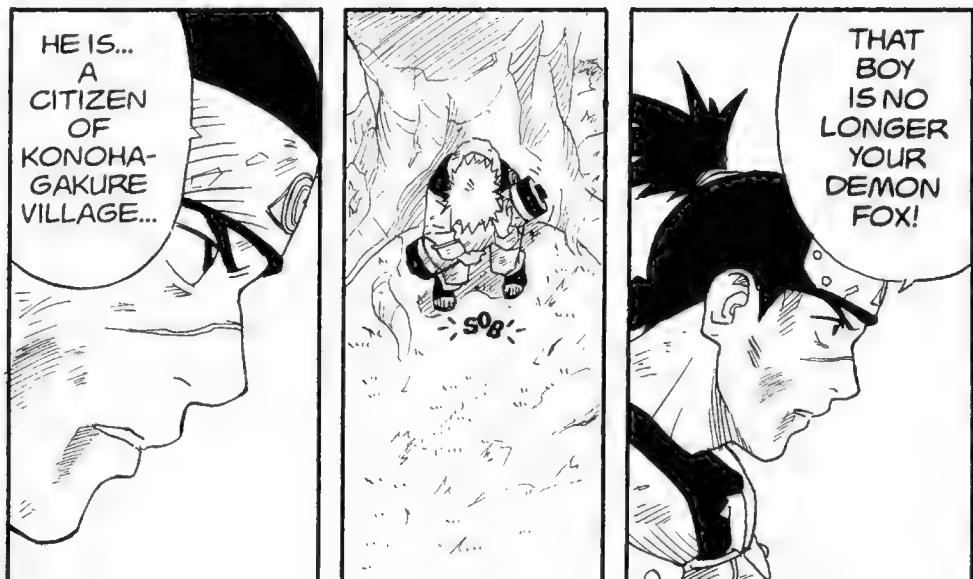
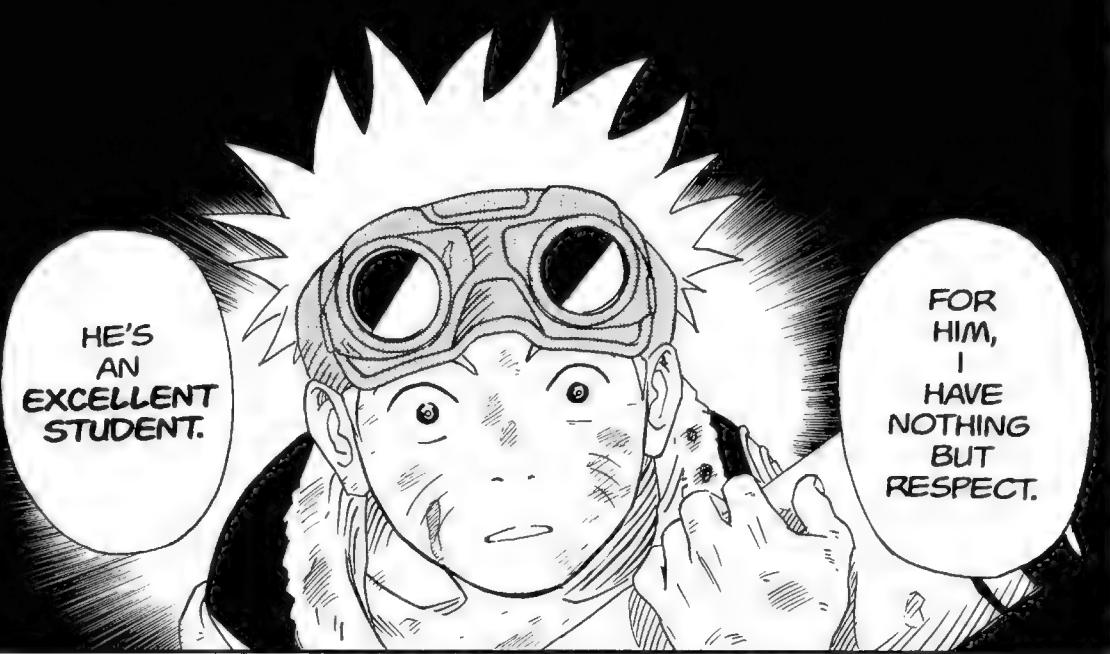


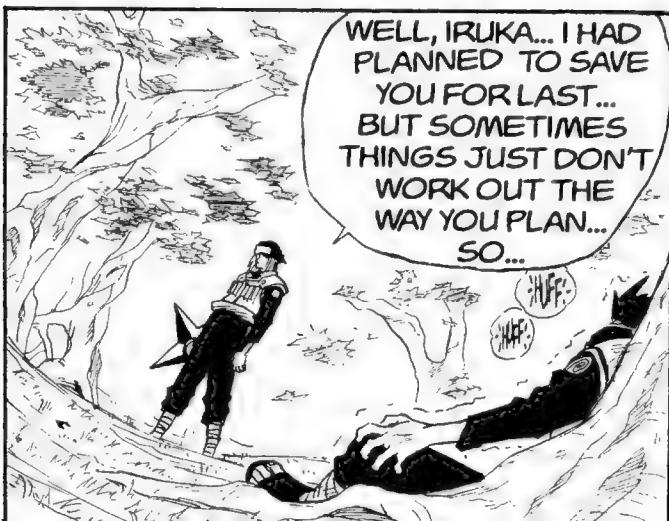




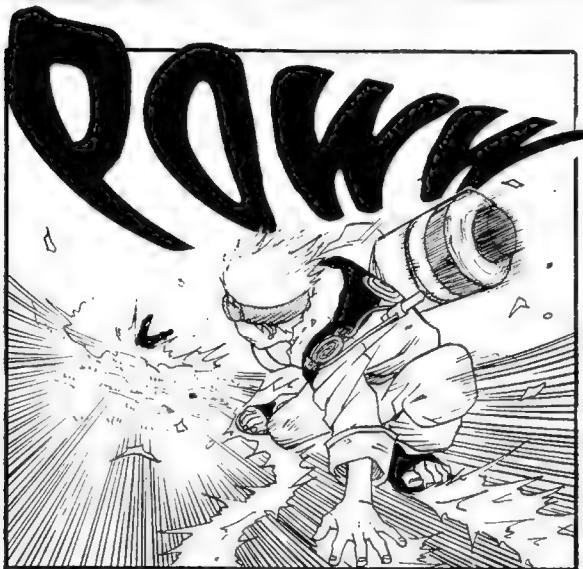
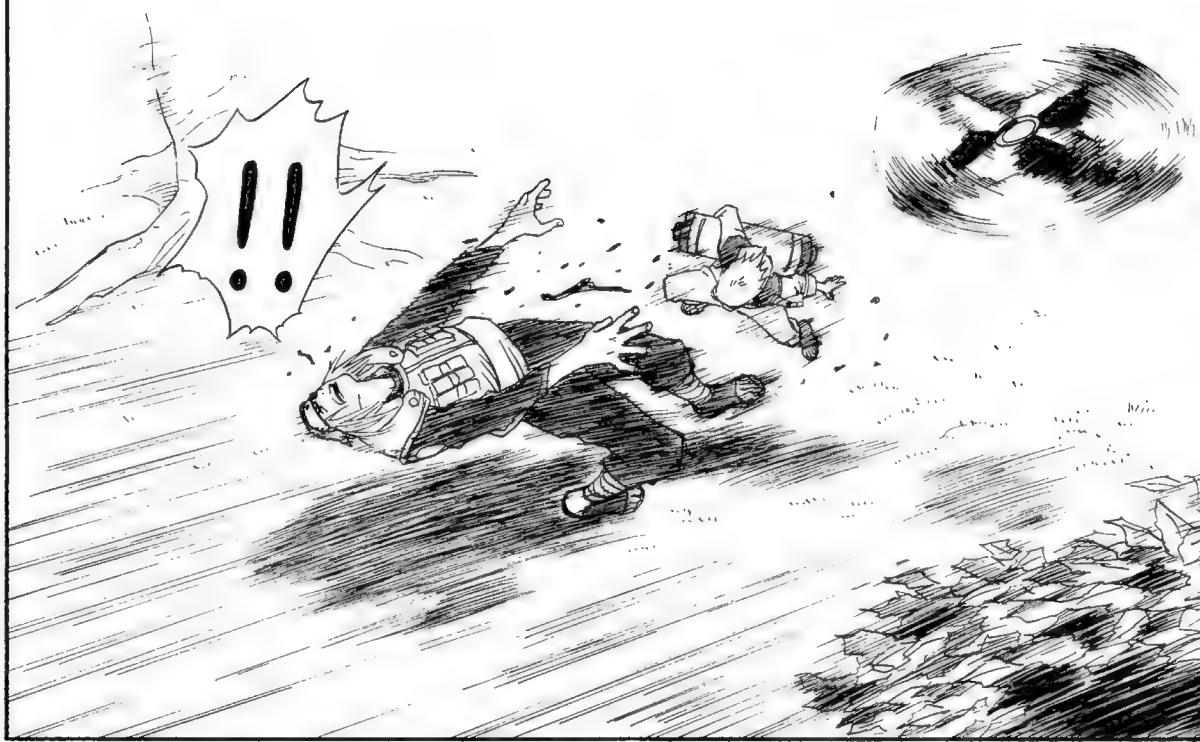


MAYBE  
I DO  
HATE  
THE  
FOX....

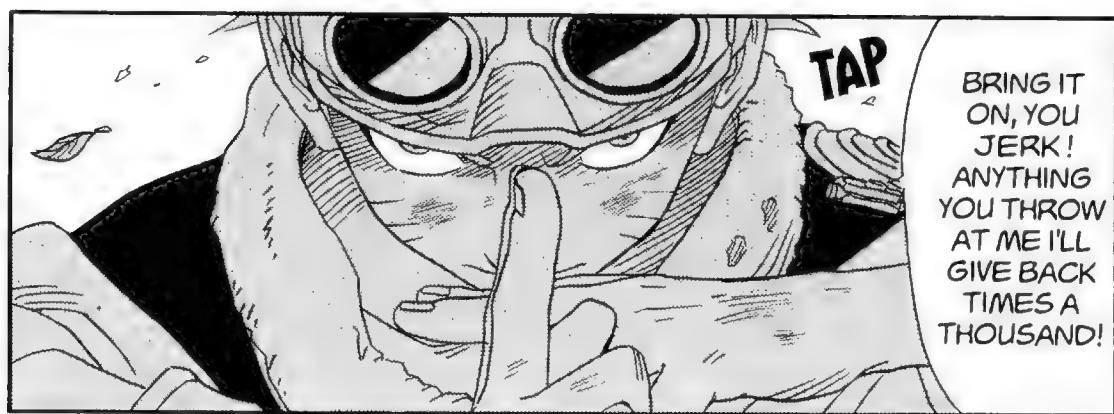
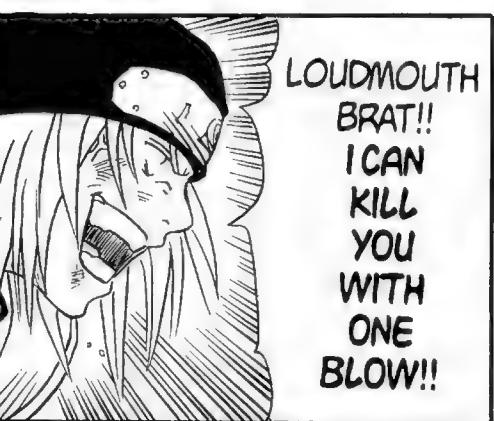






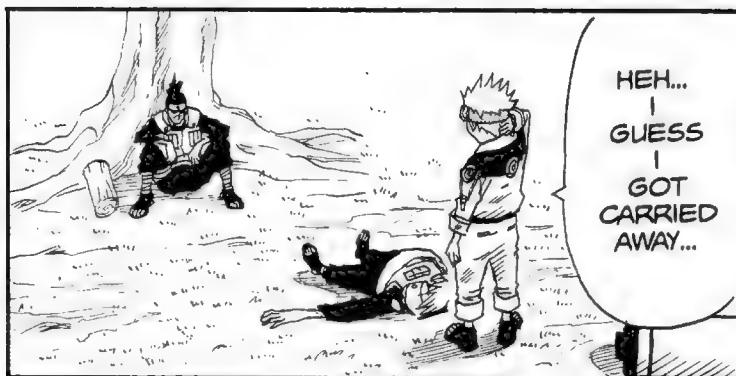
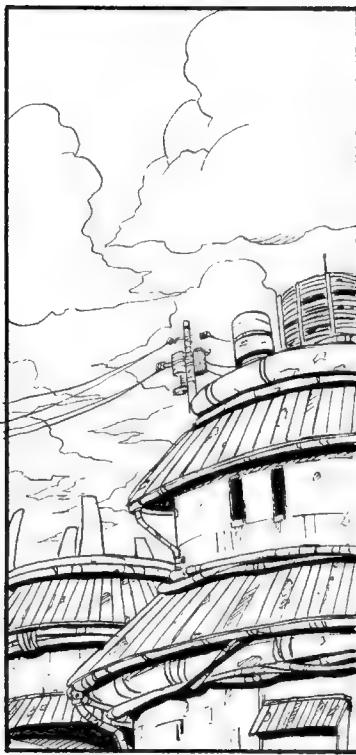
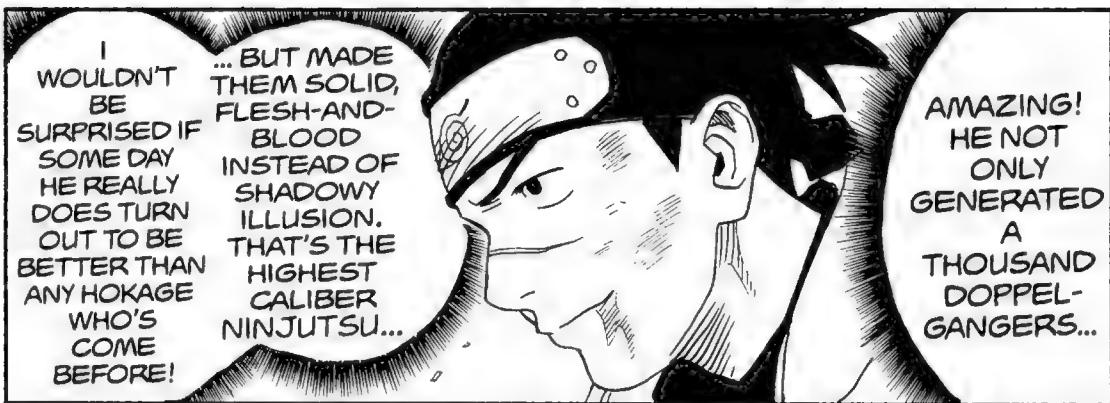


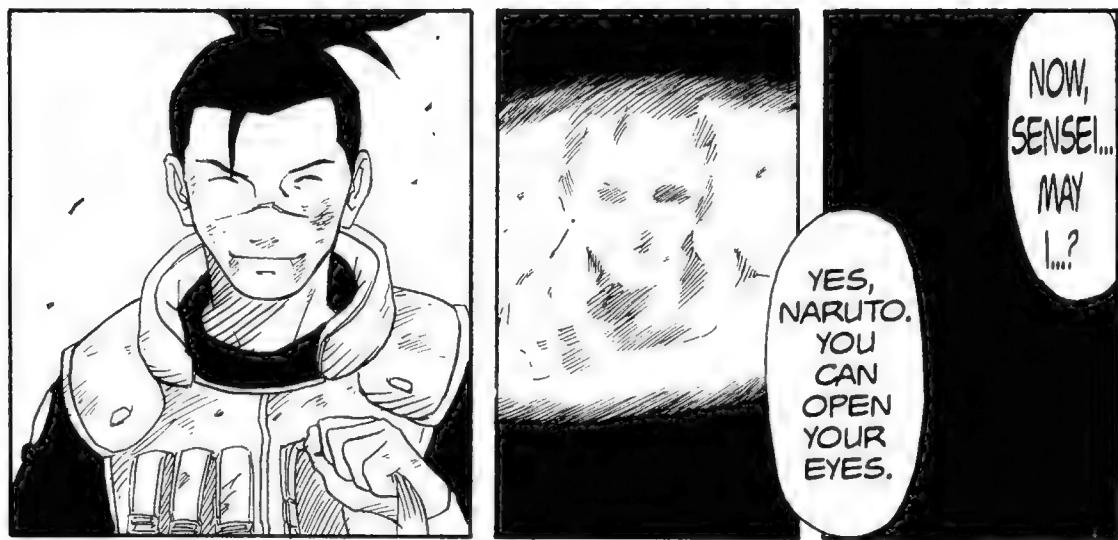
READ THIS WAY

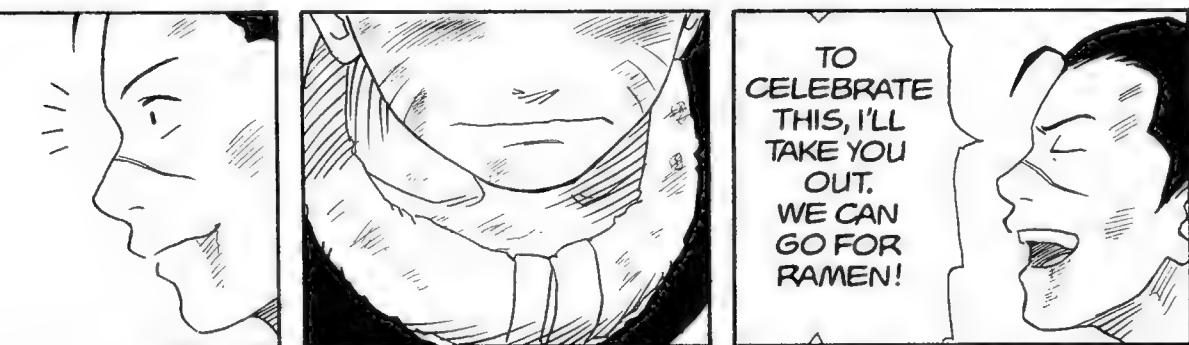














This is the very first sketch of *Naruto* that I drew. It was for a one-shot story in the Japanese *Weekly Shonen Jump*'s special seasonal edition, *Akamaru Jump*. Notice that he wears boots instead of *zori* (traditional Japanese sandals).

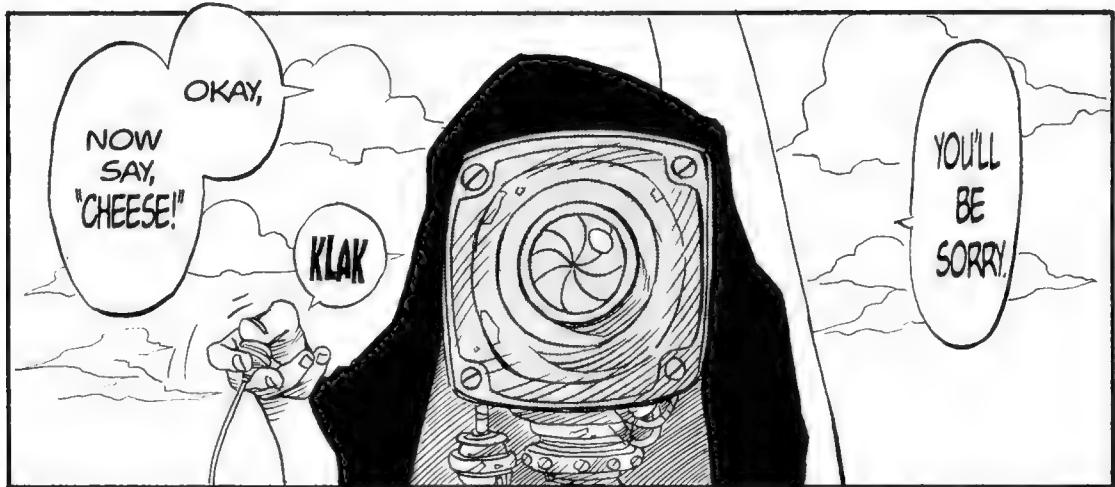
In the one-shot story, *Naruto* wasn't a ninja comic at all, but just about magic and sorcery. Even though the setup was completely different from the current storyline, it was the very first character-driven manga that I ever drew, and I liked the character so I decided to keep using him. But drawing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

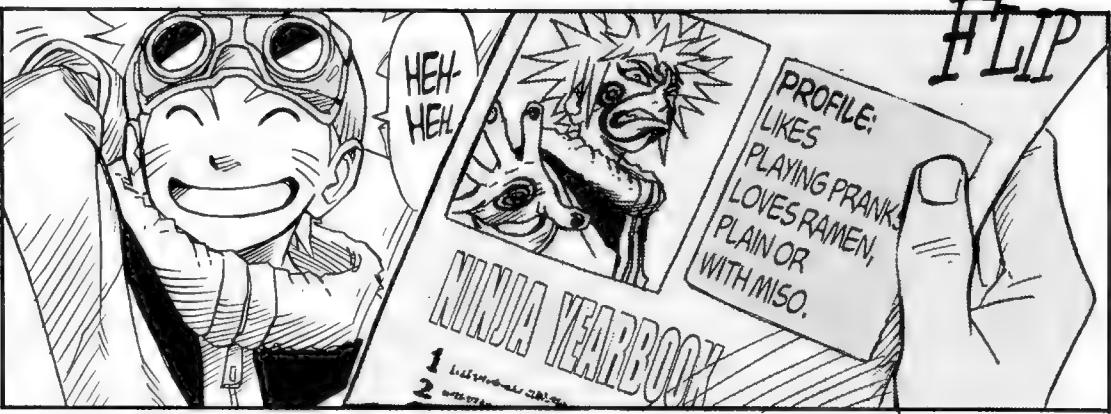
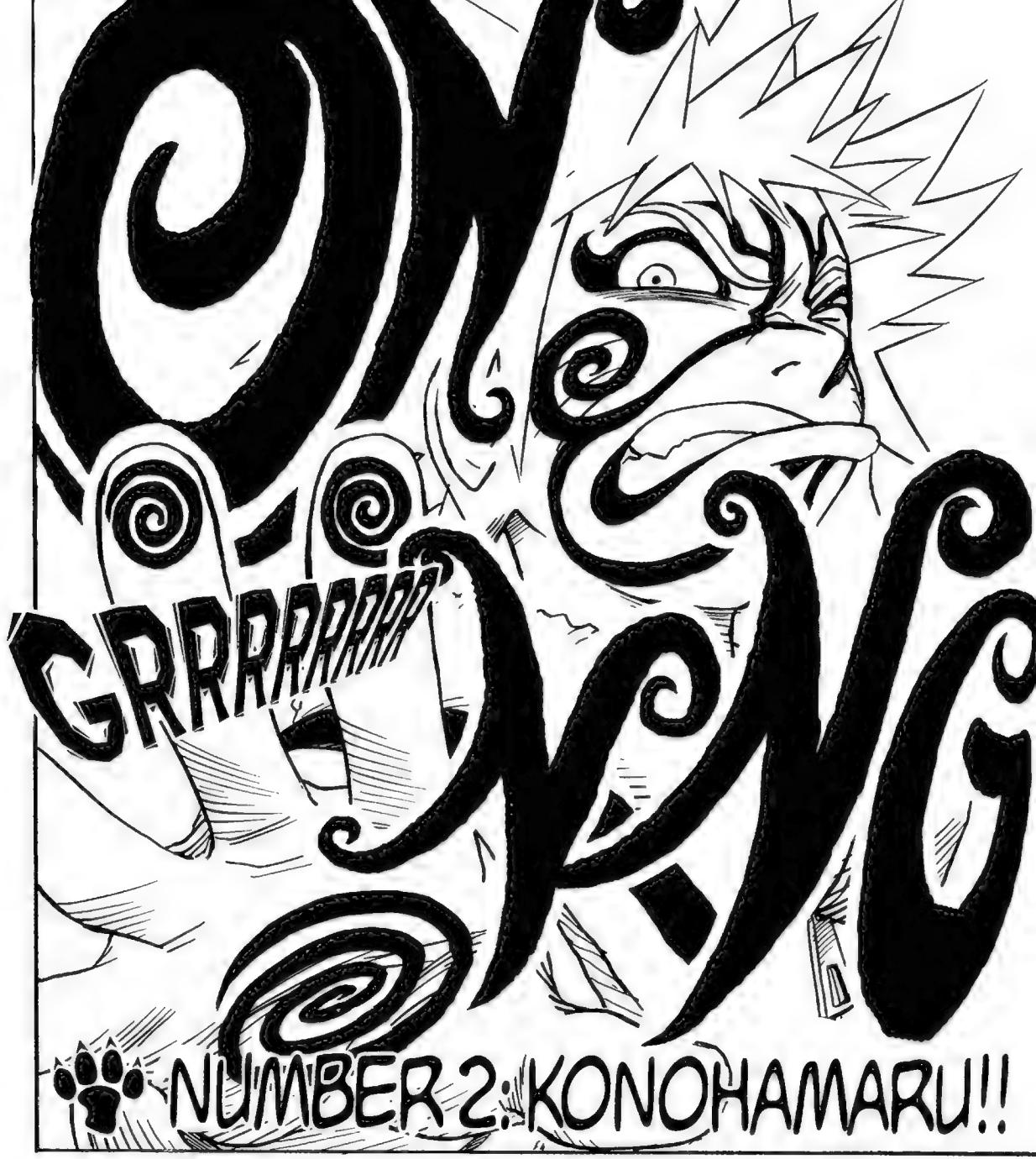


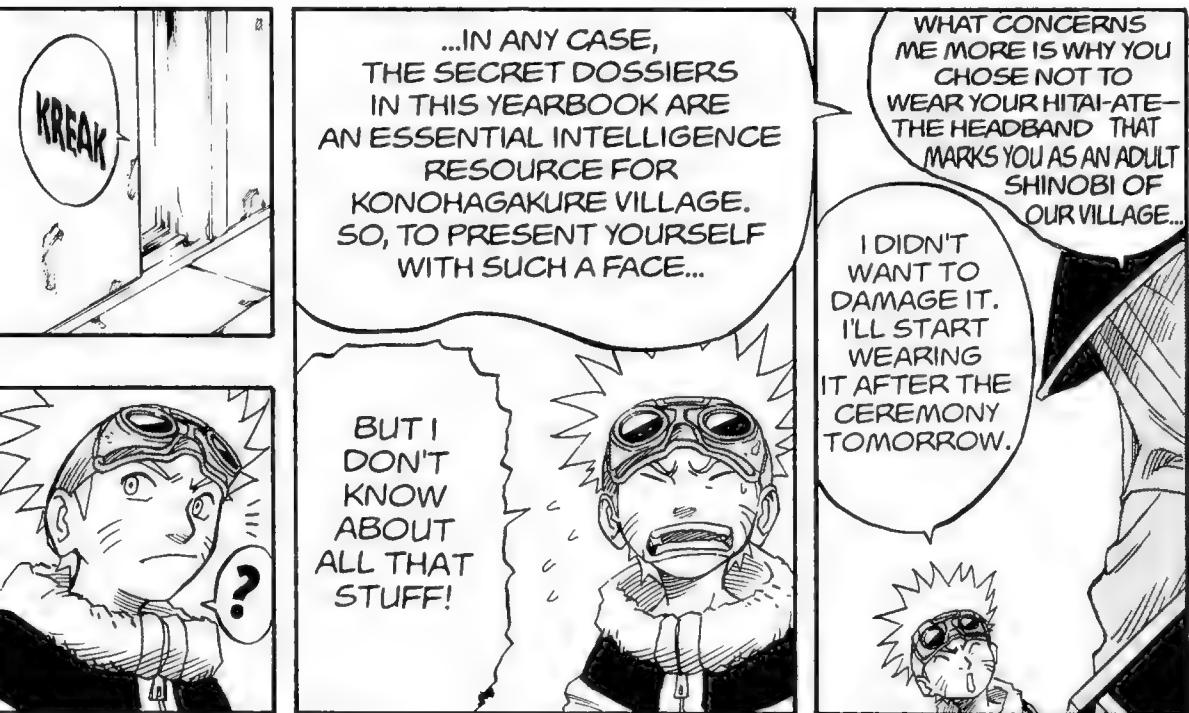
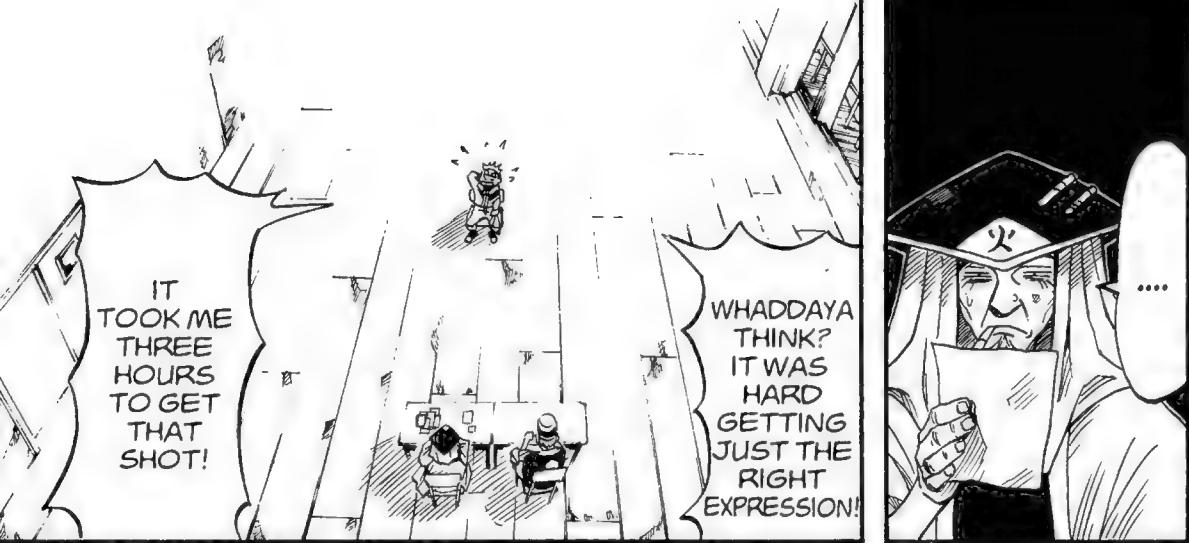
KONOHAGAKURE  
VILLAGE-  
"THE VILLAGE  
HIDDEN IN THE  
LEAVES"...

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

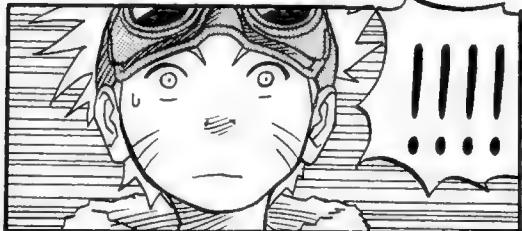
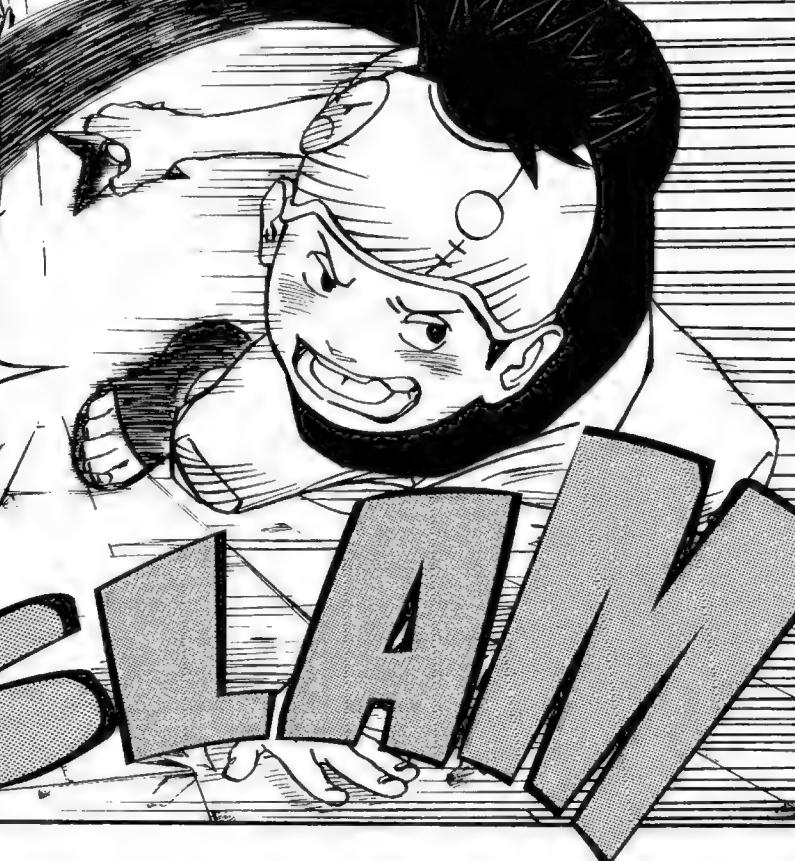
## NUMBER 2: KONOHAMARU!!!







ON  
GUARD,  
OL'  
MAN!  
RIGHT?!



READ  
THIS  
WAY





I  
CAN  
SEE  
YOU  
RIGHT  
THERE!

FLUP

QUIT  
FOLLOWING  
ME,  
STUPID.

YEAH!

HUNH?

TEACH  
ME  
YOUR  
SKILLS.  
I'LL  
BECOME  
YOUR  
DISCIPLE.

"HF

SO,  
YOU  
MANAGED TO  
PENETRATE  
MY DISGUISE!!  
RIGHT!!!!  
THE  
RUMORS  
OF YOUR  
PROWESS  
DON'T  
LIE!

HSS

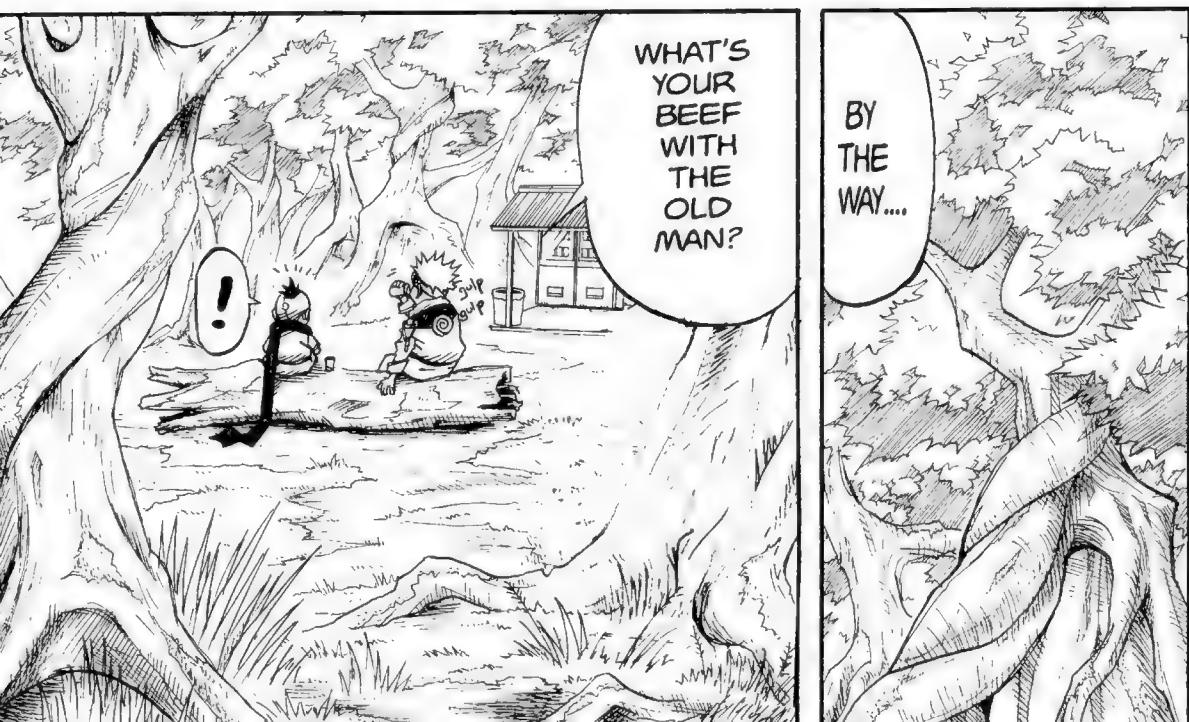
CH-CHIEF  
--?!

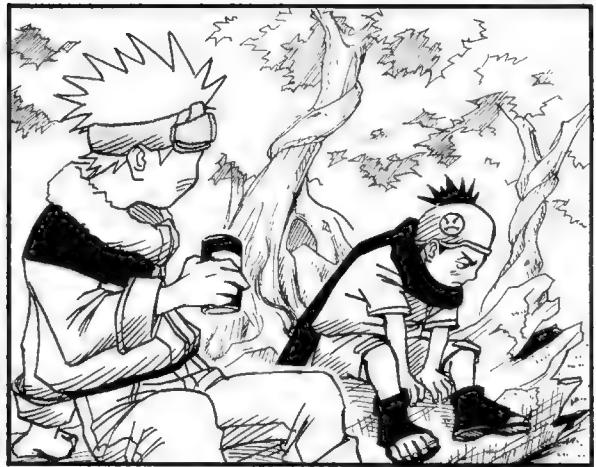
OKAY,  
CHIEF??

YOU'VE  
GOTTA  
TEACH  
ME THAT  
NINJA  
CENTERFOLD  
ILLUSION  
YOU USED  
ON MY  
GRANDPA.

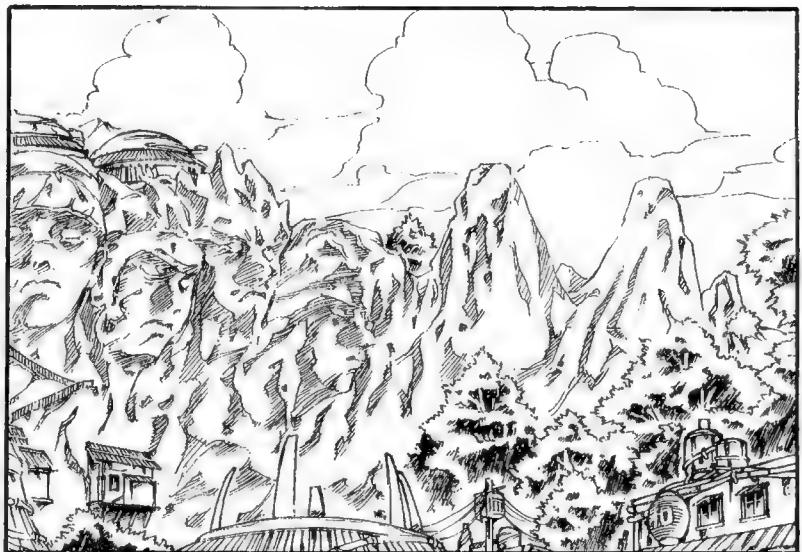
YEAH!

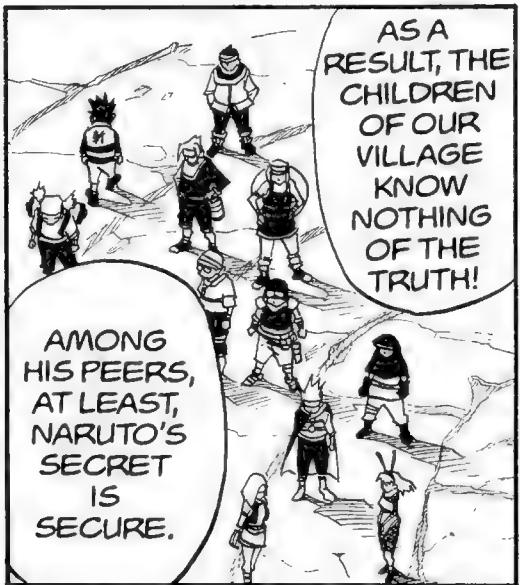


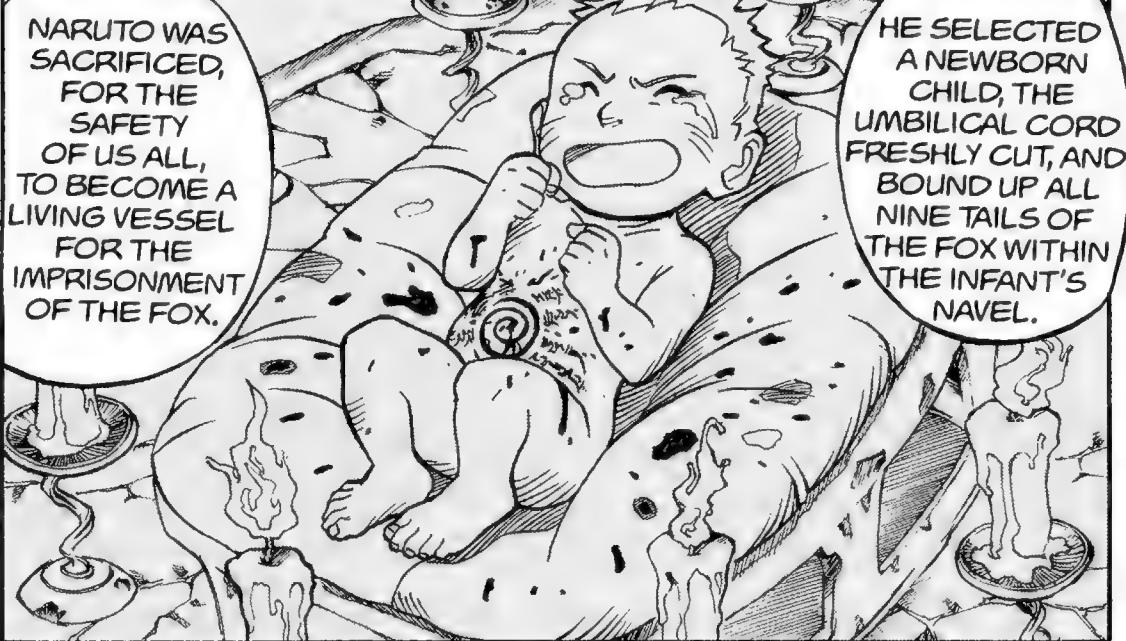












NARUTO WAS  
SACRIFICED,  
FOR THE  
SAFETY  
OF US ALL,  
TO BECOME A  
LIVING VESSEL  
FOR THE  
IMPRISONMENT  
OF THE FOX.

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



-- IT HAS  
BEEN  
PICKED UP  
ON BY  
CHILDREN  
WHO HAVE  
NO IDEA OF  
THE TRUTH...  
PICKED UP  
ON AND  
PERPETUATED!

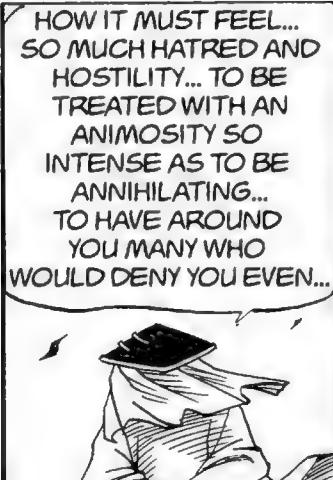
INSTEAD,  
THEIR  
TREATMENT  
OF THE BOY  
IS SO  
CONTEM-  
TUOUS  
AND  
HOSTILE--



BUT THAT  
IS NOT  
THE WAY  
THE ADULTS  
WHO KNOW  
CHOSE TO  
SEE IT..



...THE  
RIGHT  
TO  
EXIST..

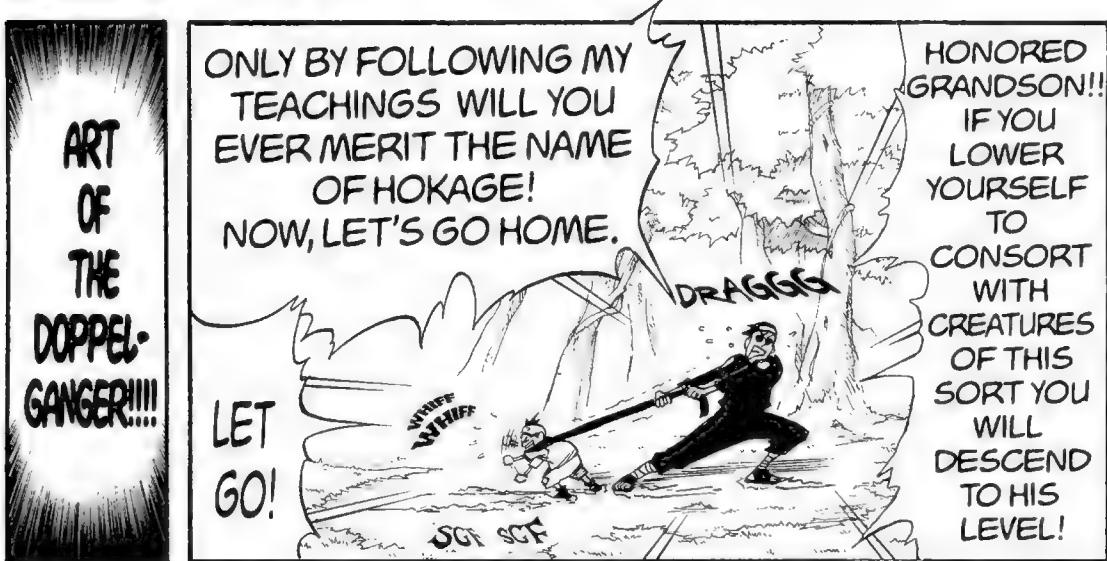


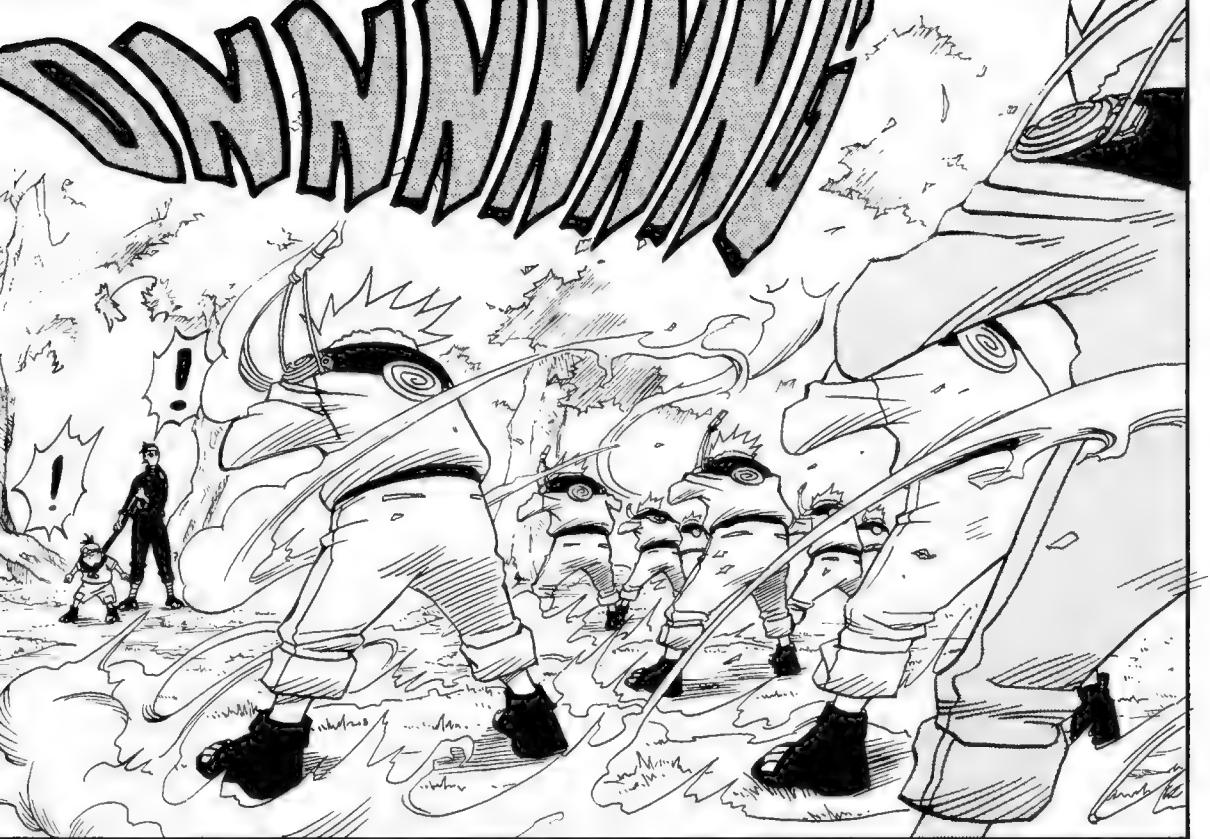
HOW IT MUST FEEL...  
SO MUCH HATRED AND  
HOSTILITY... TO BE  
TREATED WITH AN  
ANIMOSITY SO  
INTENSE AS TO BE  
ANNIHILATING...  
TO HAVE AROUND  
YOU MANY WHO  
WOULD DENY YOU EVEN...



IRUKA...  
CAN  
YOU  
IMAGINE...?  
  
IMAGINE  
WHAT?





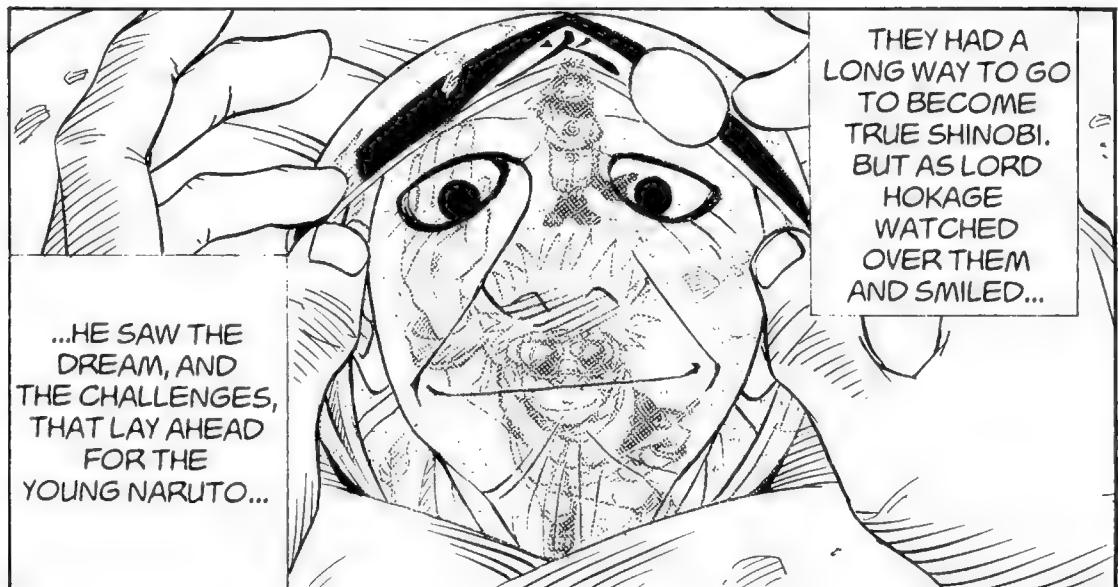
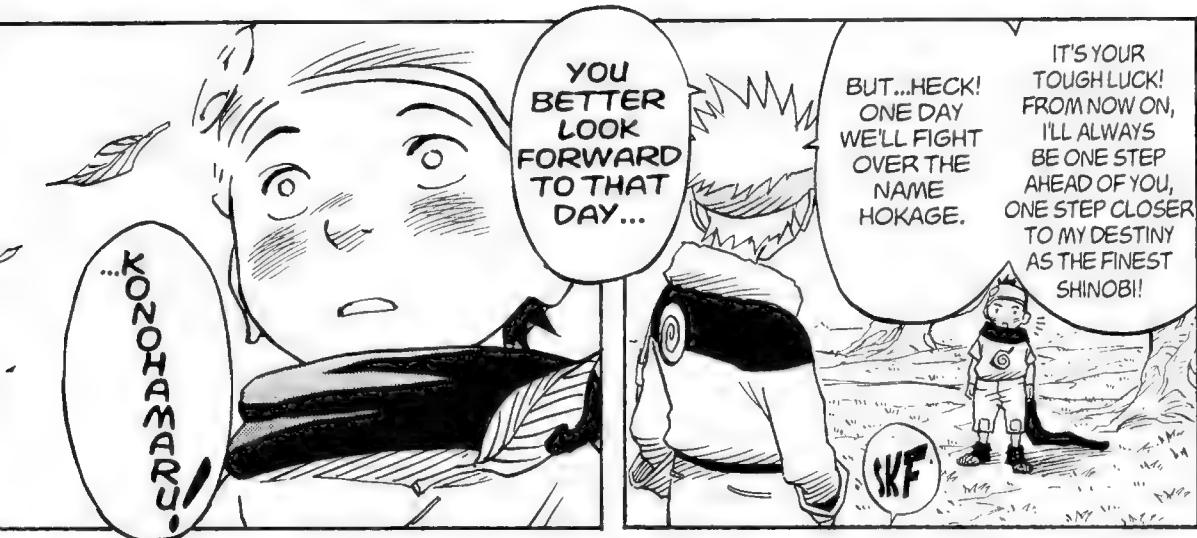












# Konohagakure Basics:

## SHINOBI STYLE



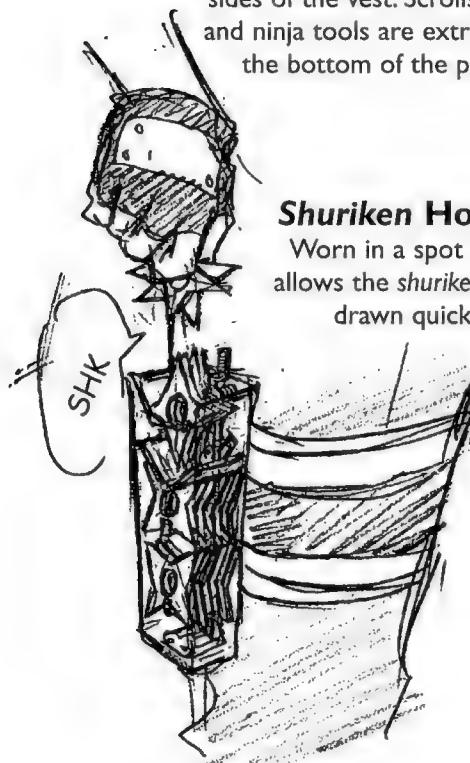
### Makimono Pouch (Scroll Pouch)

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.



### Hitai-ate (Forehead Band)

Can be worn either as a headband, or a cover for the entire head.



### Shuriken Holster

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



number 3:  
Enter Sasuke!







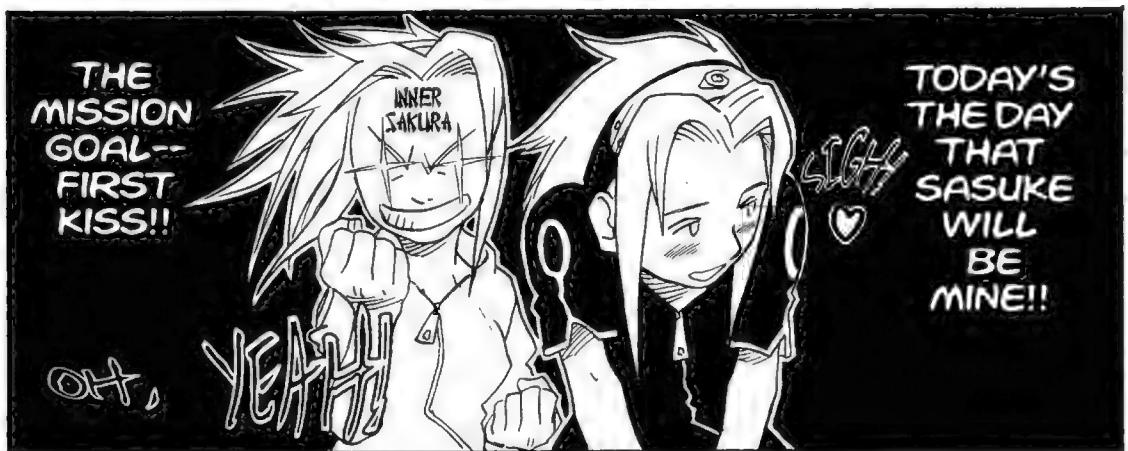


THERE  
HE  
IS...  
THE  
CLASS  
HEART-  
THROB!

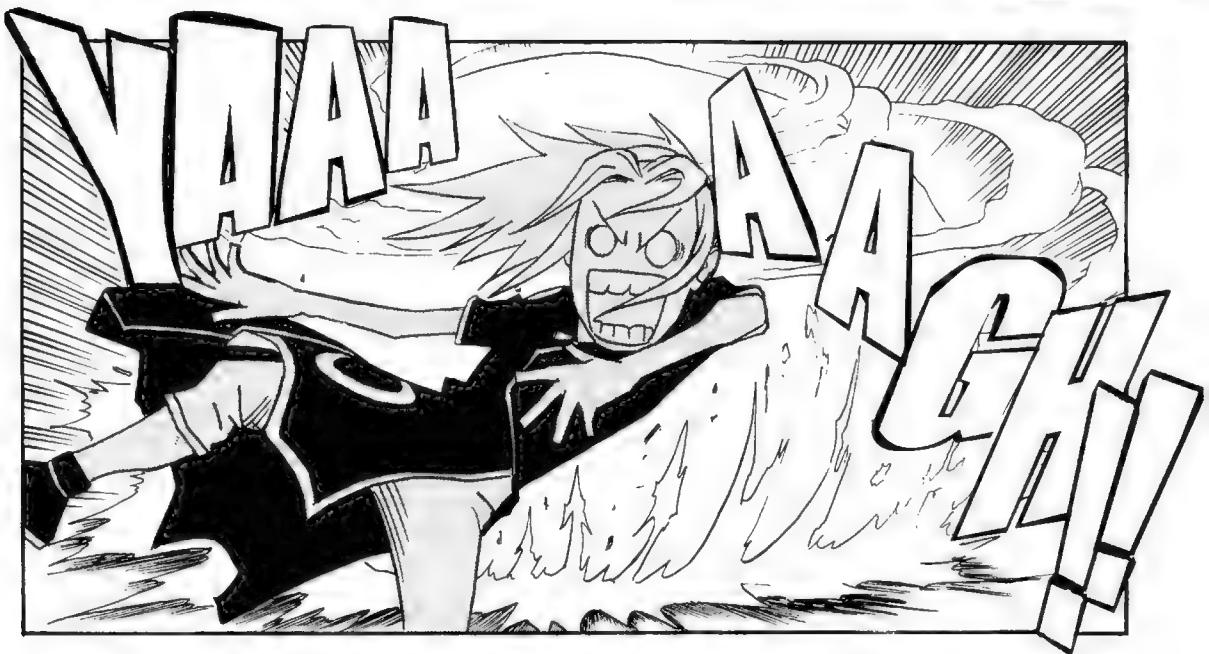


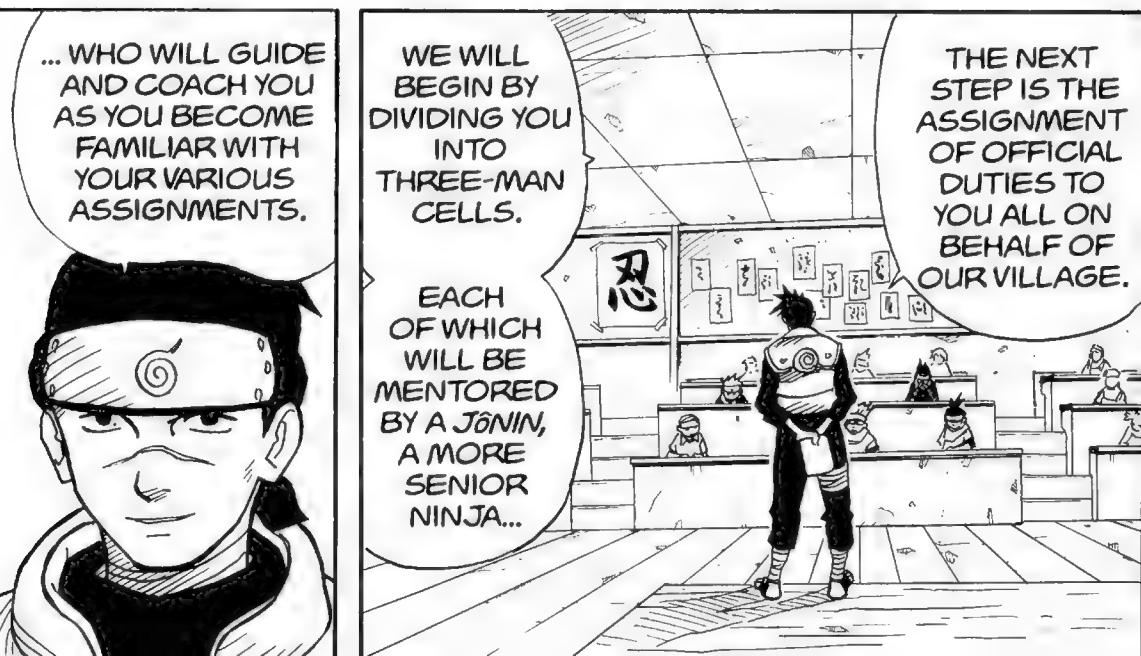
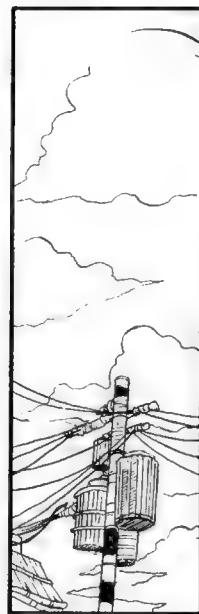
UCHIHA SASUKE!  
THINKS HE'S  
SO COOL.  
I HATE  
THAT GUY!











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...



WHA

I MADE THE SELECTIONS SO THAT EACH CELL'S ABILITIES WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL.

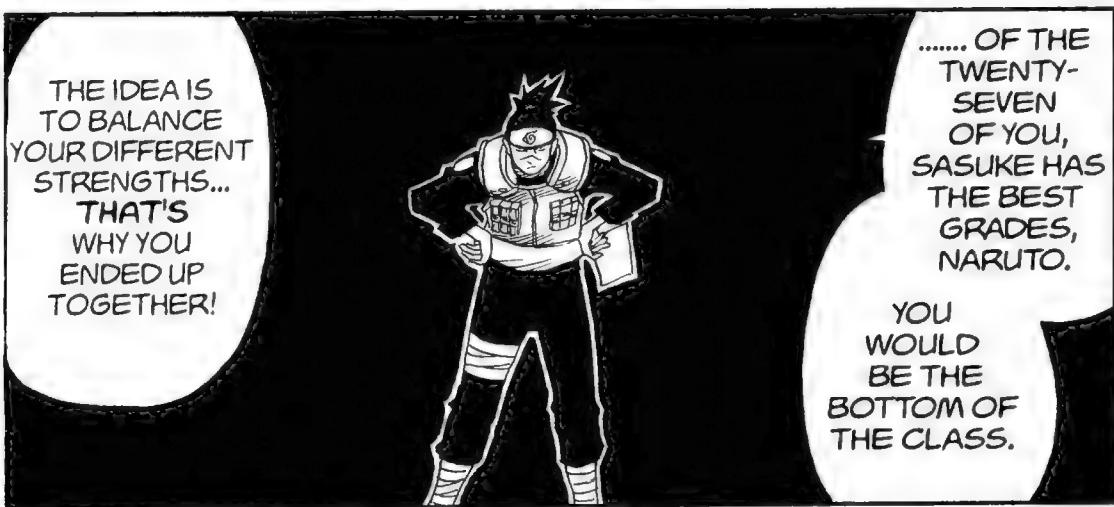
HARUNO SAKURA...  
UZUMAKI NARUTO...

NEXT,  
CELL  
NUMBER  
SEVEN.



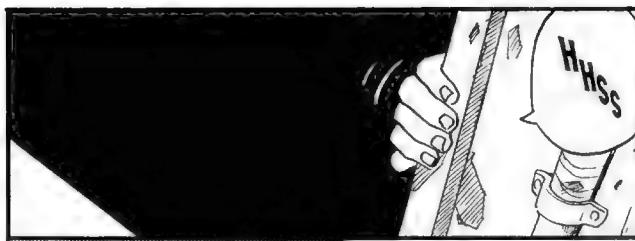
AND... UCHIHA SASUKE!







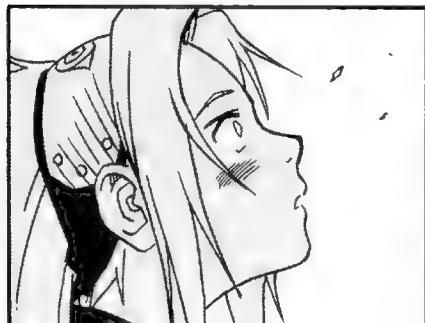
READ  
THIS  
WAY



... WHEN I GOT SO SHORT-CHANGED IN THE T & A DEPARTMENT?! THE ONLY PART OF ME THAT'S OVER-SIZED IS MY STUPID FOREHEAD!

HOW CAN I OVERWHELM HIM BY SEX APPEAL...

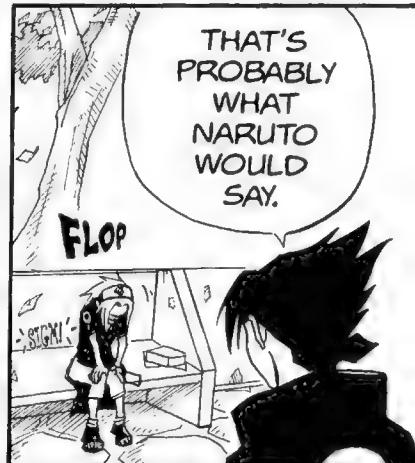




DREAMS  
DO  
COME  
TRUE!

OH YEAH!!

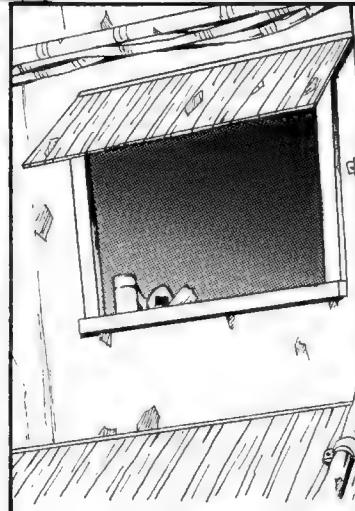
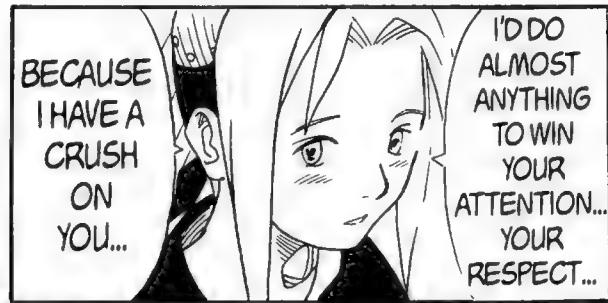
IF  
I'M  
DREAMING,  
DON'T  
WAKE  
ME...



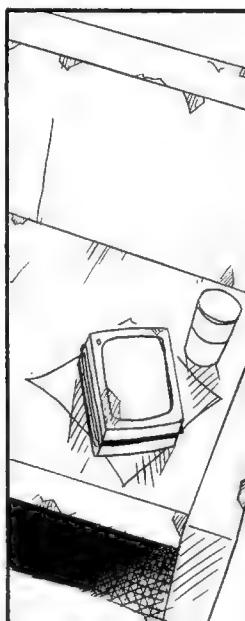
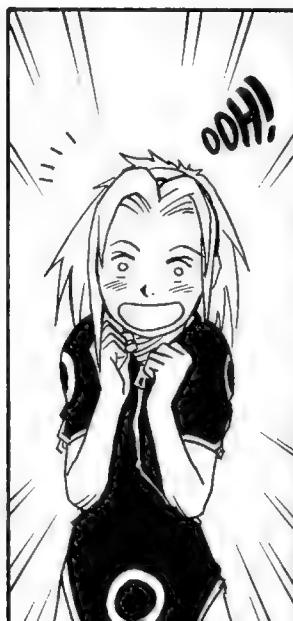
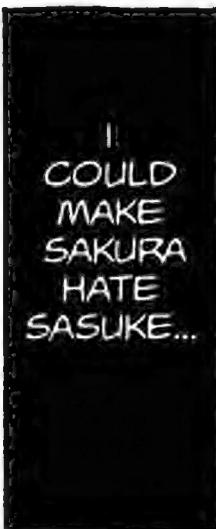
IN FACT,  
THE ONE  
PERSON  
WHOSE  
OPINION  
I VALUE...  
THE ONLY  
ONE I REALLY  
WANT TO BE  
CLOSE  
TO...

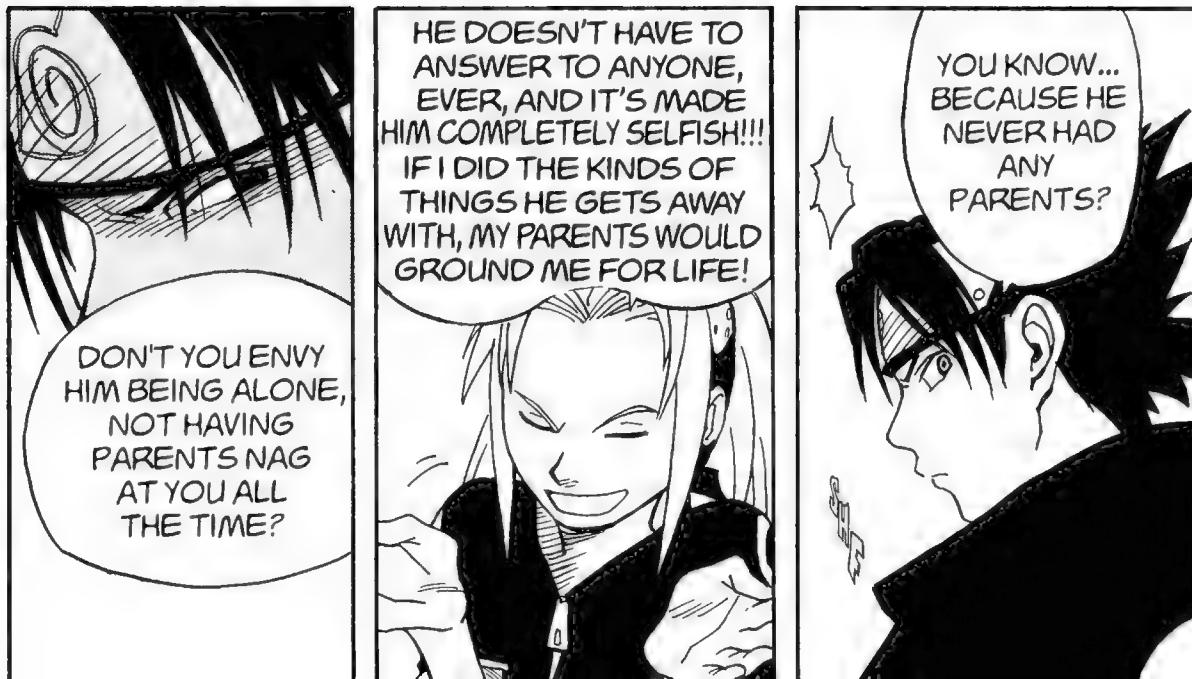
NARUTO  
DOESN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
ME AT ALL!.....  
I CAN'T STAND  
TO HAVE HIM  
ANYWHERE  
NEAR ME!

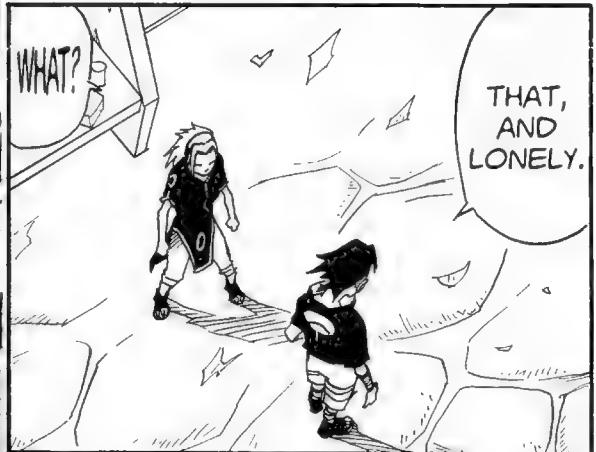
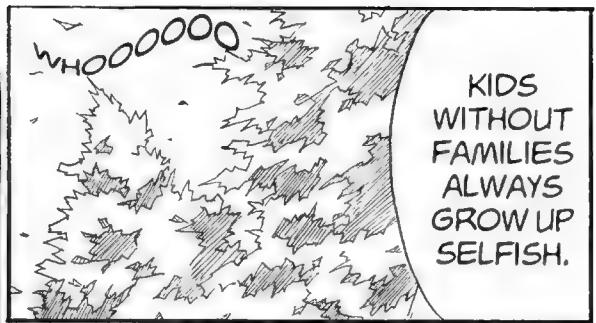
READ  
THIS  
WAY

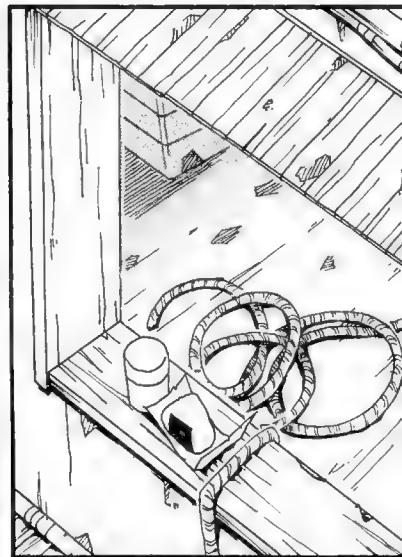
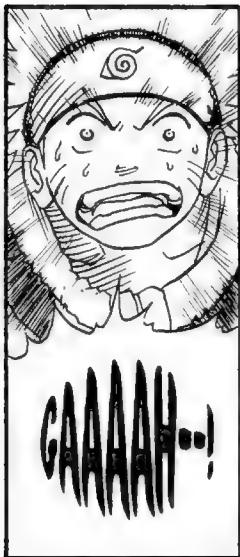
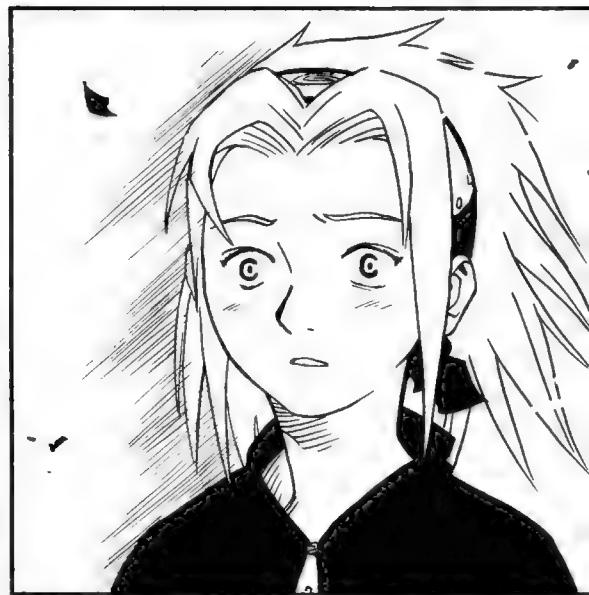














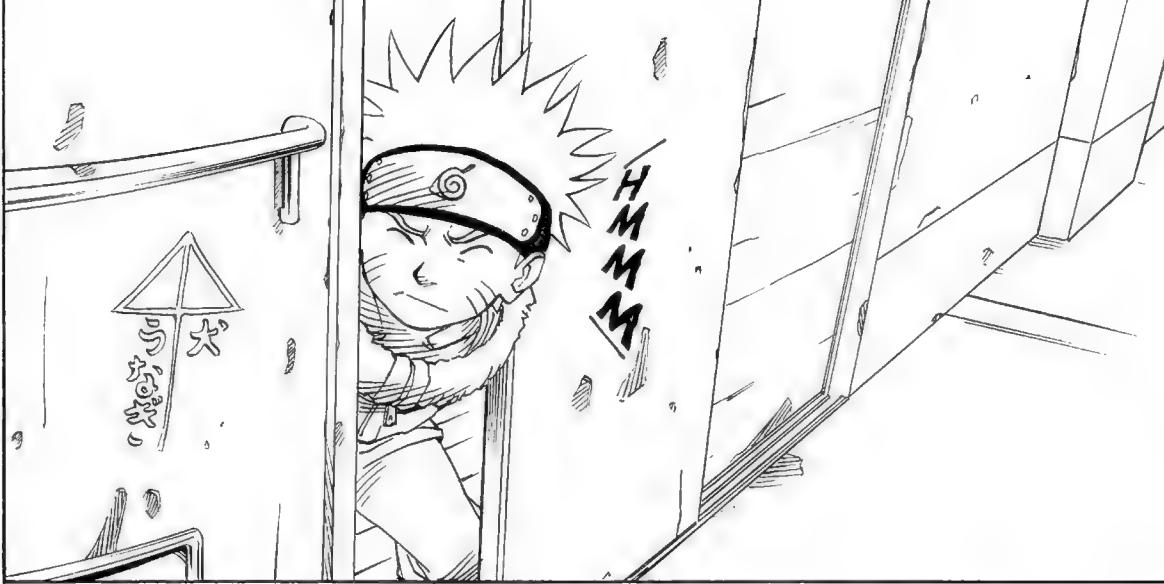
The picture on the right is from Karakuri ("mechanism"), the first story I submitted to Weekly Shonen Jump. Karakuri won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists, which allowed me to get picked up by my current editor and helped me begin my journey down the road of a manga artist. It's a manga that brings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

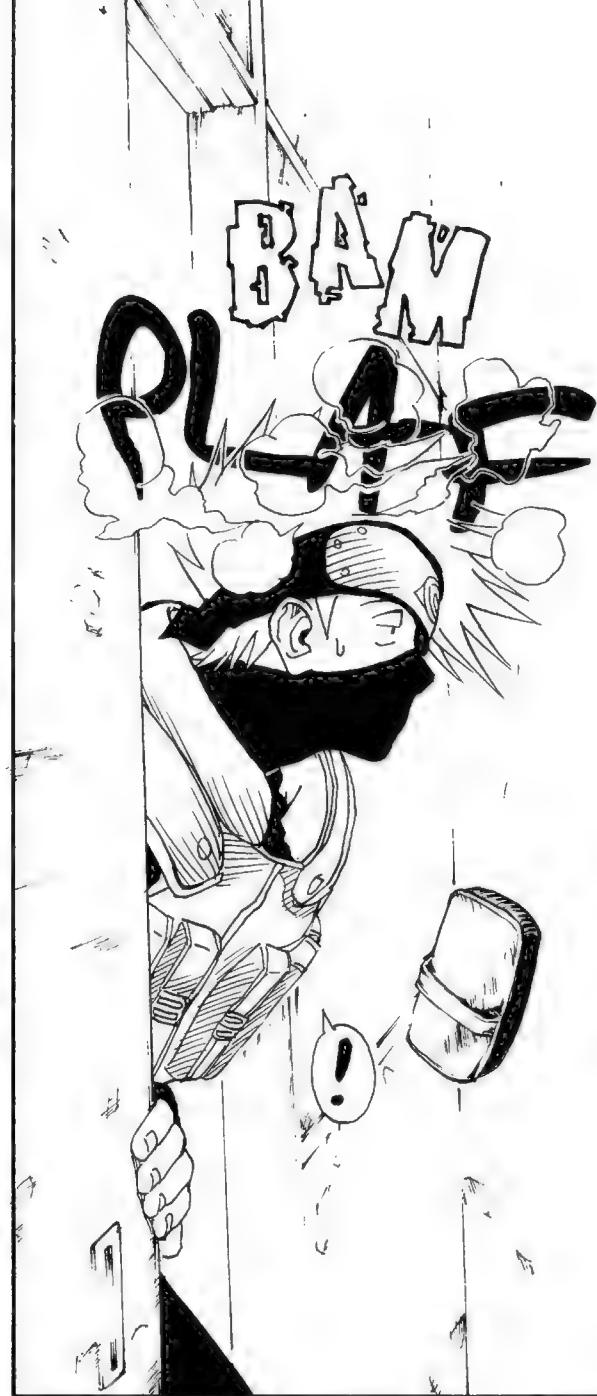


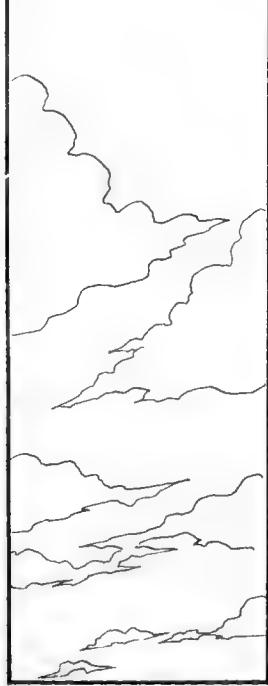
number 4:  
Hatake Kakashi





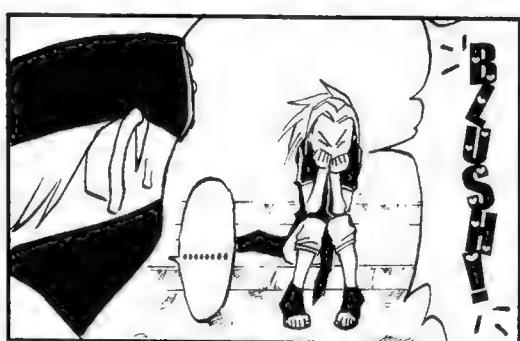




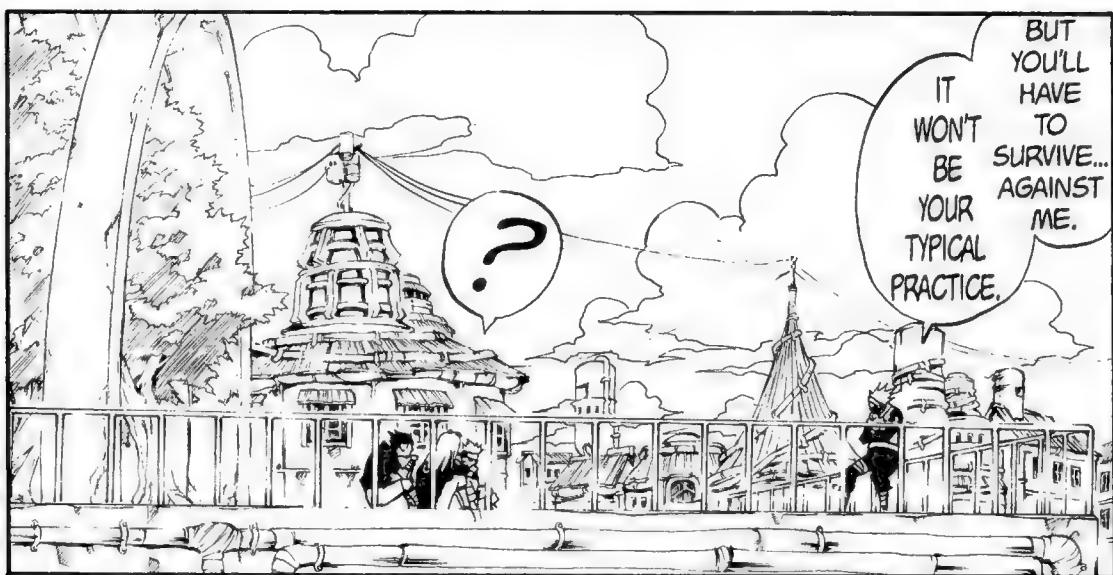


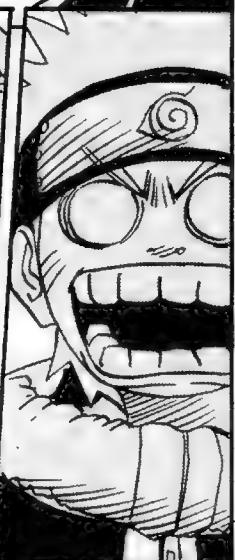
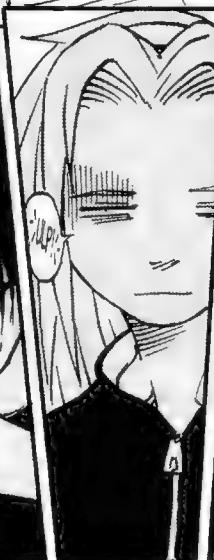












OH! WE WANTED  
TO ELIMINATE ALL  
THE HOPELESS  
CASES FROM  
YOUR RANKS.  
THE ONES WHO ARE  
LEFT ARE THE ONLY  
STUDENTS WHO  
SHOW TRUE  
POTENTIAL.

SAY  
WHAT!!!

WE  
HAVE  
BEEN  
THROUGH  
HELL!  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
OUR  
GRADUA-  
TION  
TEST?!

**SIZZLE**

THAT  
SUCKS!!!

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

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

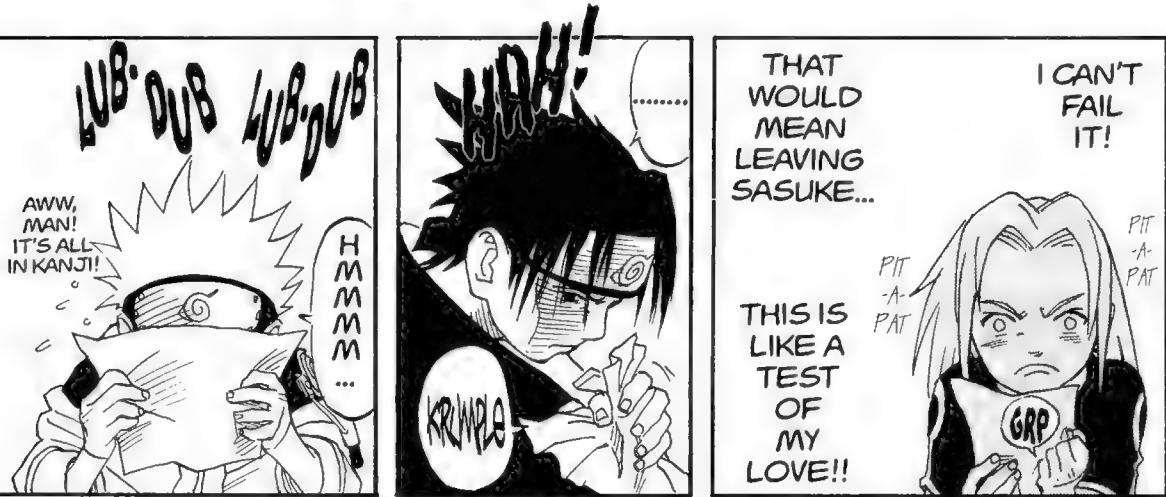
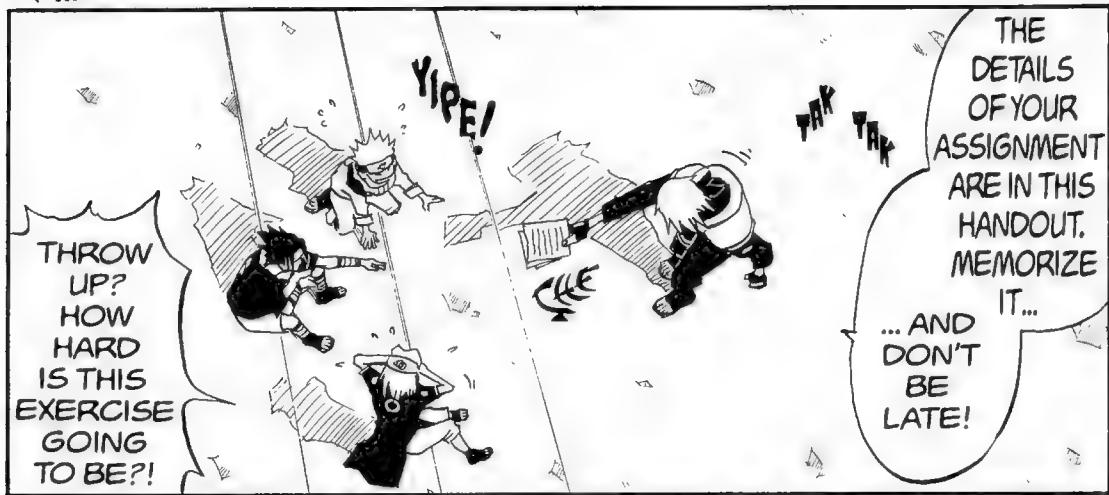
BRING  
ALL OF  
YOUR NINJA  
TOOLS  
AND  
WEAPONS.

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.

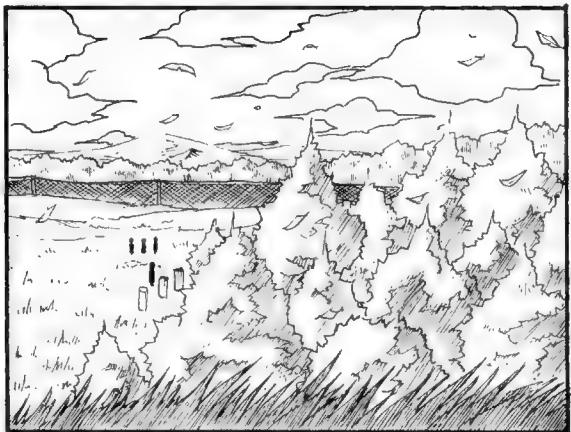
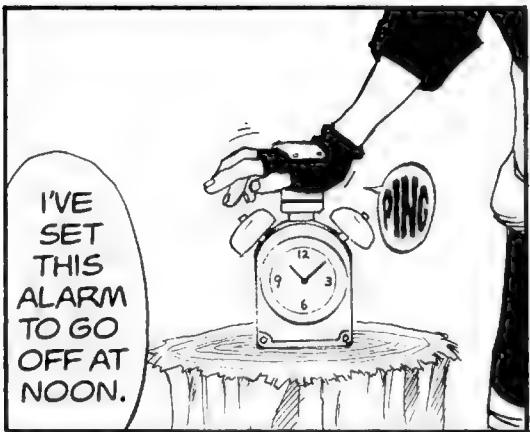
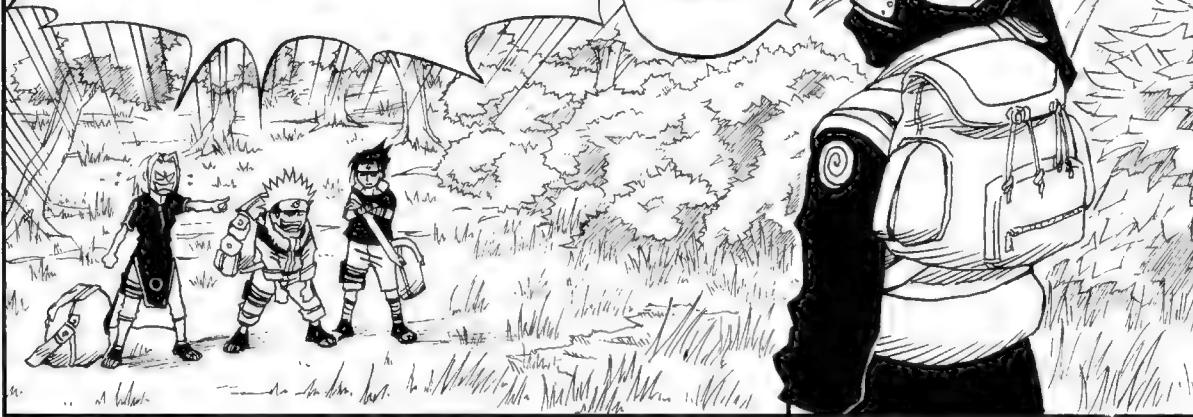
READ  
THIS WAY



# YOU'RE LATE!!!!

GOOD MORNING, CLASS!

THE NEXT DAY



READ  
THIS WAY

SO THAT'S WHY YOU  
WANTED US TO GO  
WITHOUT BREAKFAST!

AWWWWWW..!



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.



BUT SINCE  
THERE AREN'T  
ENOUGH TO GO  
AROUND,  
ONE OF YOU  
IS DEFINITELY  
HEADED FOR  
THE STUMP.



ALL YOU  
NEED IS  
JUST  
ONE  
BELL...  
APIECE.

ONE OF  
YOU IS ON  
YOUR WAY  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL...  
AND  
DISGRACE.

...AND  
WHOMEVER  
THAT IS  
WILL  
BE THE  
FIRST  
OF YOU  
TO FAIL.

ATTACK  
AS  
THOUGH  
YOU  
MEAN  
TO  
KILL OR  
YOU'LL  
NEVER  
STAND A  
CHANCE.

SNAAS

YOU MAY,  
IF YOU  
CHOOSE,  
USE  
SHURIKEN.







READ THIS WAY



# THE MAKING OF NARUTO!!!



## The Kakashi That Might Have Been

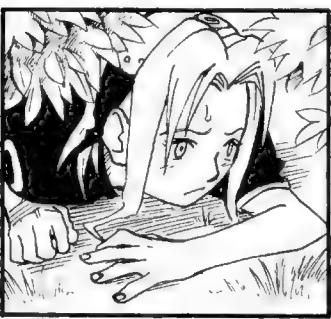
### The Rejected Outline for the Second Chapter

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







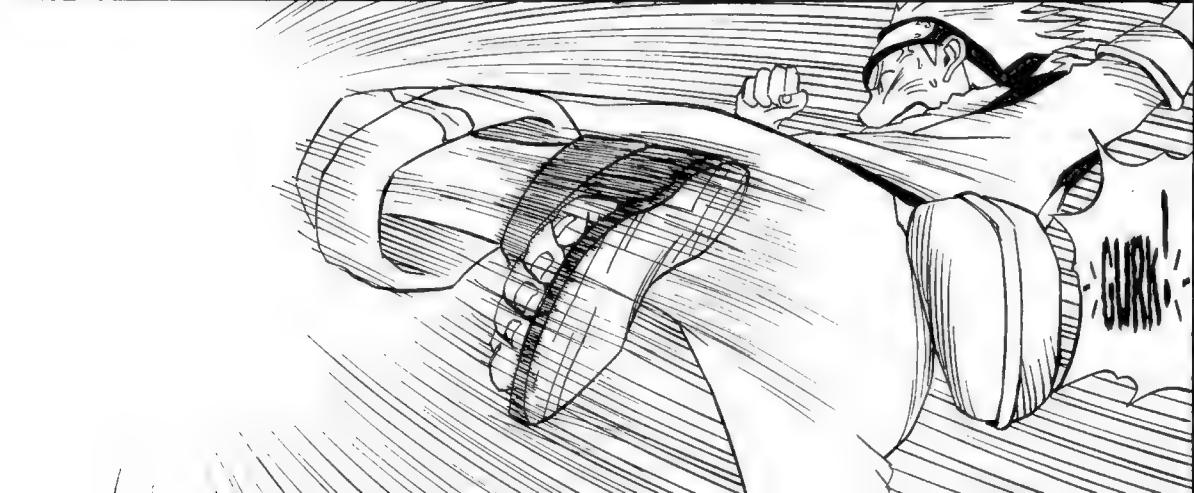


IT SHOULDN'T  
MAKE ANY  
DIFFERENCE  
IN THE  
OUTCOME,  
CONSIDERING  
WHO I'M  
UP AGAINST.

CARRY  
ON...

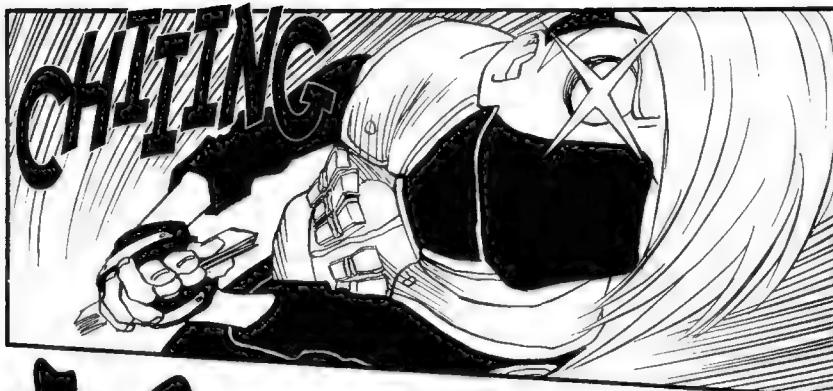
OF COURSE,  
IT'S A BOOK.  
I'VE BEEN  
DYING TO  
FIND OUT  
HOW THIS  
STORY ENDS.

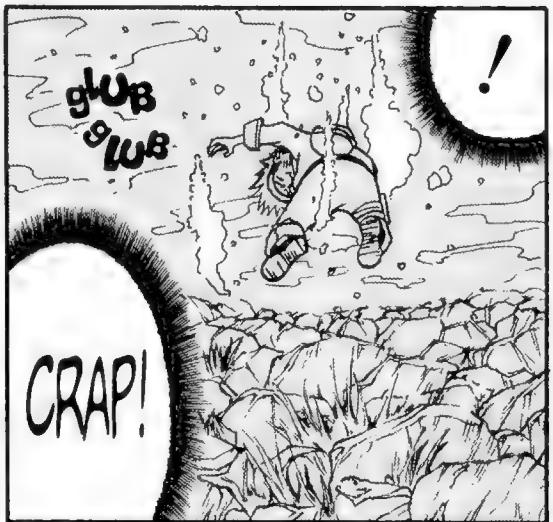
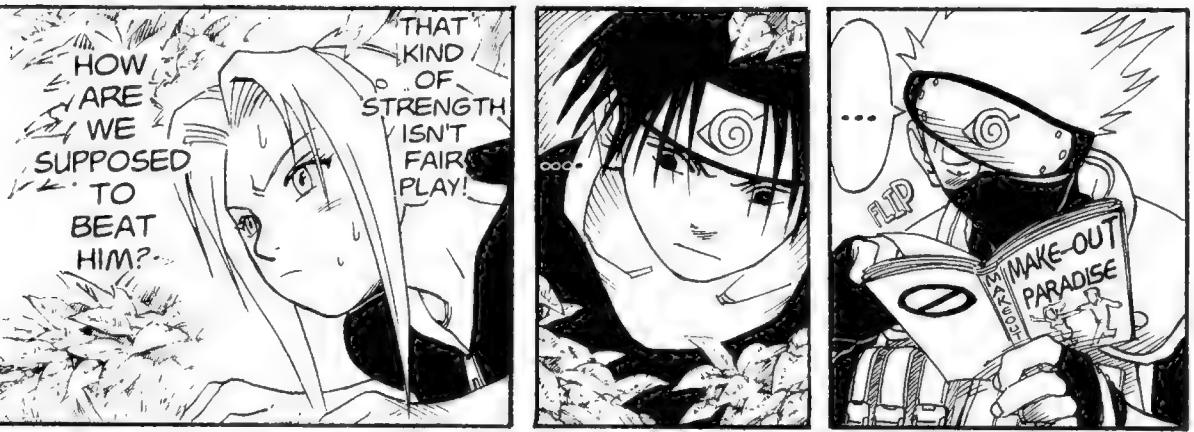














READ  
THIS WAY

HE'S  
JUST  
PLAYING  
WITH  
NARUTO.

AND  
HE'S  
STILL  
CHUCK-  
LING  
OVER  
HIS  
BOOK...



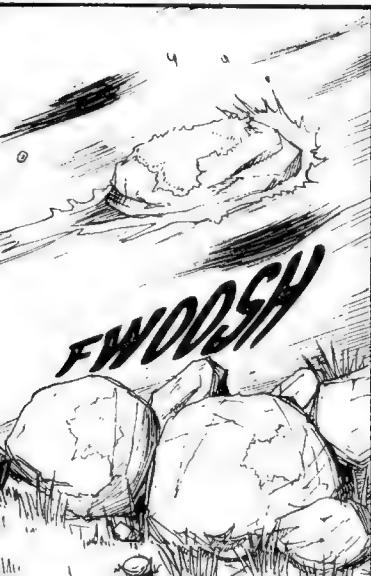
...FOR HIM, I HAVE  
NOTHING BUT  
RESPECT.  
HE'S AN  
**EXCELLENT  
STUDENT**

NO ONE  
WILL  
EVER  
ACCEPT  
YOU!

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

I  
WILL  
NOT  
...

I WILL...



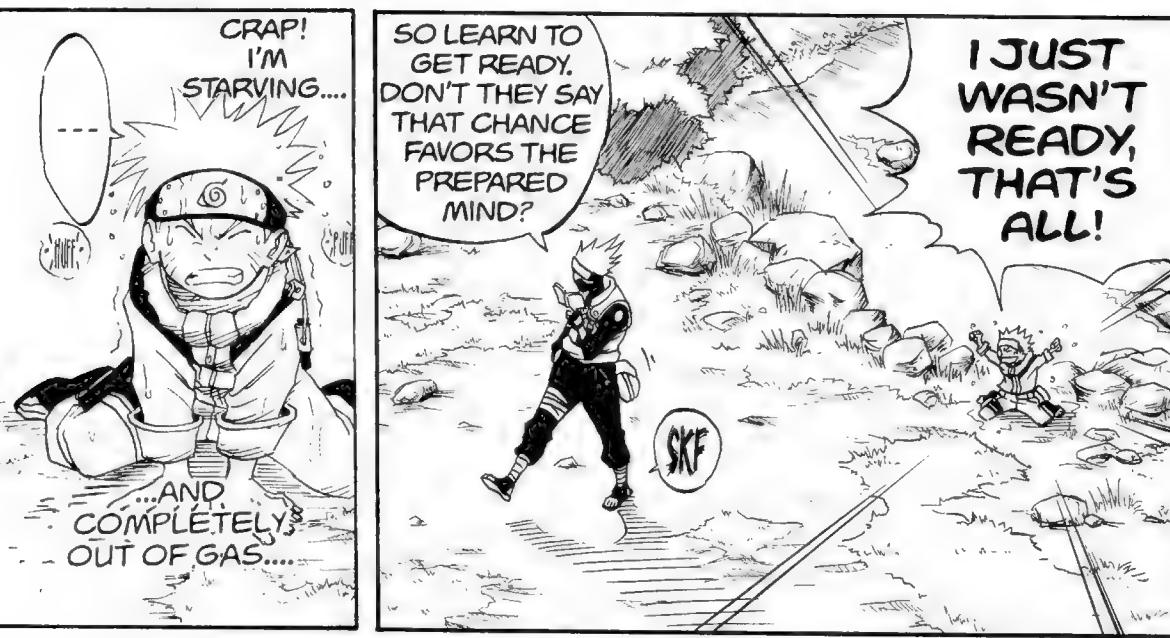
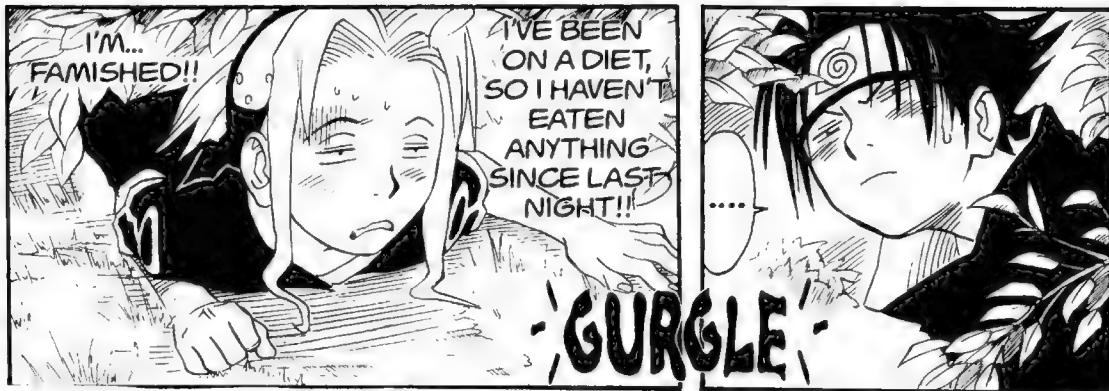
I  
WILL  
NOT  
BACK  
DOWN!

R  
R





READ  
THIS  
WAY





**GET READY!**  
NOW YOU FACE  
A LOT MORE  
THAN JUST  
ONE OF ME!

**HA-HAH!!!**  
MY  
SPECIALTY!  
THE ART  
OF THE  
DOPPEL-  
GANGER!!



THEY'RE NOT  
ILLUSIONS!  
EVERY ONE  
IS SOLID!

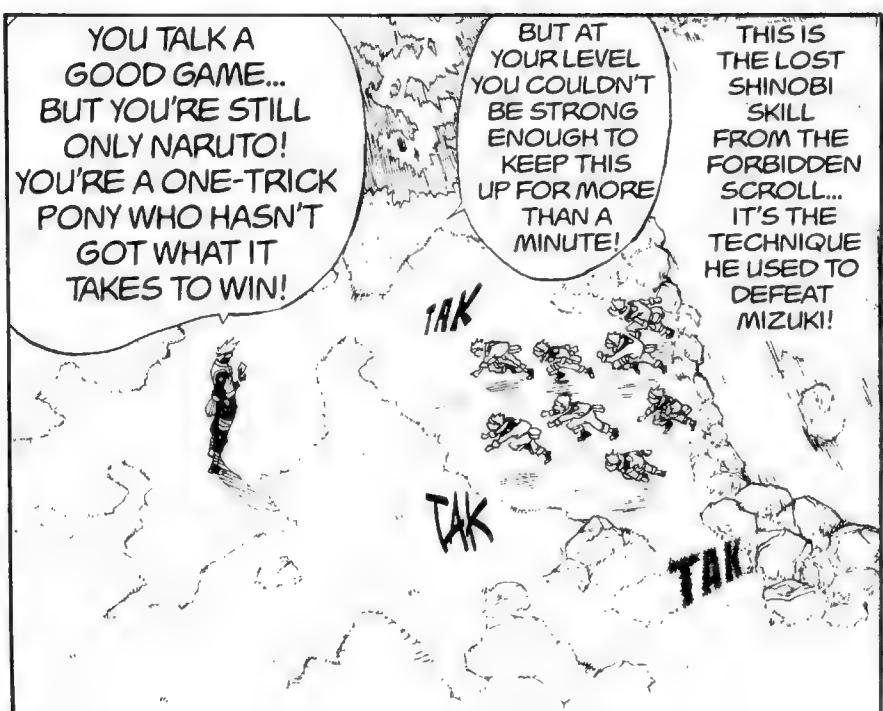
ONE...TWO...  
THREE...  
EIGHT DISTINCT  
BODIES!!  
...WHAT  
TECHNIQUE  
IS HE USING?

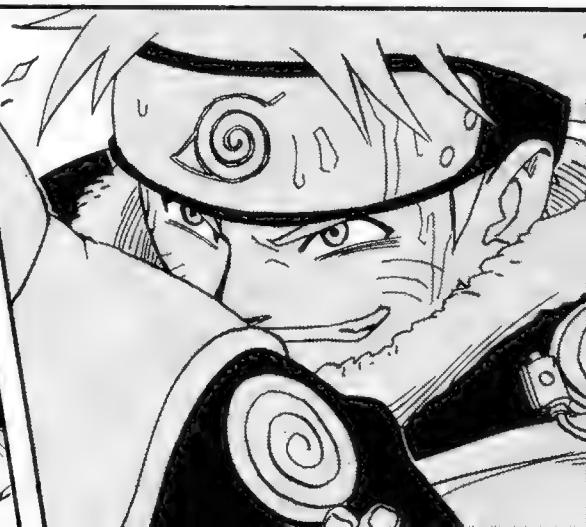


YOU TALK A  
GOOD GAME...  
BUT YOU'RE STILL  
ONLY NARUTO!  
YOU'RE A ONE-TRICK  
PONY WHO HASN'T  
GOT WHAT IT  
TAKES TO WIN!

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!

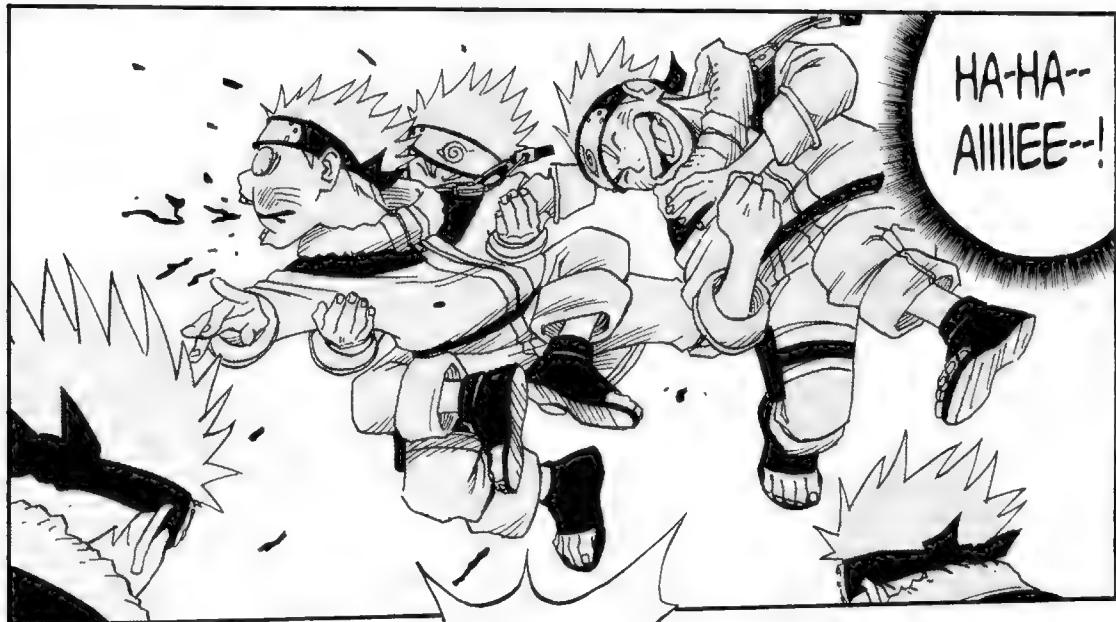








RELAX!  
I TOLD YOU,  
I'M ONLY  
GONNA  
HIT YOU  
ONCE!!



!!?



# 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!"

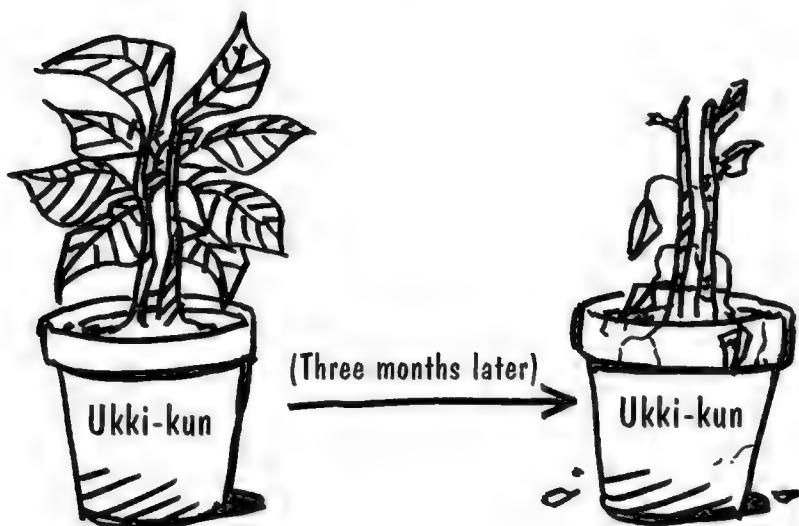
We were a super-team.

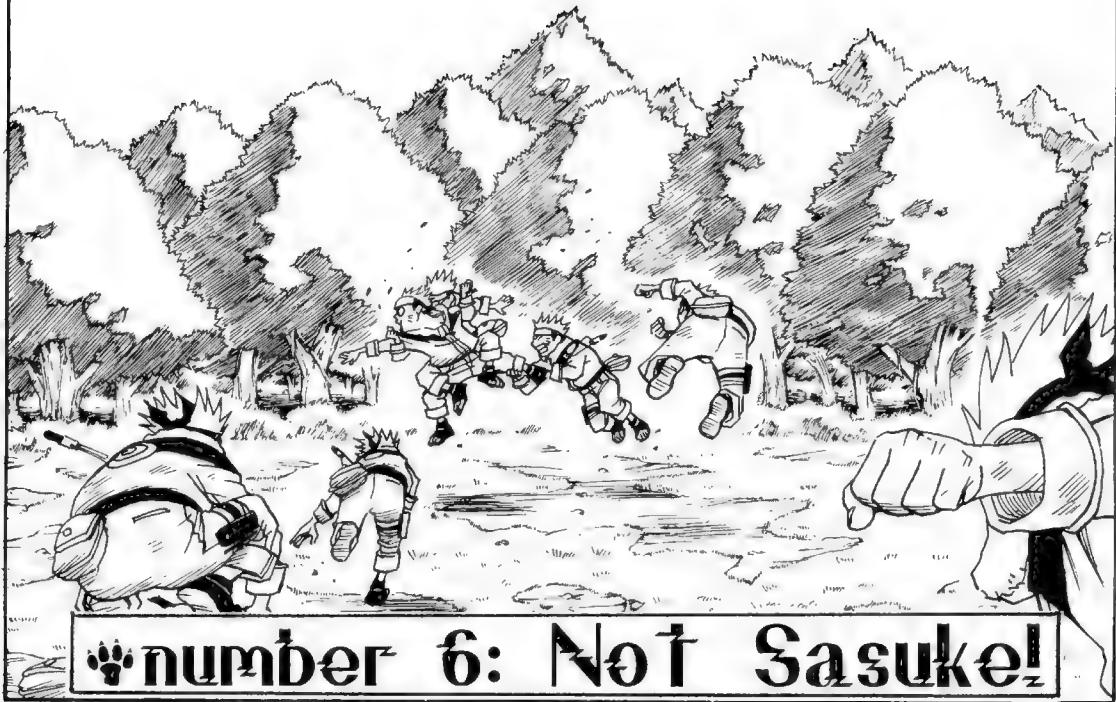
**Assistant A:** "What is this, Mr. Kishimoto? How did your plant get all dried out?"

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

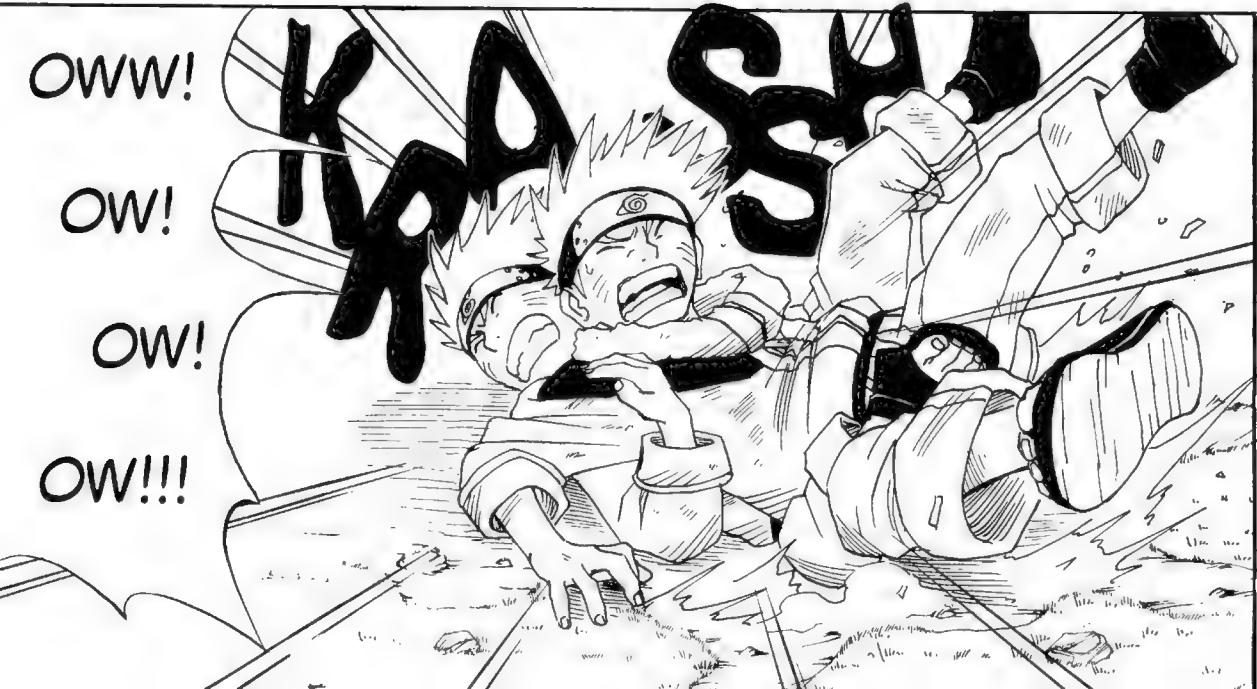
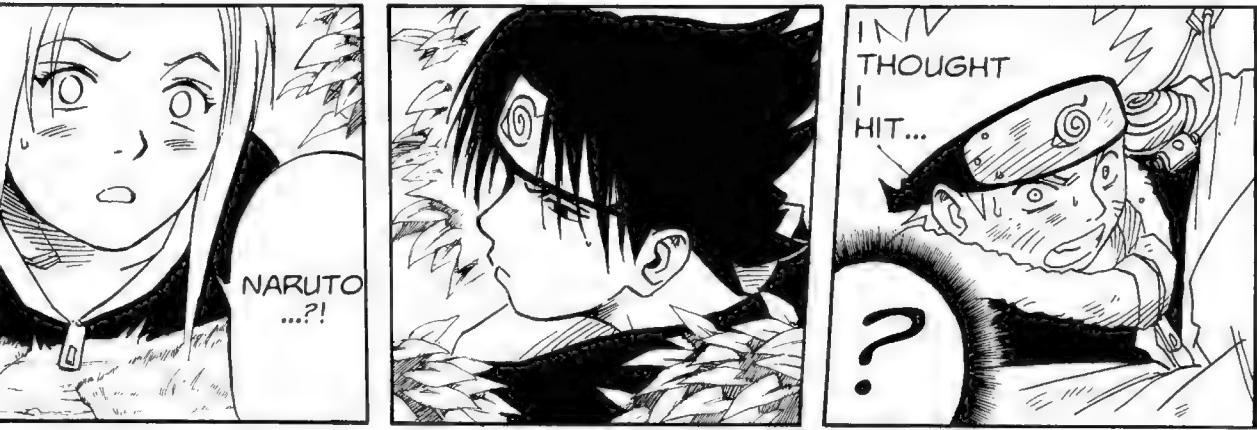
**Assistant A:** "You mean this? This fertilizer is concentrated, so you need to dilute it a lot. Oh no! You mean you didn't dilute it?!"

Sigh...





## number 6: Not Sasuke!



number 6:  
Not Sasuke!



READ  
THIS  
WAY

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!

DID  
NOT!

NO!  
YOU  
DID!

I DO  
NOT!!

THOZ

SO  
DID  
YOU!

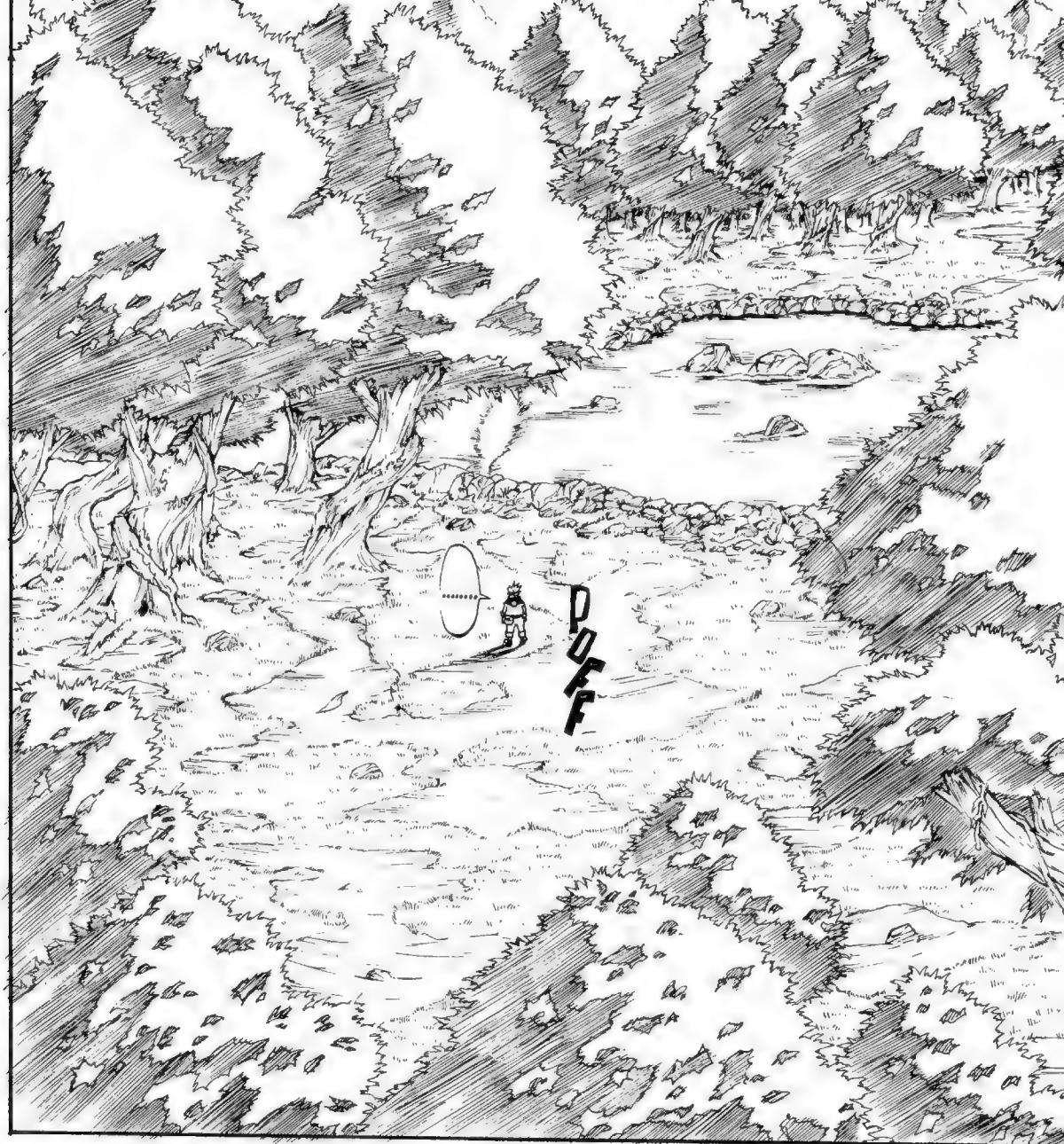
BECAUSE  
I'M YOU,  
IDIOT!

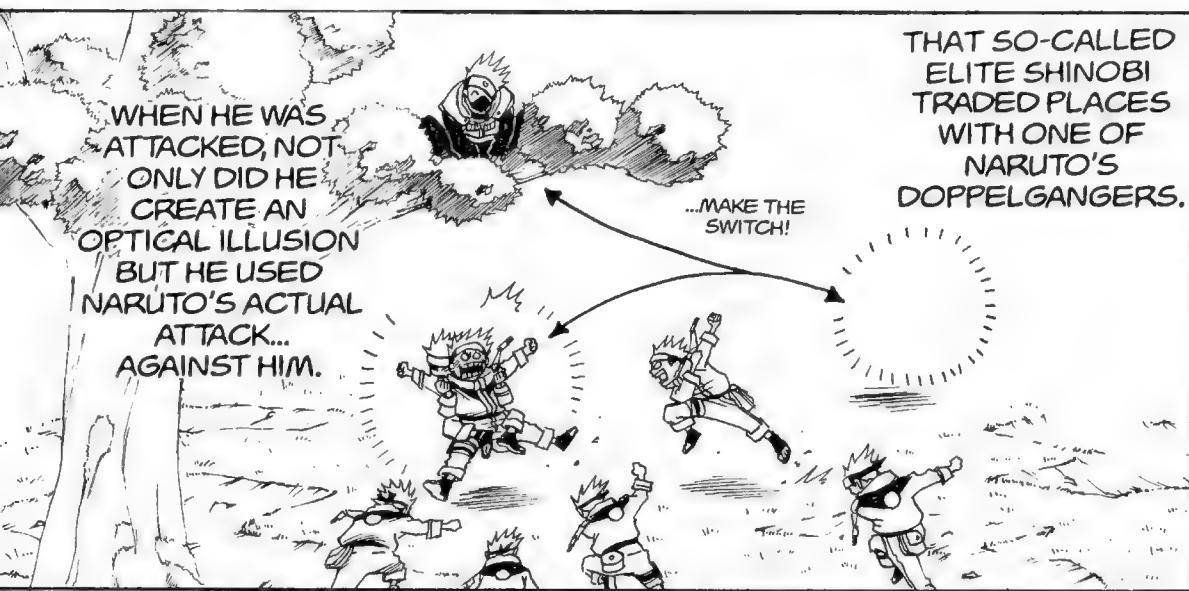
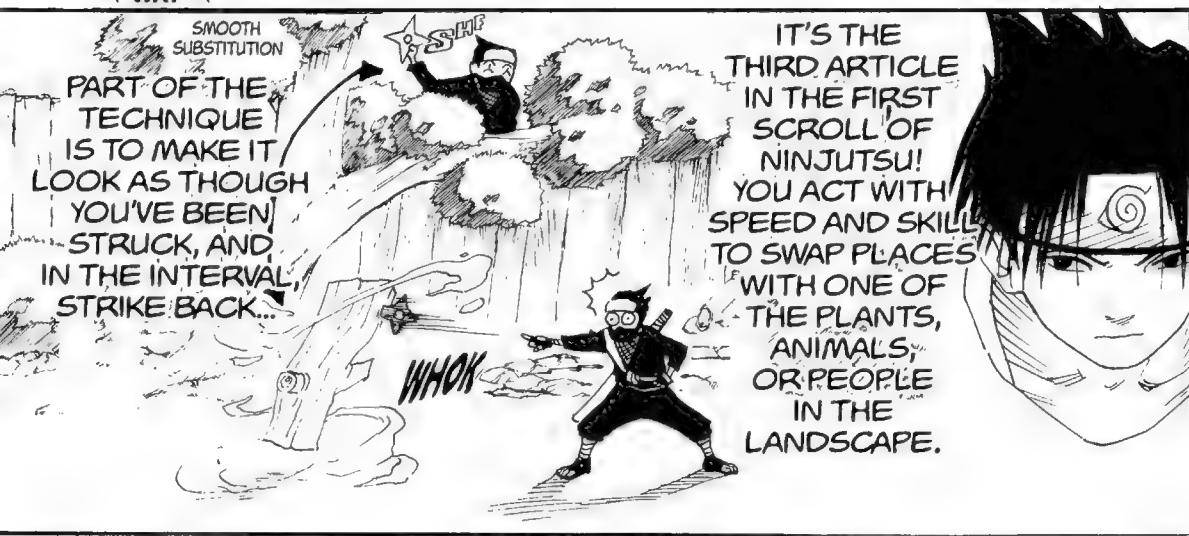
WHY DIDN'T  
YOU THINK  
OF THAT  
SOONER,  
IDIOT?!

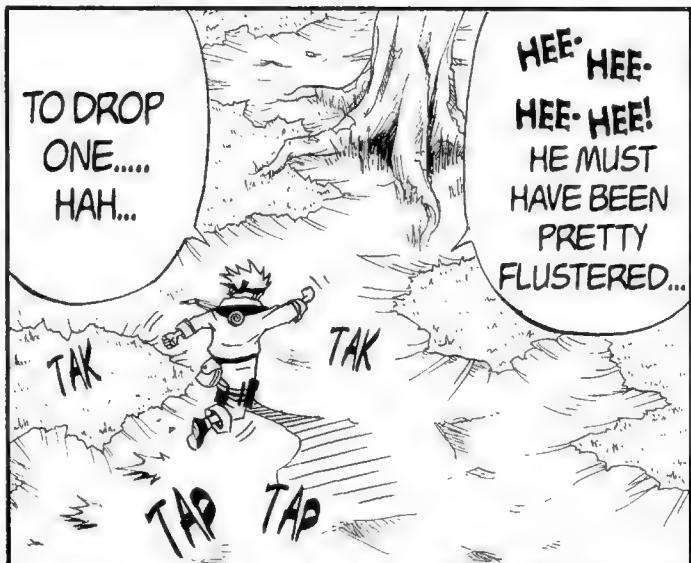
IF YOU DO,  
THERE'LL  
JUST BE  
TWO OF US...  
AND YOU'LL  
KNOW FOR  
SURE WHICH  
OF US IS  
WHICH.

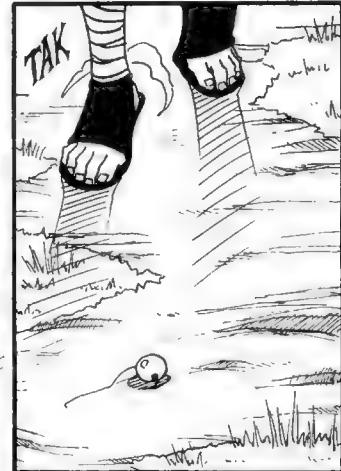
HEY!  
WAIT A  
MINUTE.

DROP  
THE  
ILLUSION.



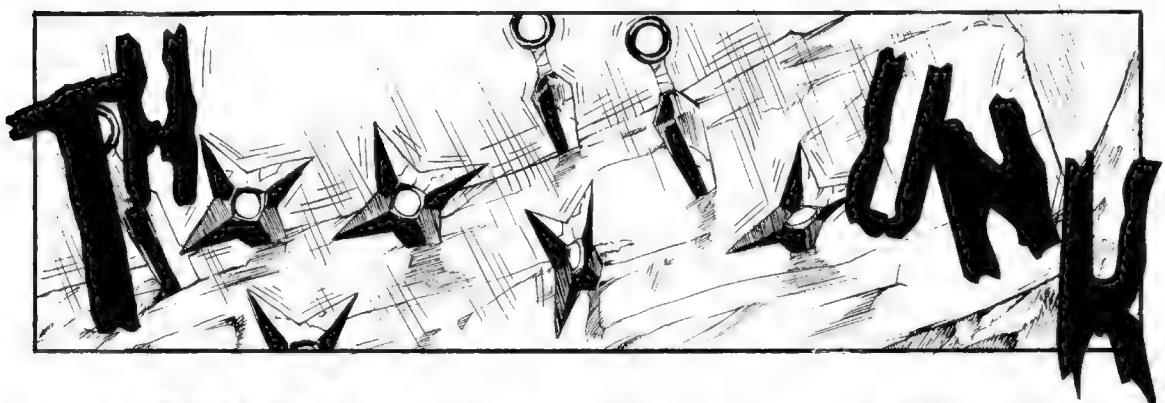
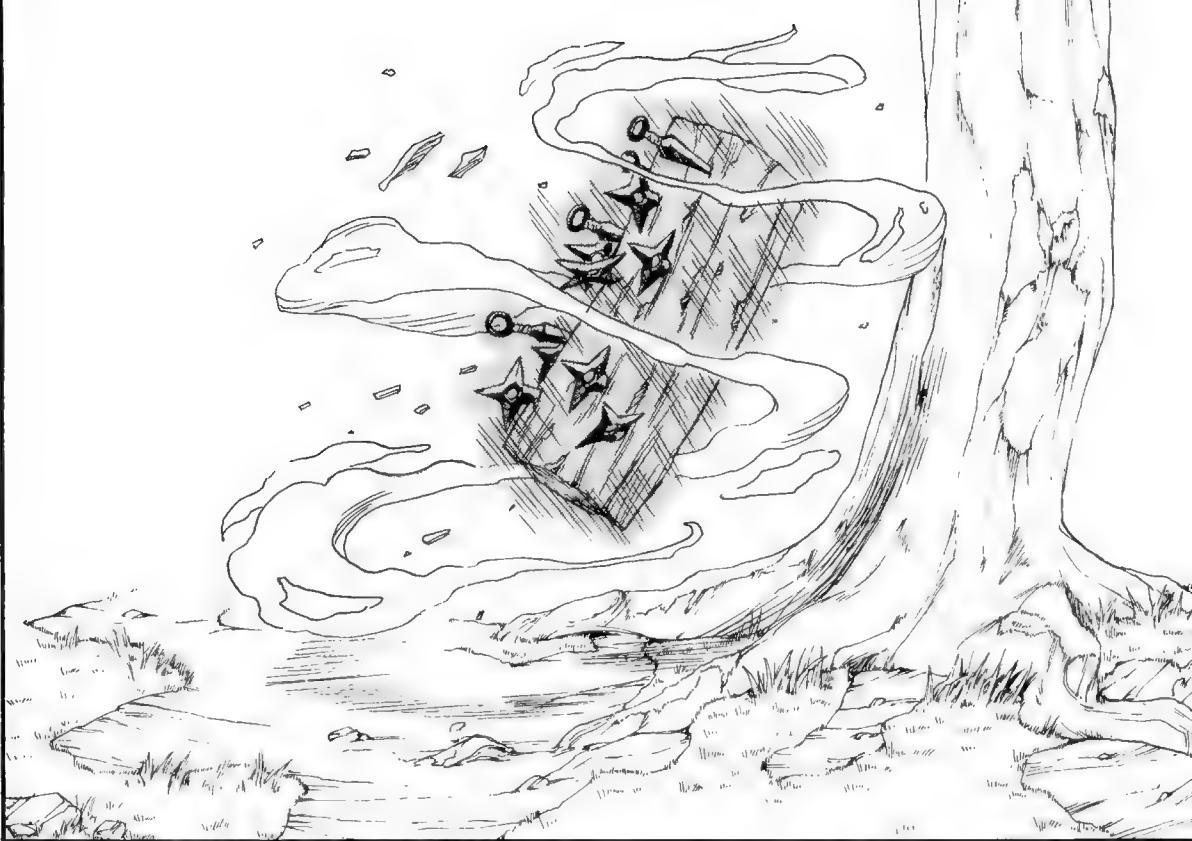










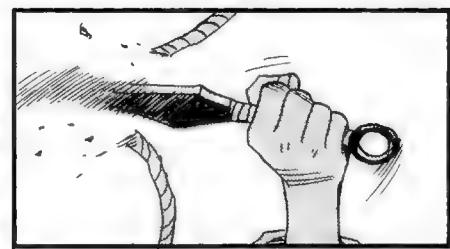




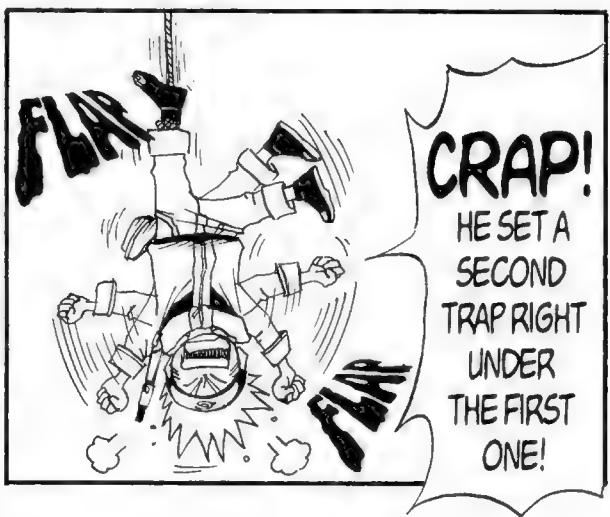
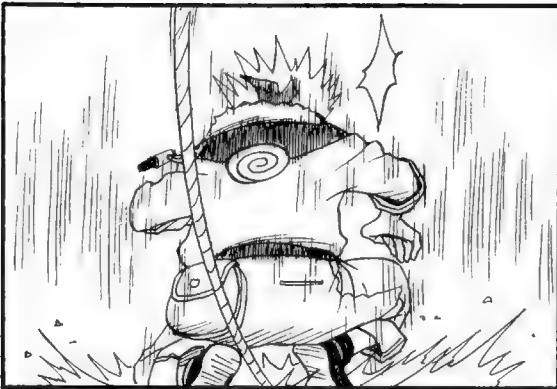


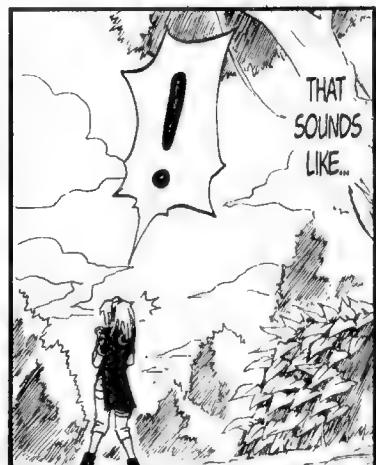
SAKURA,  
BEHIND  
YOU!





READ  
THIS  
WAY







H-HELP...

ME...

HUFF

HUFF

...SA.....

SAKU...

RA...

HUFF

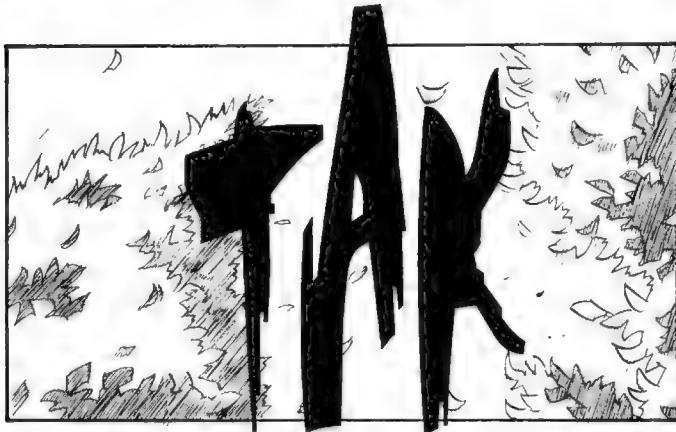
HUFF

HUFF

HUFF





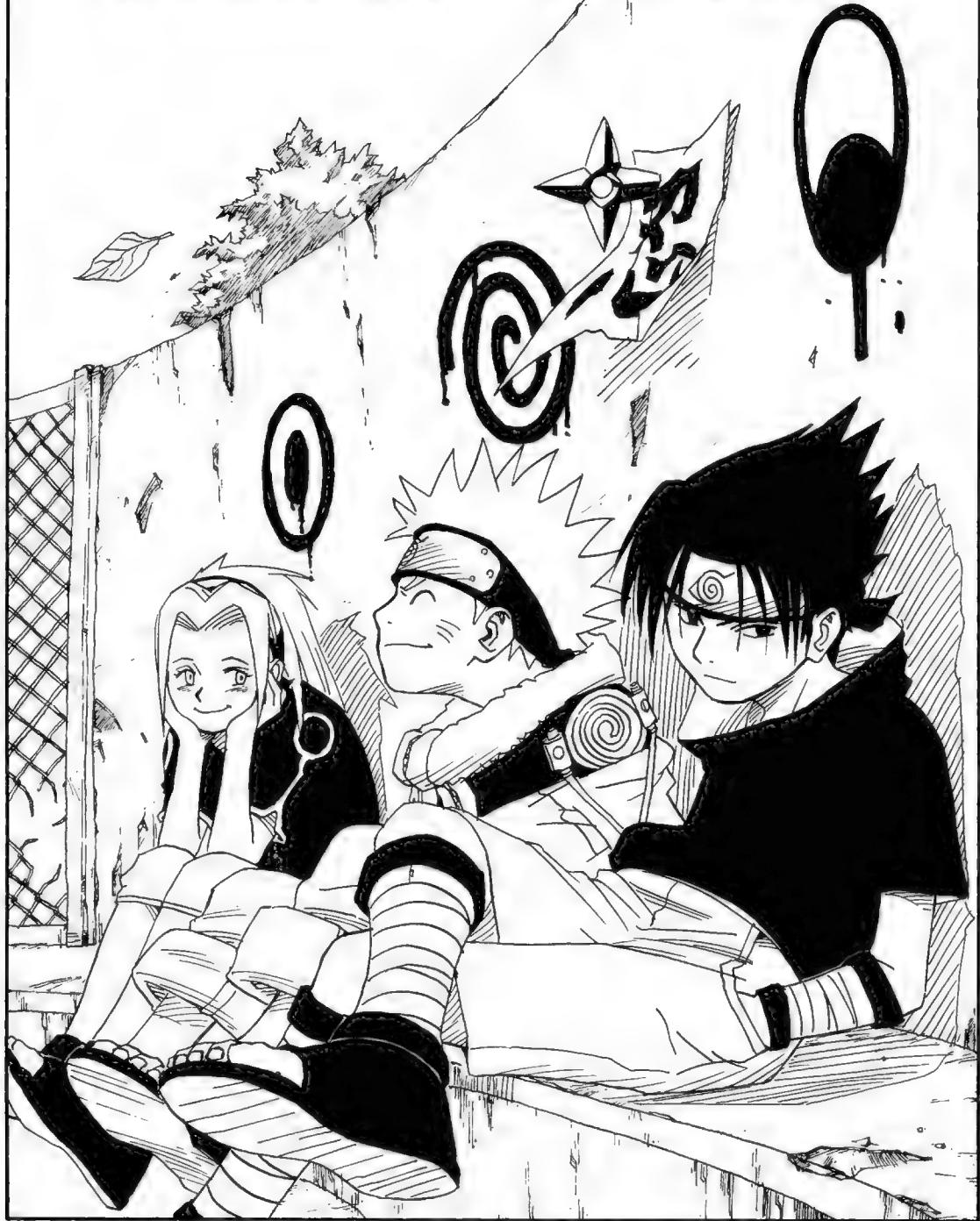


# NARUTO STAFF



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





A  
FRONTAL  
ASSAULT  
IS  
WASTED  
HERE.

ZING



A  
TRAP?!

TAK

!



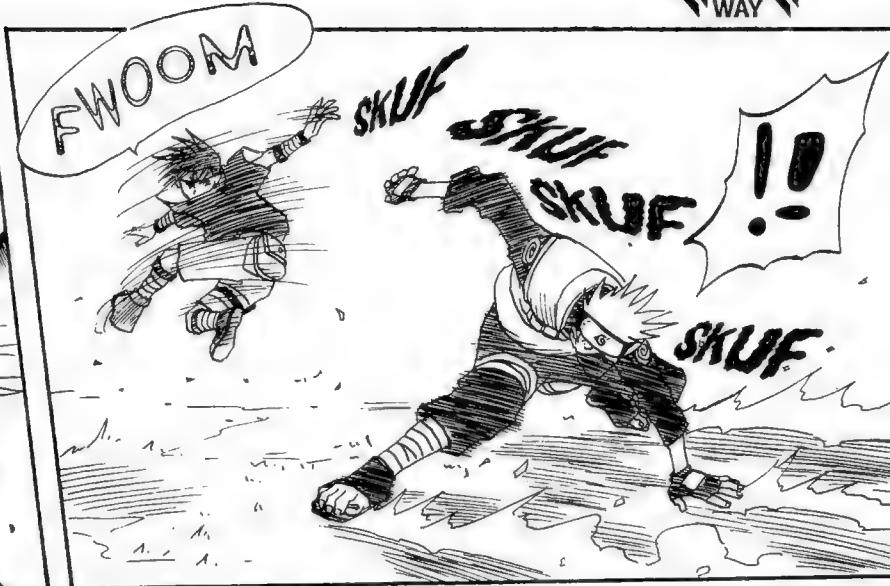
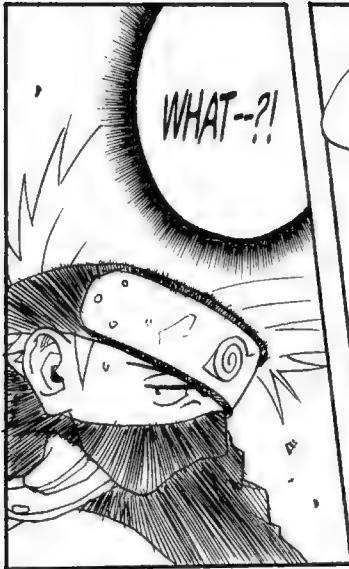
FWUP

HMF

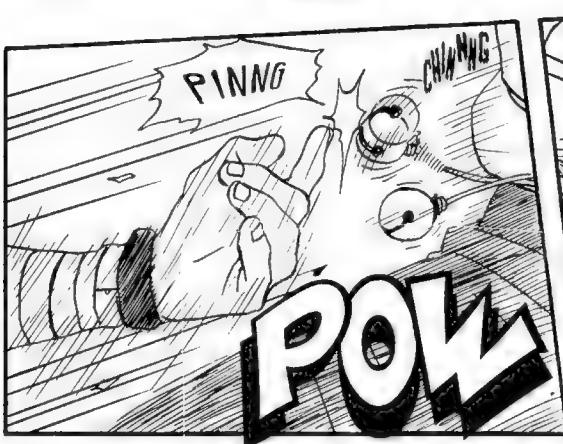


THUNK  
THUNK  
THUNK  
THUNK  
THUNK  
THUNK

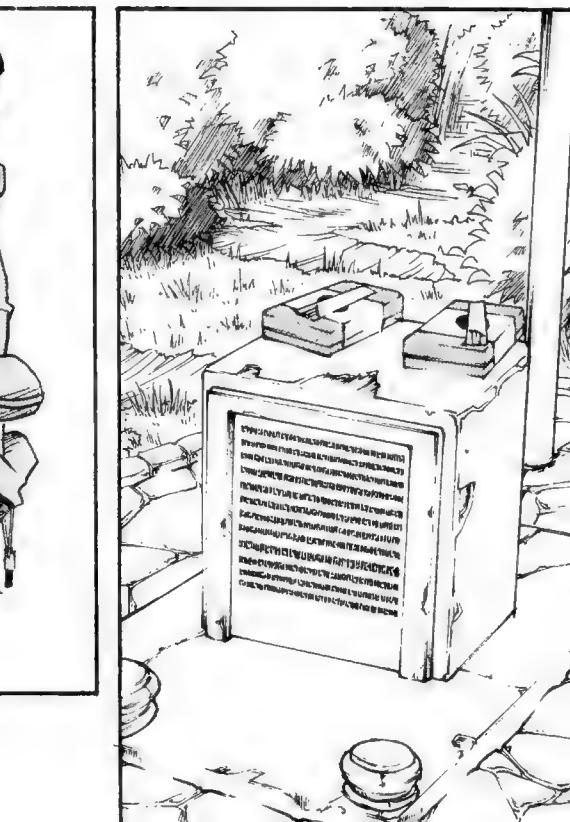


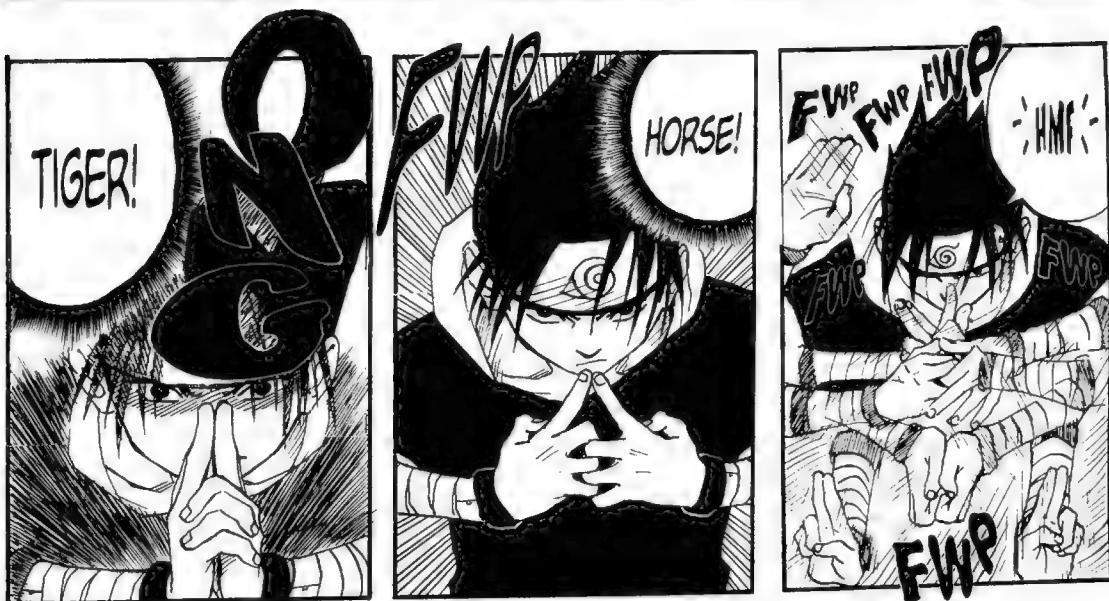
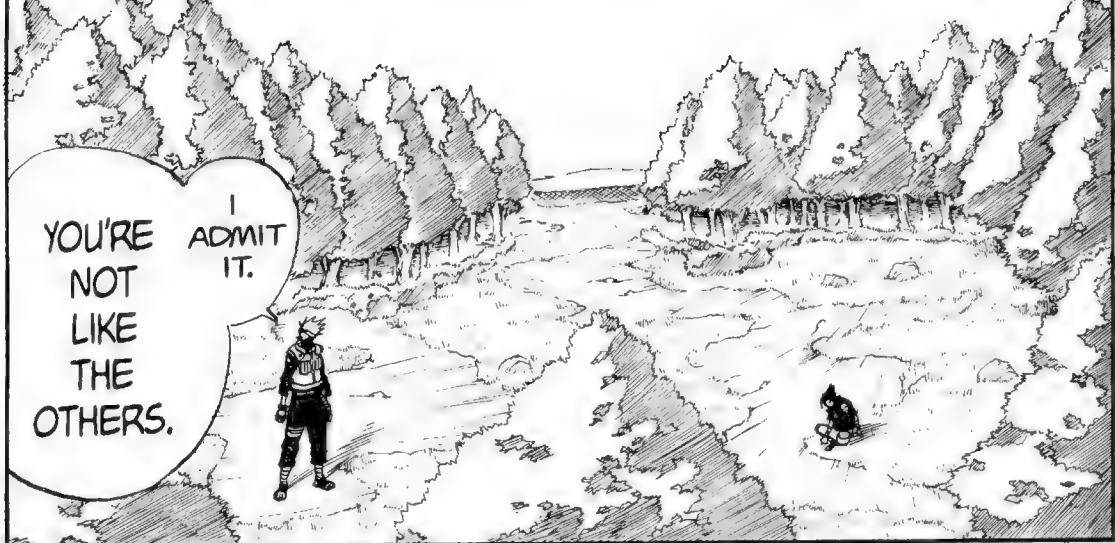


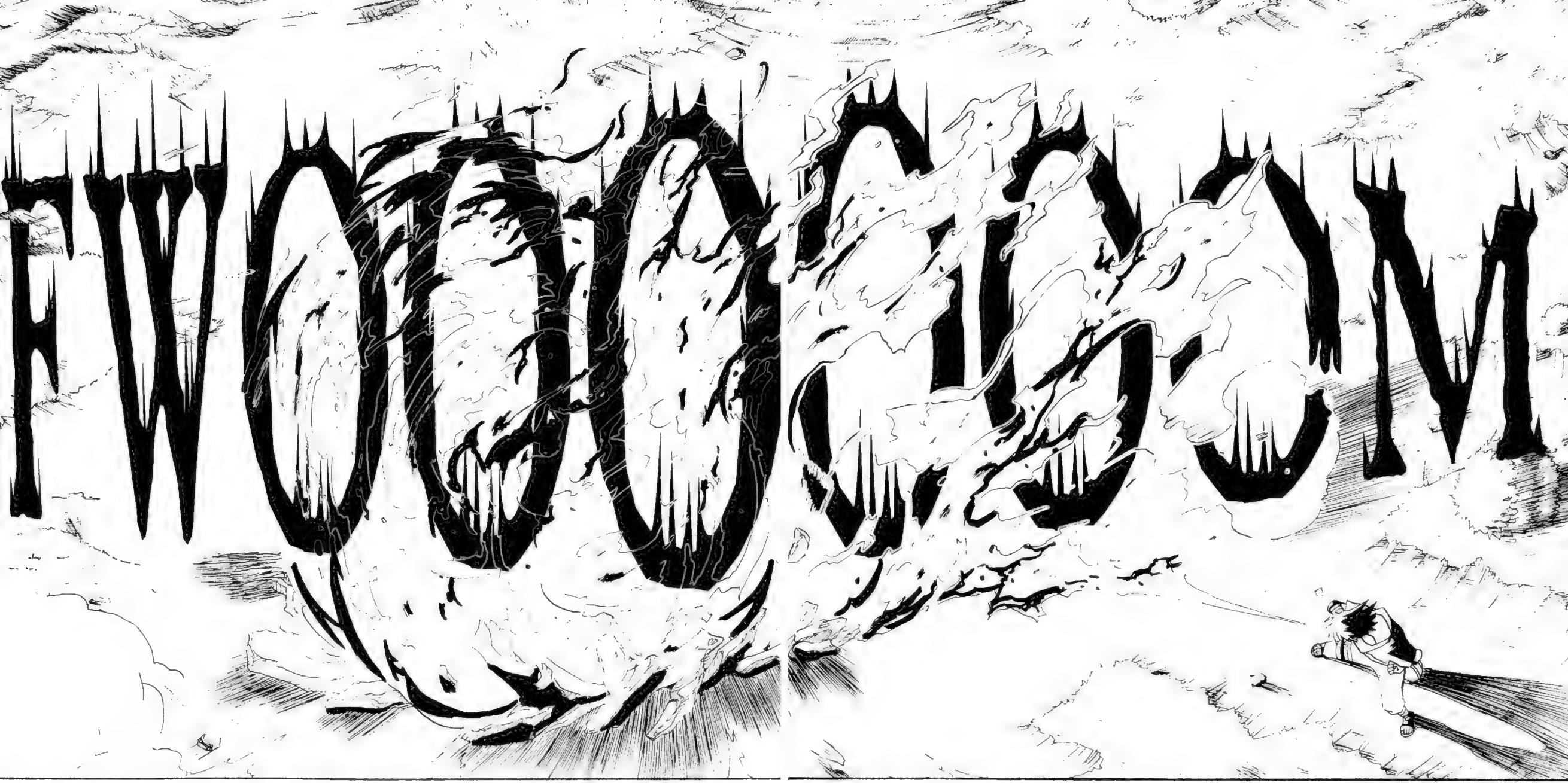






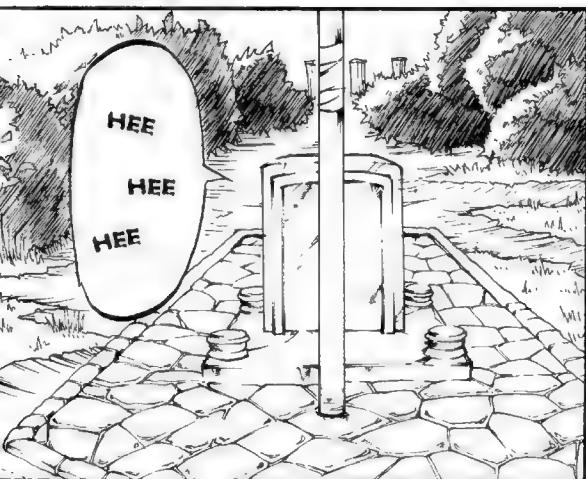








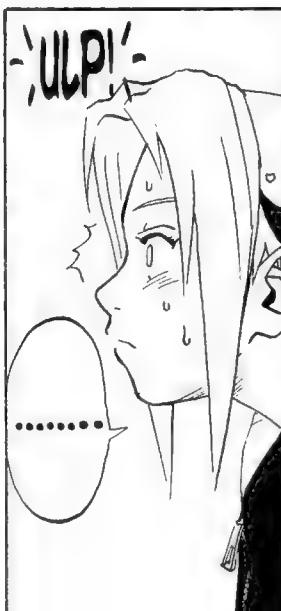
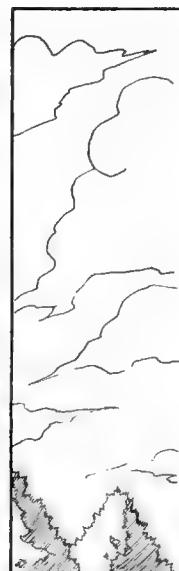
READ  
THIS  
WAY

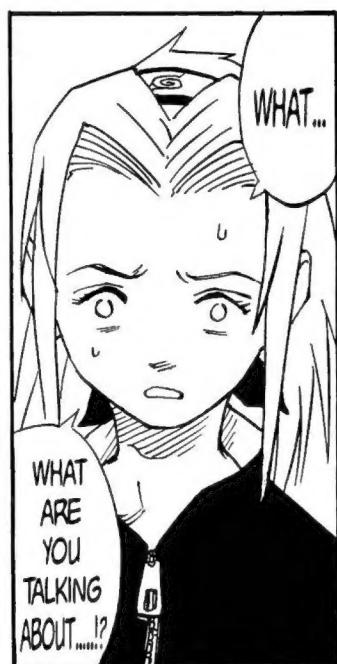
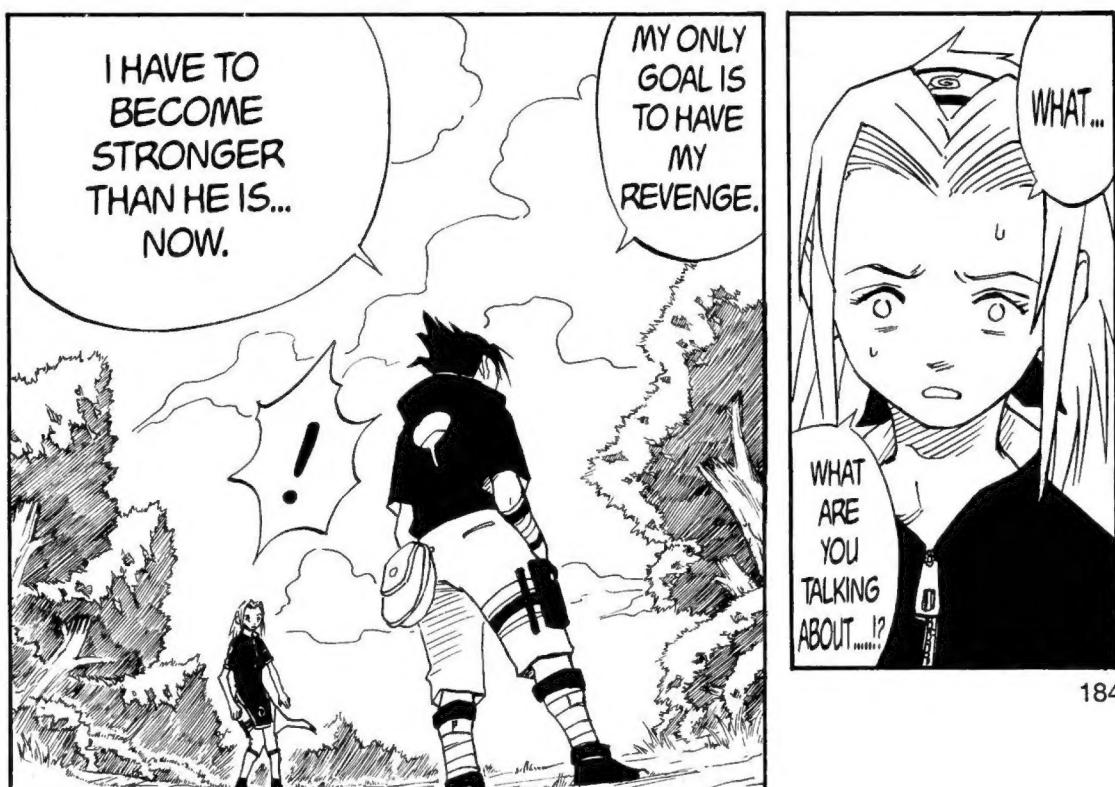
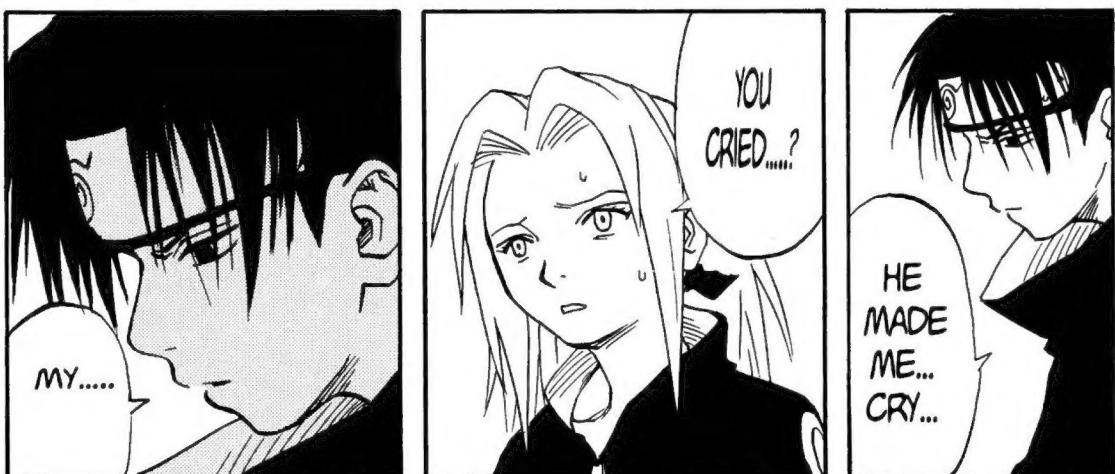


IT'S  
SASUKE'S  
HEAD...  
IT'S  
BEEN  
SEVERED!!!

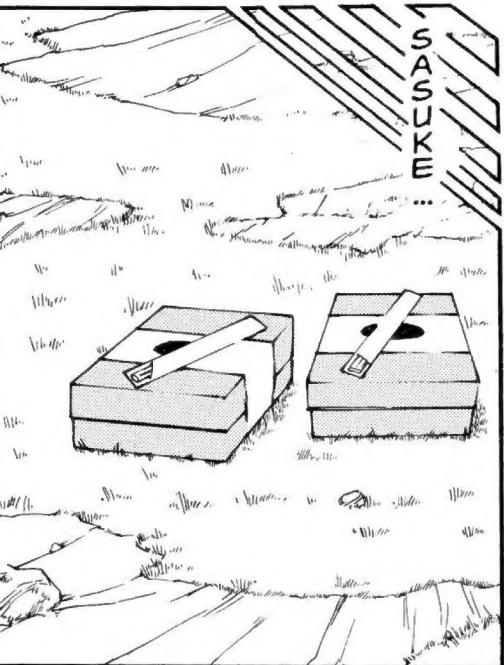
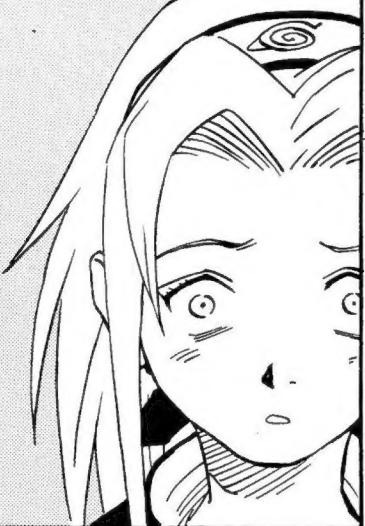


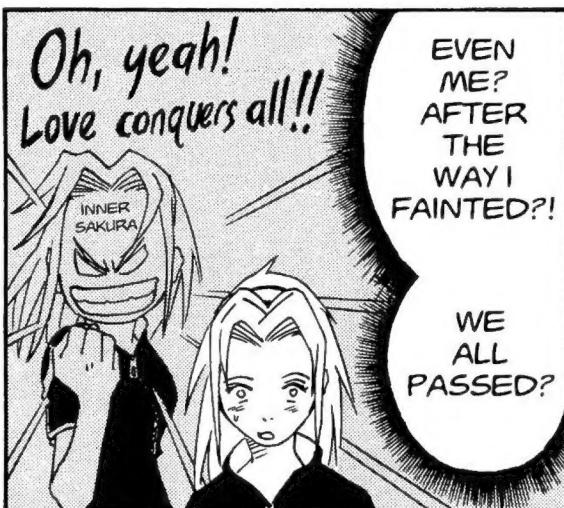
READ  
THIS  
WAY





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







TO BE CONTINUED...