

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!"

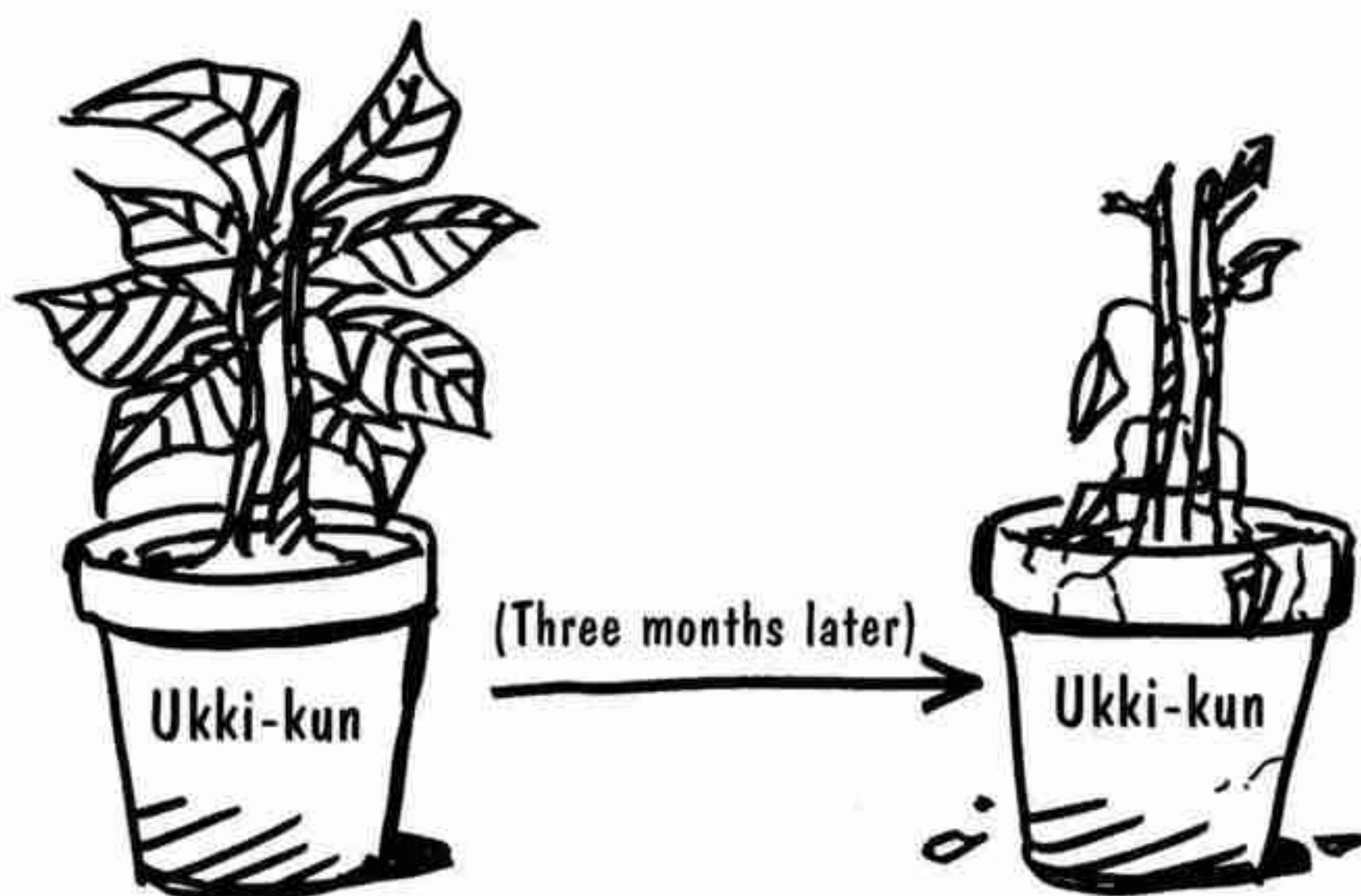
We were a super-team.

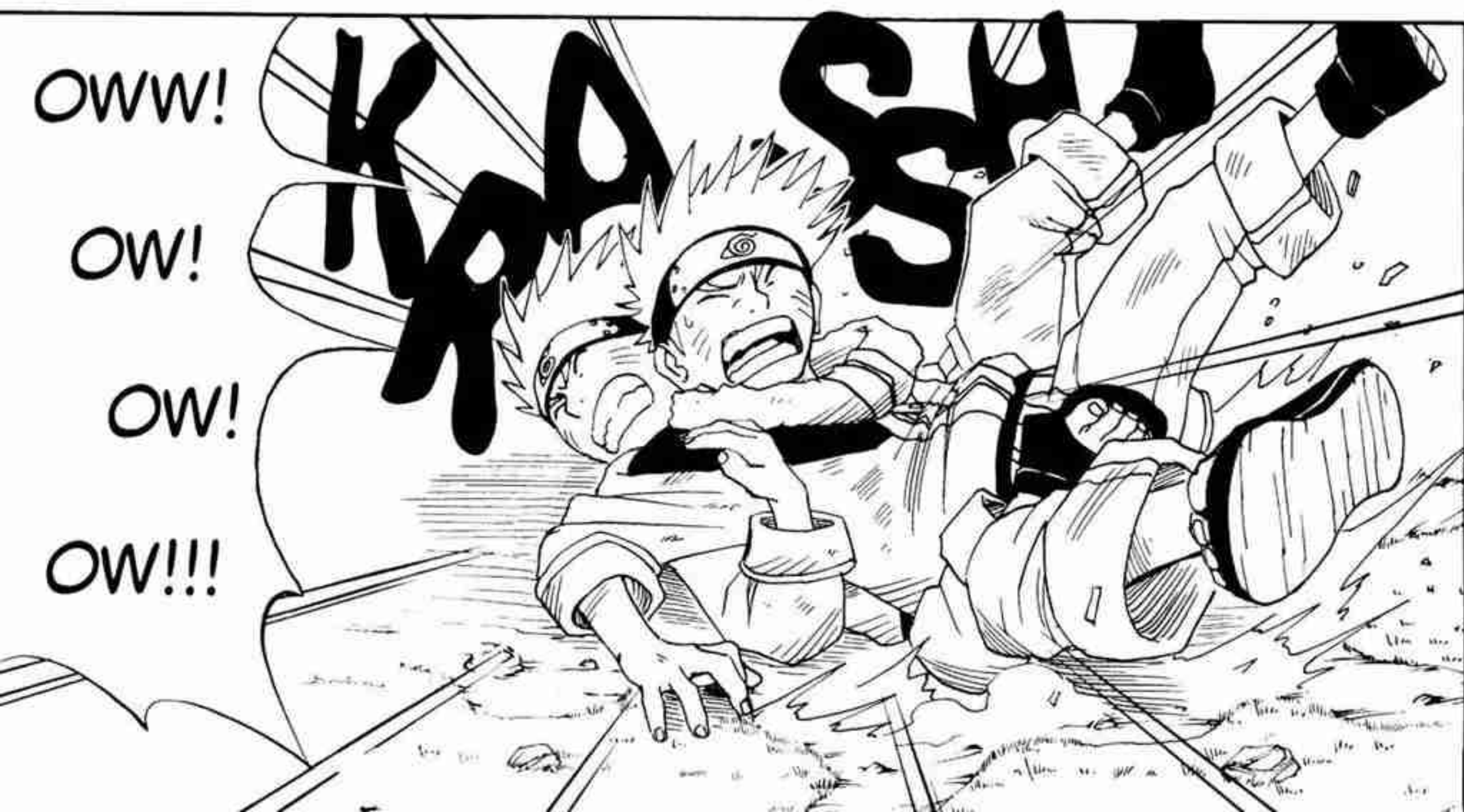
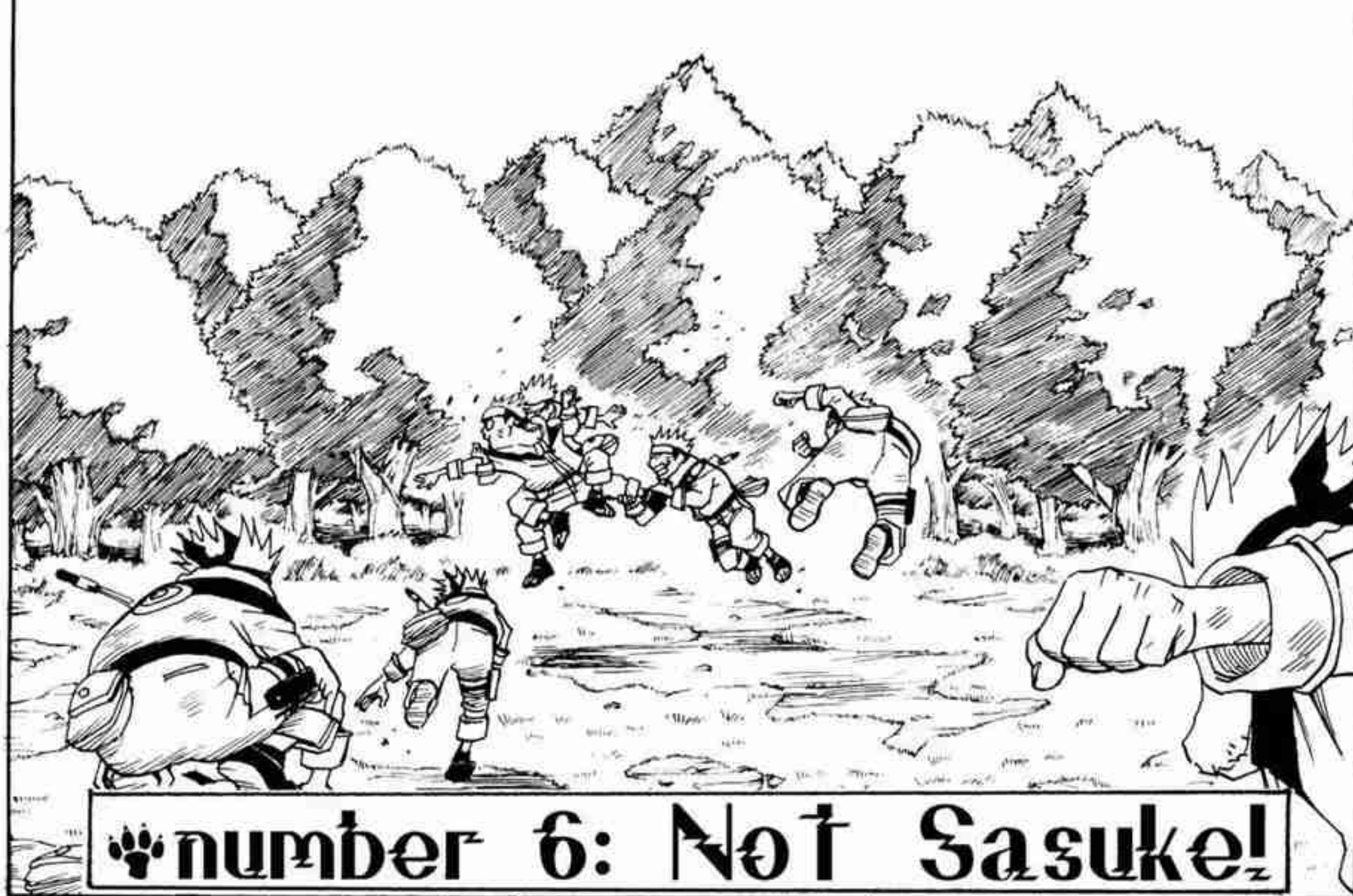
Assistant A: "What is this, Mr. Kishimoto? How did your plant get all dried out?"

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:

No! Sasuke!



YOU USED THE ART OF TRANSFORMATION 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!!

THOW

SO DID YOU!



ONG

BECAUSE I'M YOU, IDIOT!

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

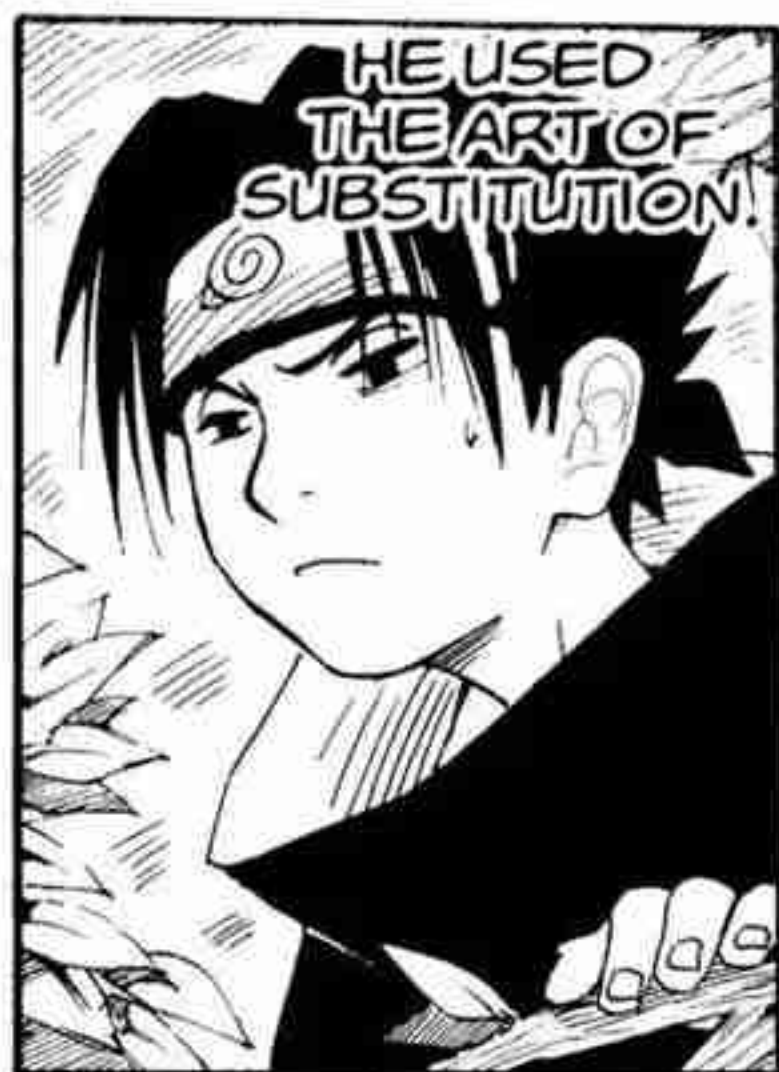
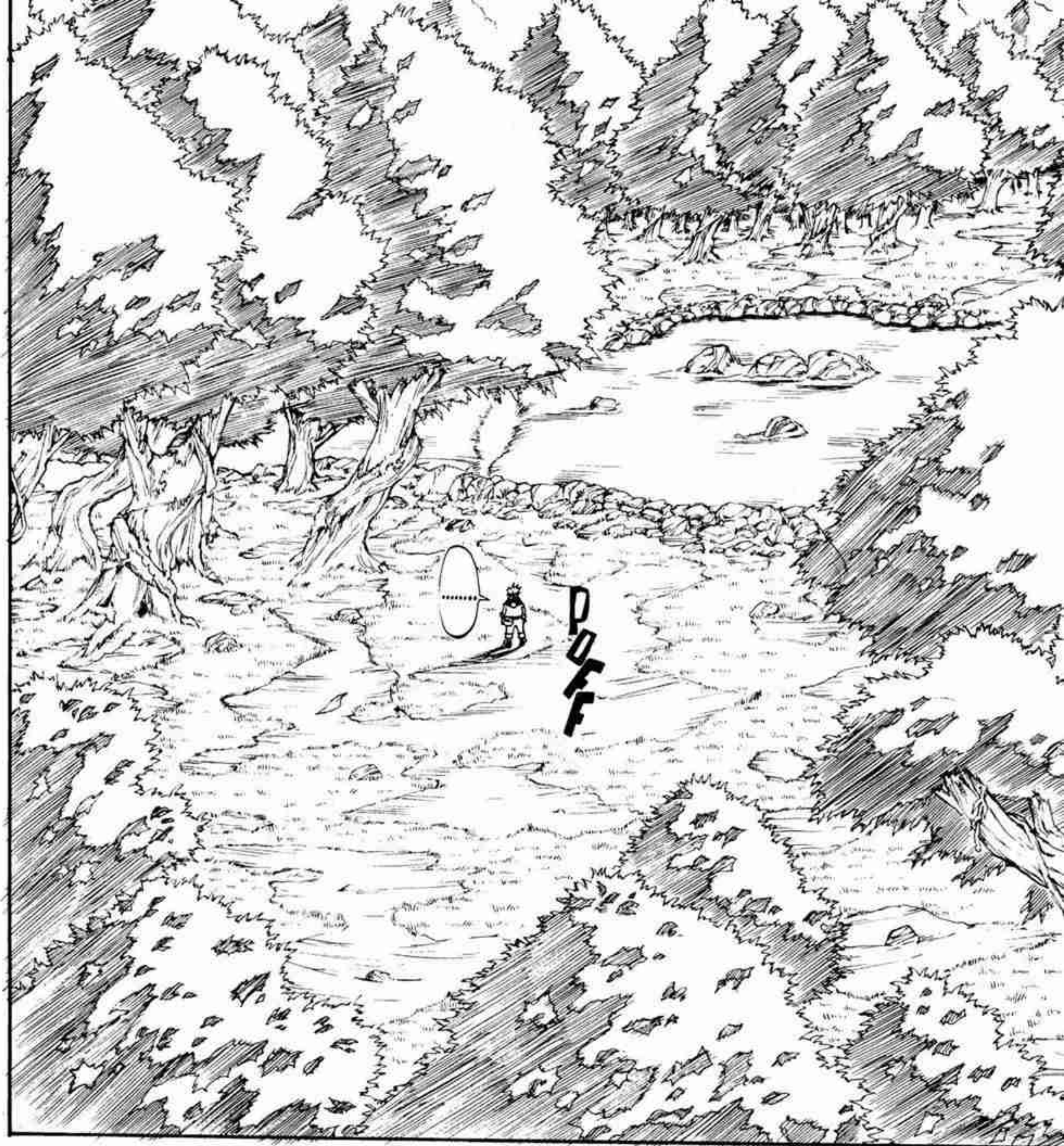


IF YOU DO, THERE'LL JUST BE TWO OF US... AND YOU'LL KNOW FOR SURE WHICH OF US IS WHICH.



HEY! WAIT A MINUTE.

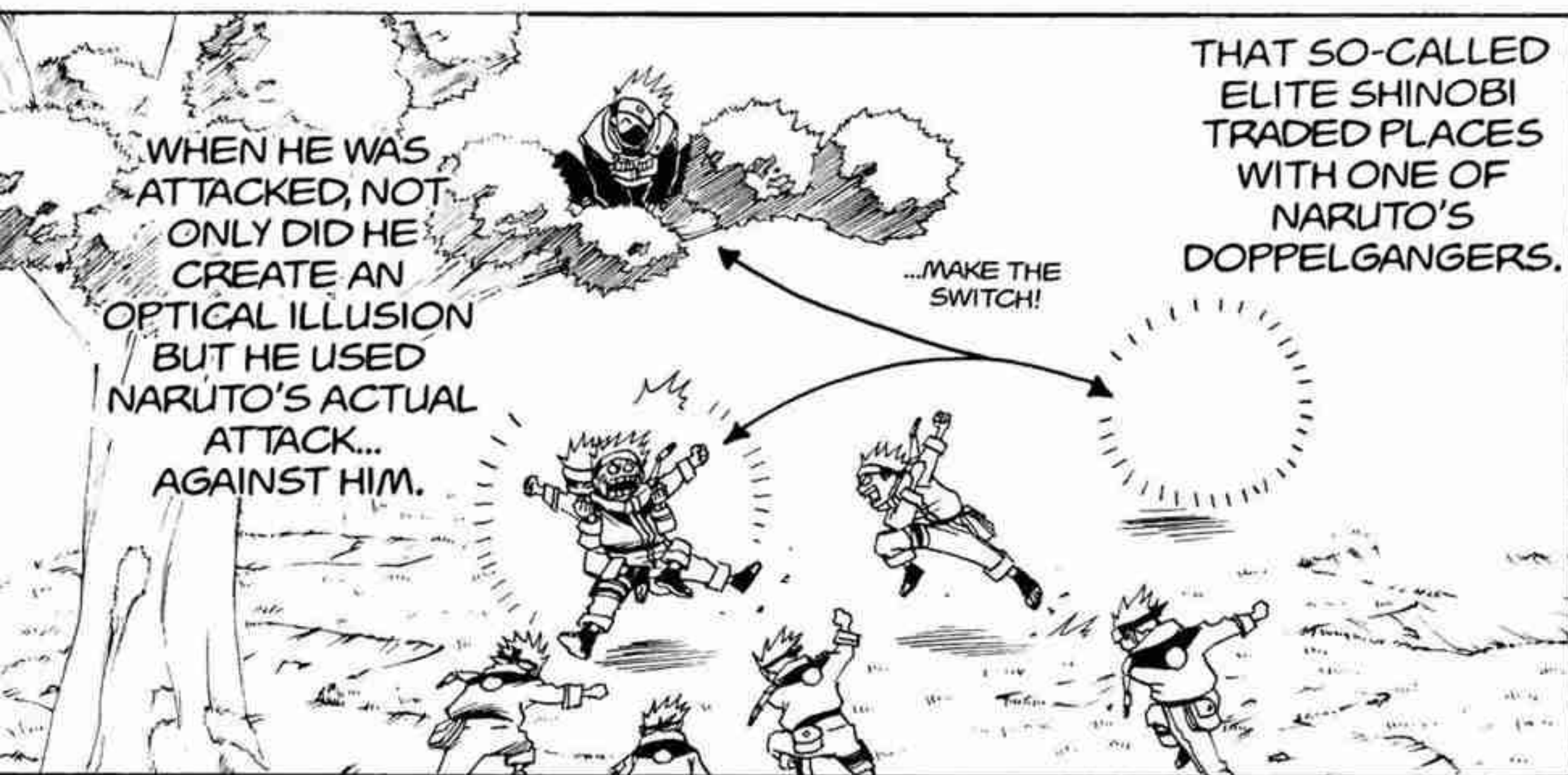
DROP THE ILLUSION.



SMOOTH
SUBSTITUTION

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

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.

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



