



# NARUTO

7

**SHONEN JUMP MANGA**

Story & Art by

**Masashi Kishimoto**

**volume 7**



岸本斉史

This volume of *Naruto* is apparently the first to be created entirely digitally. My guess is that, in the future, manga production will continue to move further and further into this kind of production and away from the more traditional methods.

Both the backgrounds and the characters themselves are created in software as polygons, and once the initial design and programming is done, any imaginable composition is possible. For action sequences, we use motion capture to create and manipulate the coolest poses we can come up with. It's all done on the computer, without using any paper or ink. Our methods will probably continue to change as the technology evolves... but there's one thing that won't ever change: the need to invent good stories!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2001

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. 7**  
**The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition**

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #27-31.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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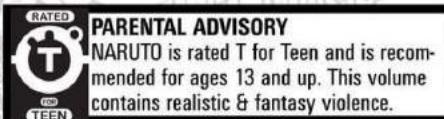
SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

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SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL



VOL. 7  
OROCHIMARU'S CURSE  
STORY AND ART BY  
MASASHI KISHIMOTO



## SAKURA サクラ

Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

## NARUTO ナルト

When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking troublemaker. His goal: to become the village's next Hokage.

## SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.

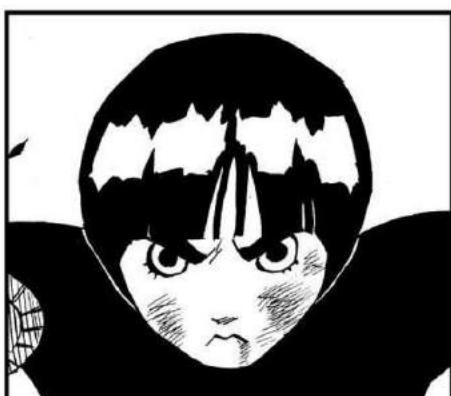




### MITARASHI ANKO

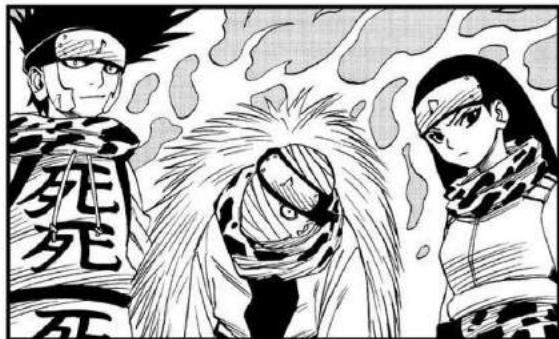
みたらしアンコ

The Second Chief Examination Officer, proctor of the test in the Forest of Death! She tried hunting down Orochimaru herself, but since he slipped through her fingers, she has been waiting for the help of the elite Black Ops team she summoned.



### ROCK LEE ロック・リー

Rock Lee is one of the most talented young shinobi around, and he's completely infatuated with Sakura. Separated from his teammates Neji and Tenten in the forest, he tried to act as Sakura's protector but was severely knocked around by the Sound Ninja.



### THE SOUND NINJA (OTONIN) 音忍

These mysterious ninja are in the forest only to do their master Orochimaru's bidding — to destroy Sasuke!



### THE ASUMA CELL

Choji チョウジ

Ino いの

Shikamaru シカマル

Choji, Ino and Shikamaru chased after Naruto's team hoping to steal their scroll. Watching from the sidelines as Lee and Sakura fight the Sound Ninja, they've been debating whether to get involved or stay in the shadows...but now Ino is jumping into the fray, coming to her rival Sakura's aid!

### THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of *ninjutsu* with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura are deep in the Forest of Death, the site of the second stage of the Chūnin (Journeyman Ninja) Selection Exam...but more urgent concerns have distracted them from collecting the scrolls they need to pass the test. After coming under the attack of the nefarious impostor Orochimaru, Naruto and Sasuke now lie unconscious on the forest floor. Mitarashi Anko, the exam proctor, chases after Orochimaru and learns his intentions: to mold Sasuke into his successor...assuming Sasuke survives the curse that Orochimaru placed on him. Orochimaru's minions, the mysterious Sound Ninja, are also hunting down Sasuke, and they're confused to discover that their leader has already caught his prey. But they're not prepared to back down, so the burden is on Sakura to defend her helpless teammates...



# NARUTO

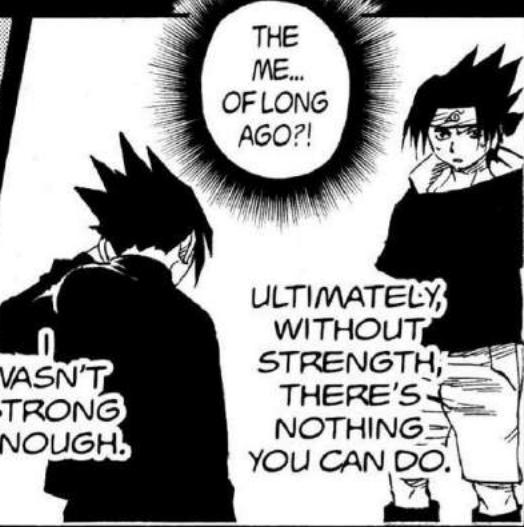
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OROCHIMARU'S CURSE

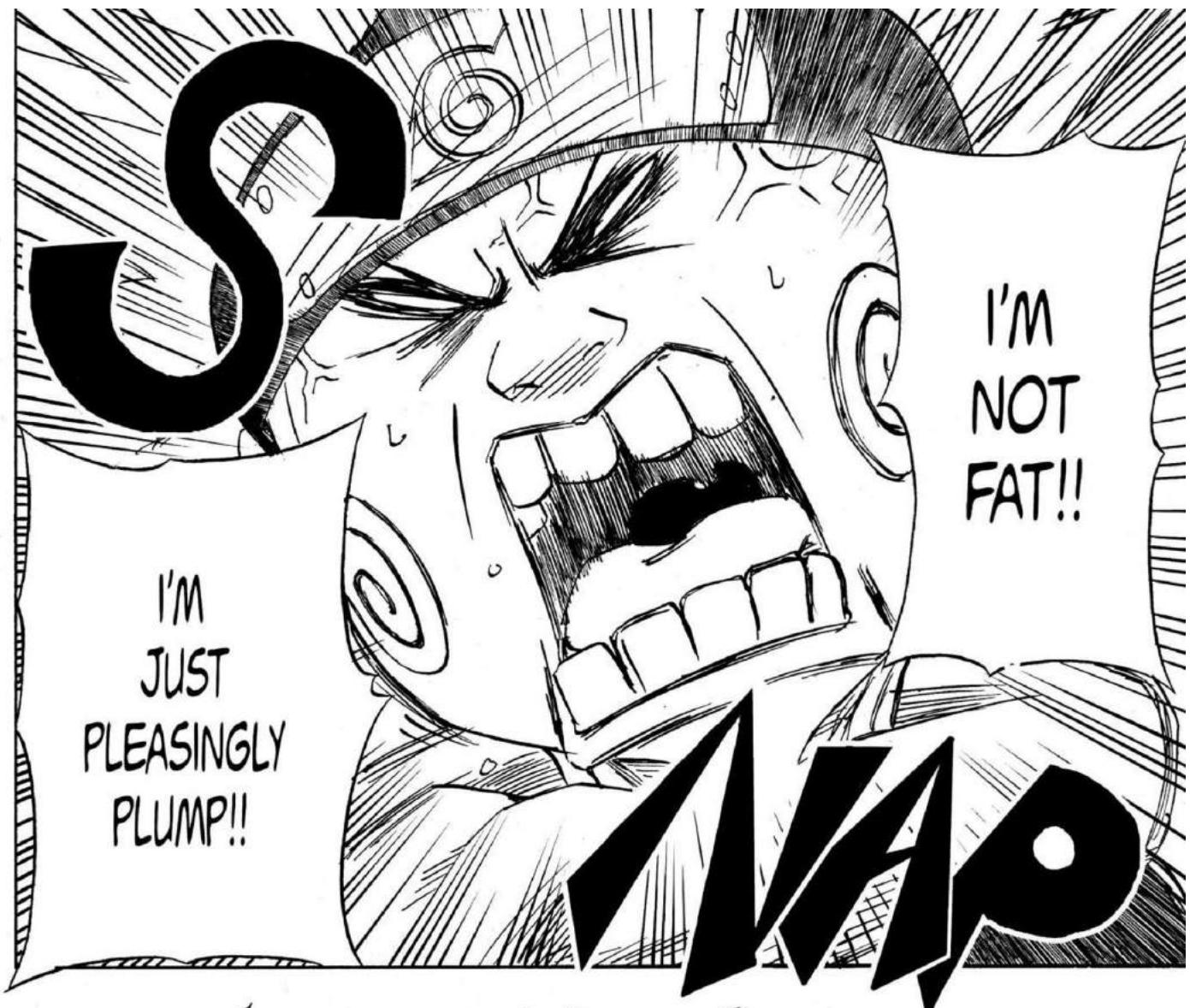
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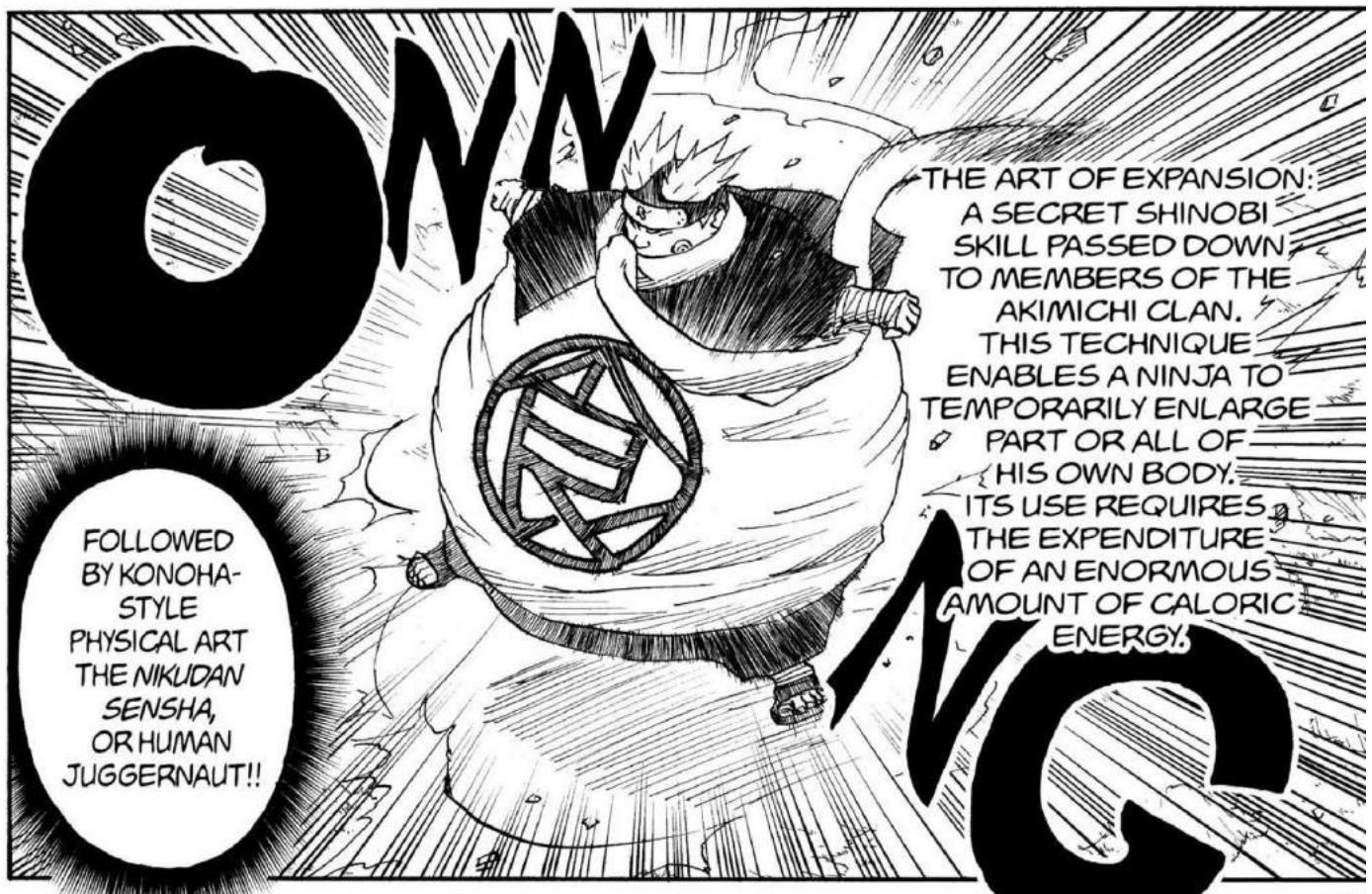
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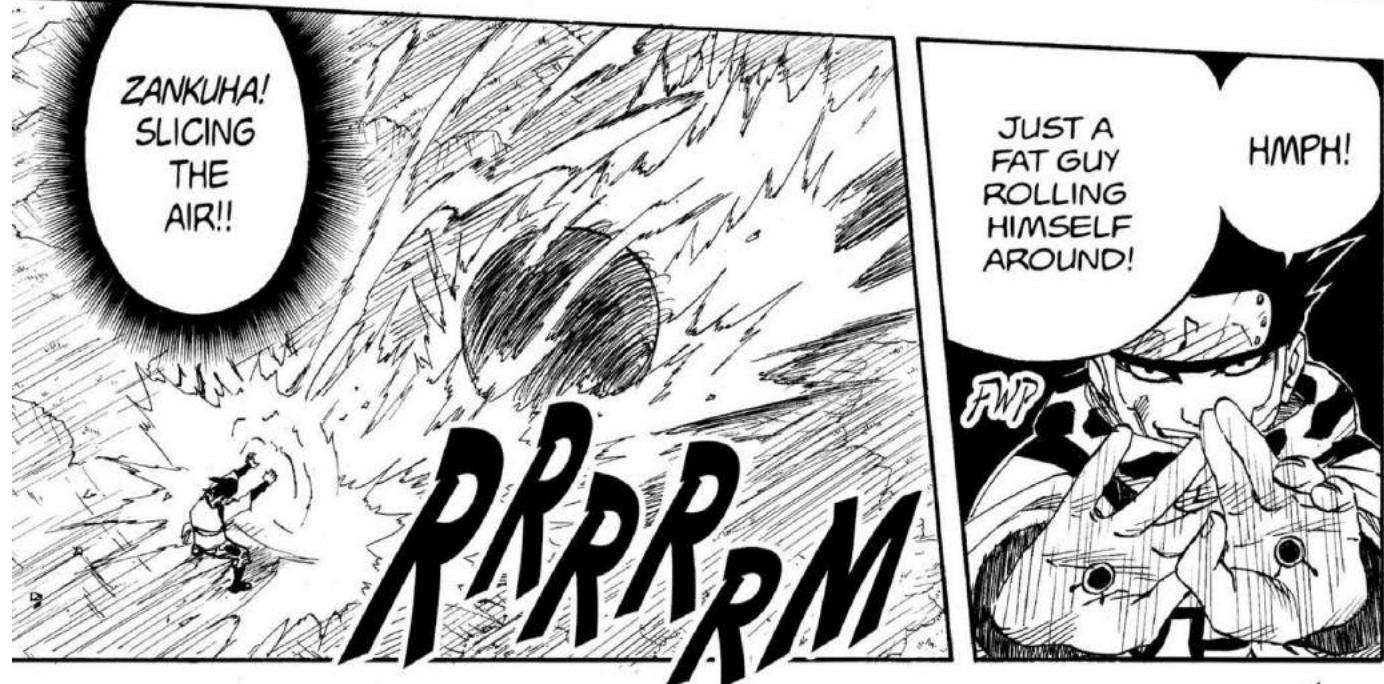
# Number 55: No Holds Barred!!









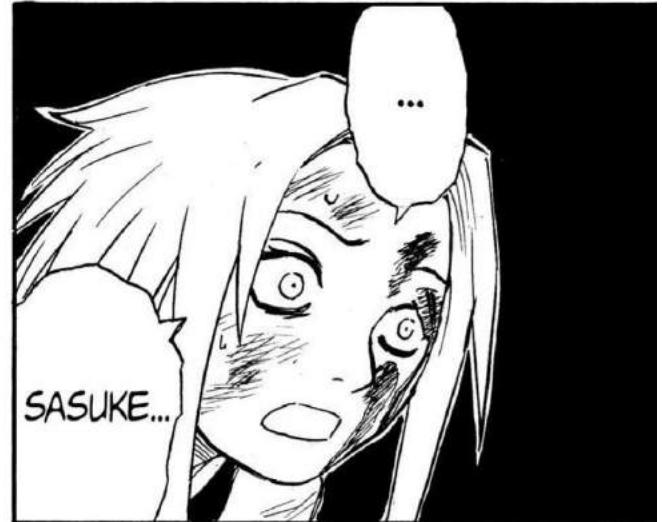






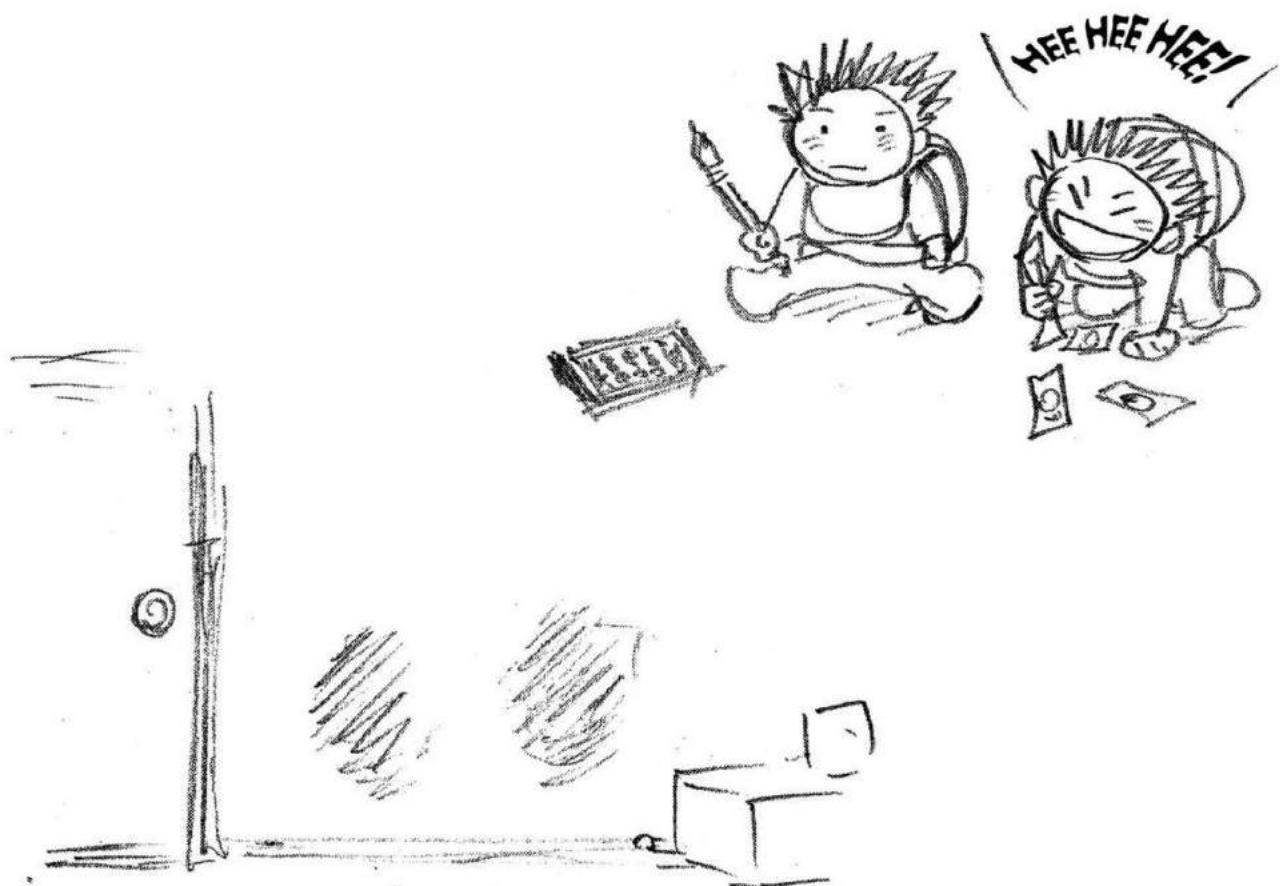


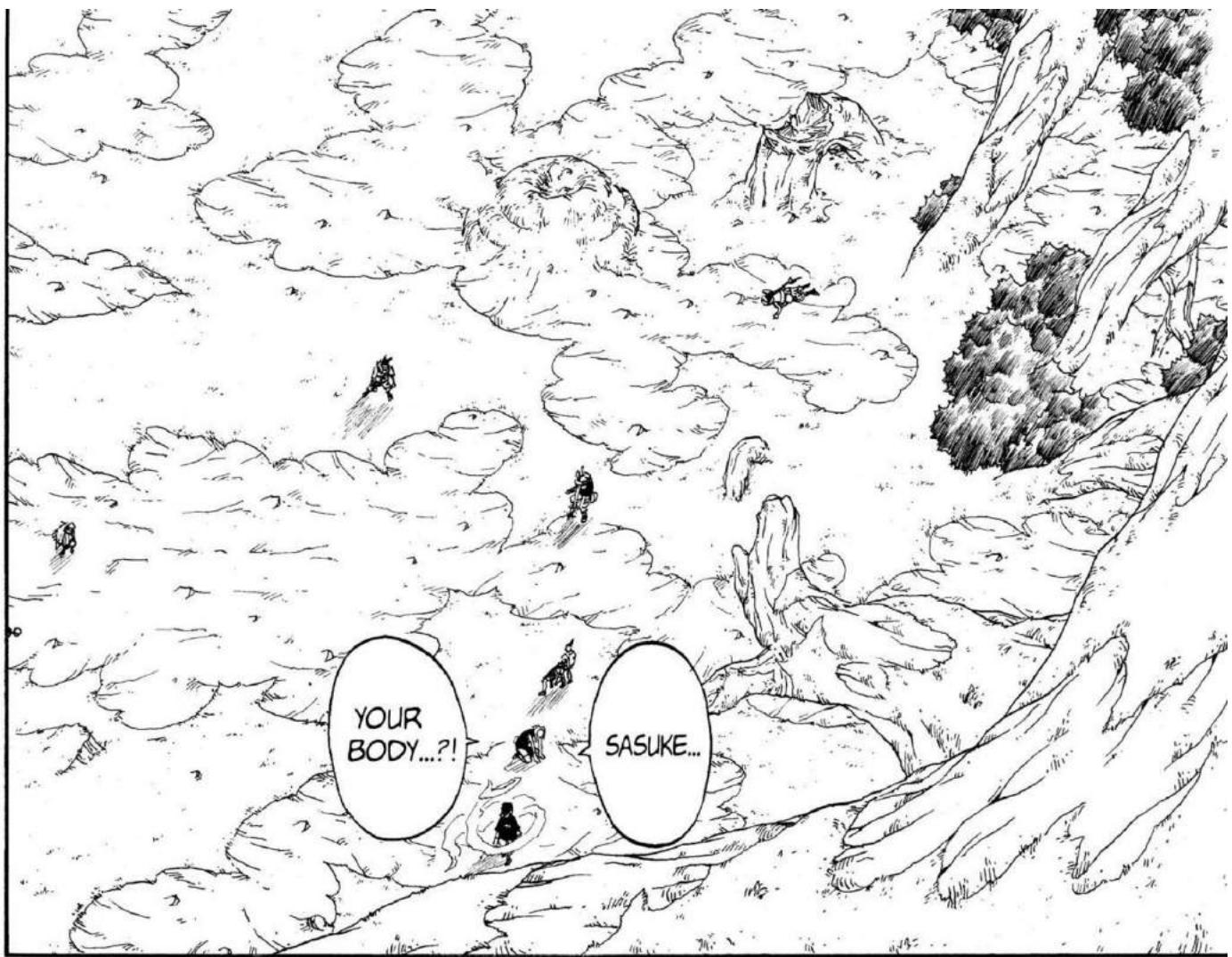


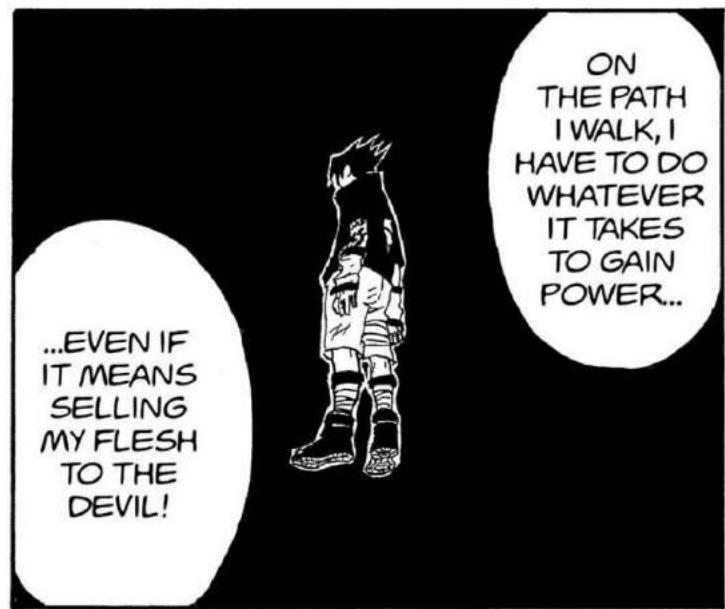


THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI  
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART ONE: GROWING UP

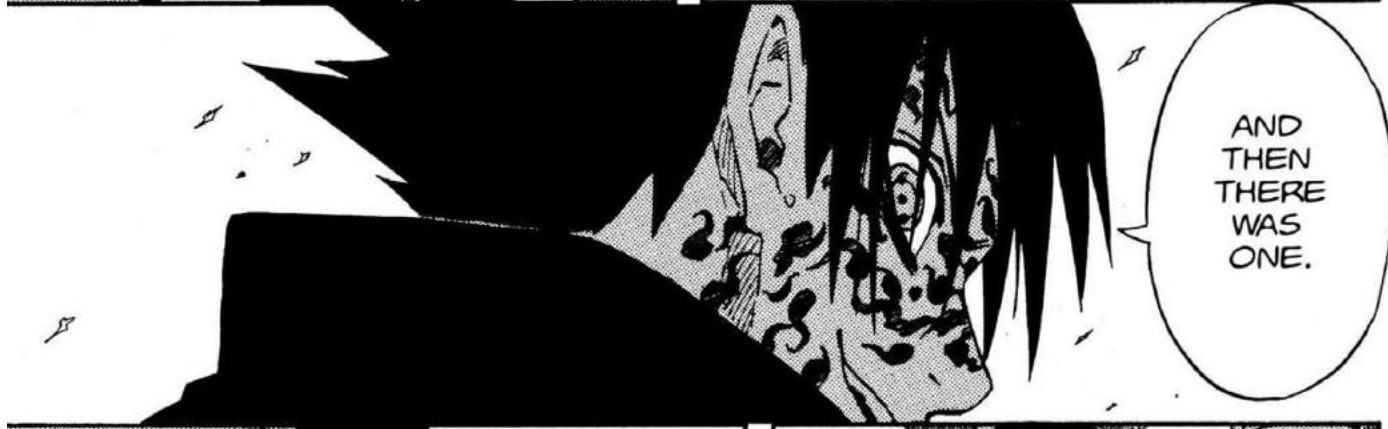
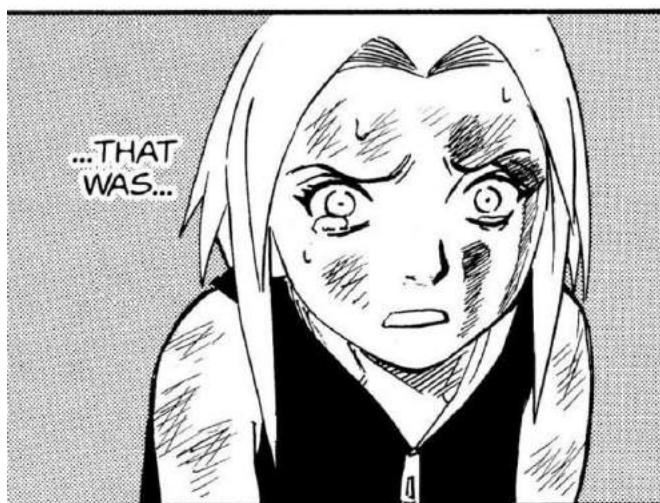
I WAS THE FIRST-BORN OF TWIN BROTHERS IN A TOWN IN OKAYAMA PREFECTURE IN 1974. I WAS EXTREMELY PREMATURE AND HAD TO BE PUT INTO AN INCUBATOR AT ONCE. WITHOUT IT, I WOULD HAVE DIED. MY SURVIVAL WAS A VICTORY FOR SCIENCE. MY HOMETOWN HAS A TRADITION THAT PERSISTS TO THIS DAY WHERE, ON ONE'S FIRST BIRTHDAY, A MOCHI RICE CAKE IS PLACED UPON YOUR BACK AND THREE OBJECTS ARE PLACED BEFORE YOU. DEPENDING ON WHICH OF THOSE THREE A CHILD GRABS FIRST, THAT CHILD'S FUTURE PATH CAN BE DETERMINED. IN FRONT OF MY TWIN AND I, OUR PARENTS PLACED AN ABACUS (TO REPRESENT SCHOLARSHIP), A BRUSH PEN AND MONEY. THE STORY IS THAT AFTER SOME HESITATION, MY YOUNGER BROTHER TOOK HOLD OF THE BRUSH PEN. AND AT THAT SAME MOMENT, I'M TOLD I UNHESITATINGLY WENT FOR THE CASH, LAUGHING ALL THE WAY. WHAT A BRAT! I MAY HAVE BEEN A MERCENARY BABY, BUT AS I GREW OLDER, MY INTERESTS TURNED TOWARD DRAWING... AS DID THOSE OF MY BROTHER. TO THIS DAY, THERE ARE TWO LARGE BROWN STAINS ON THE WALL OF MY PARENTS' HOME. WHEN I ASKED MY MOTHER ABOUT IT, SHE TOLD ME, "WHEN YOU TWO WERE BABIES, YOU USED THE POOP THAT HAD OOOZED OUT OF YOUR DIAPERS TO DECORATE THE WALL. WE'VE TRIED TO WASH IT OFF TIME AND TIME AGAIN, BUT THE STAIN REMAINS." THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED I'D WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST MY ENTIRE LIFE.







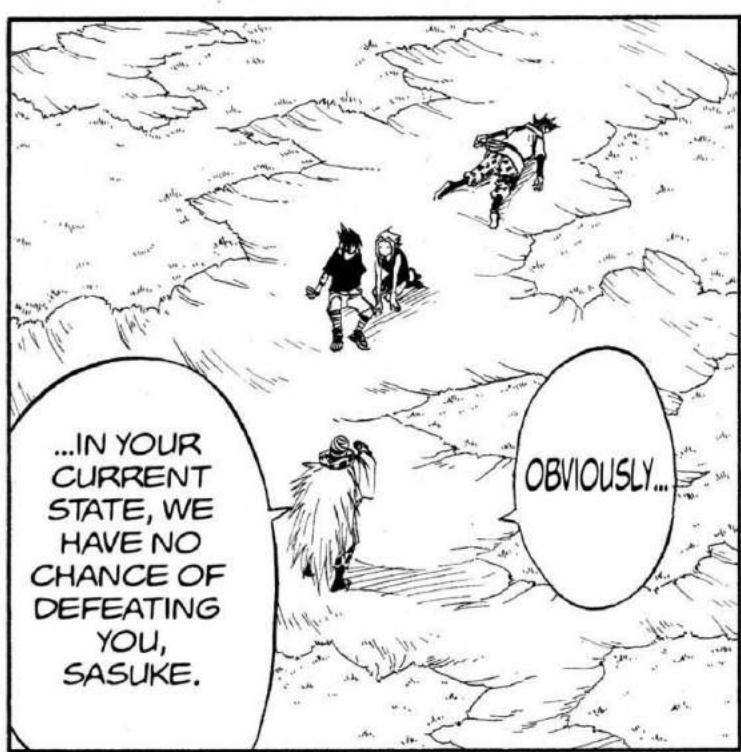
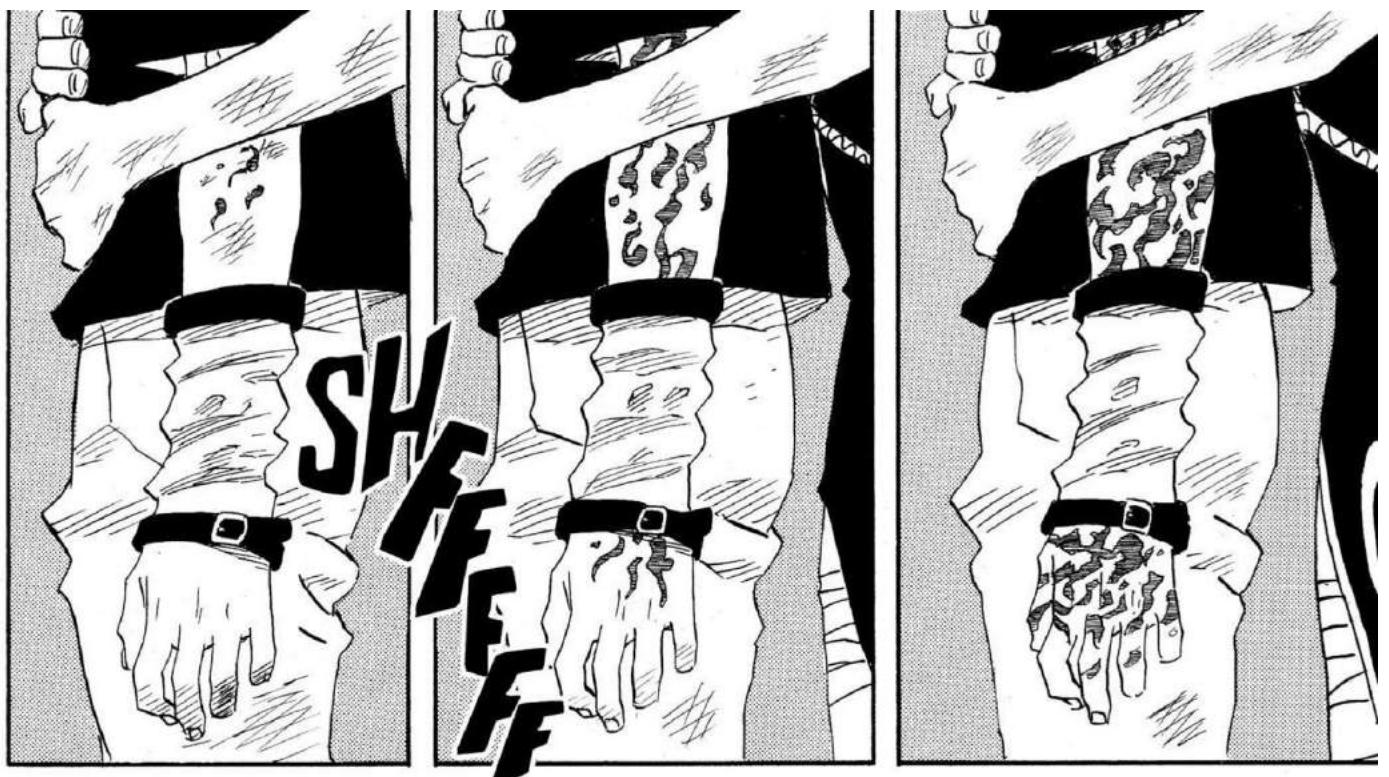






READ  
THIS WAY







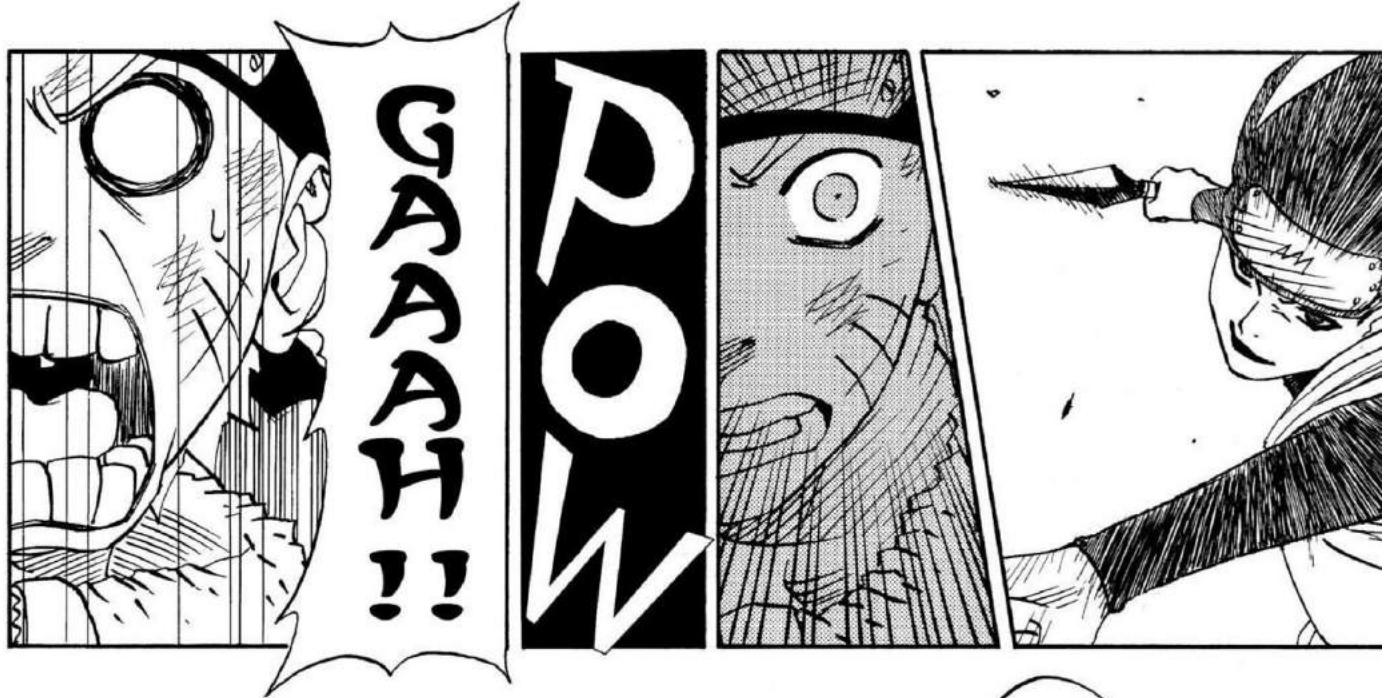


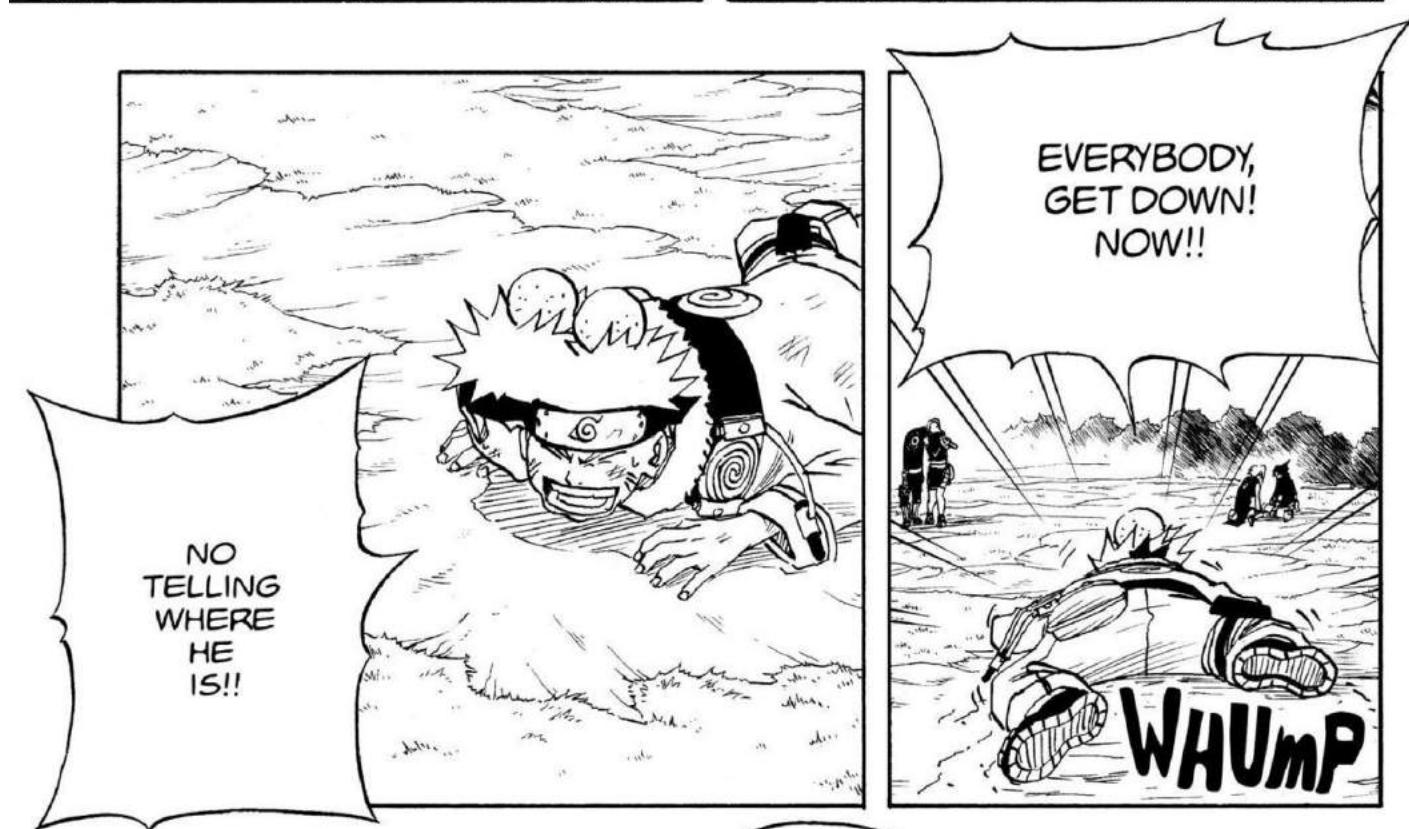
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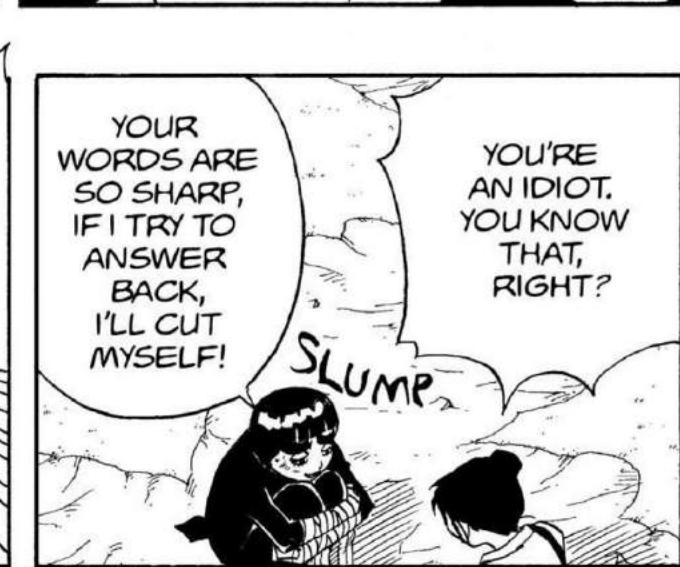


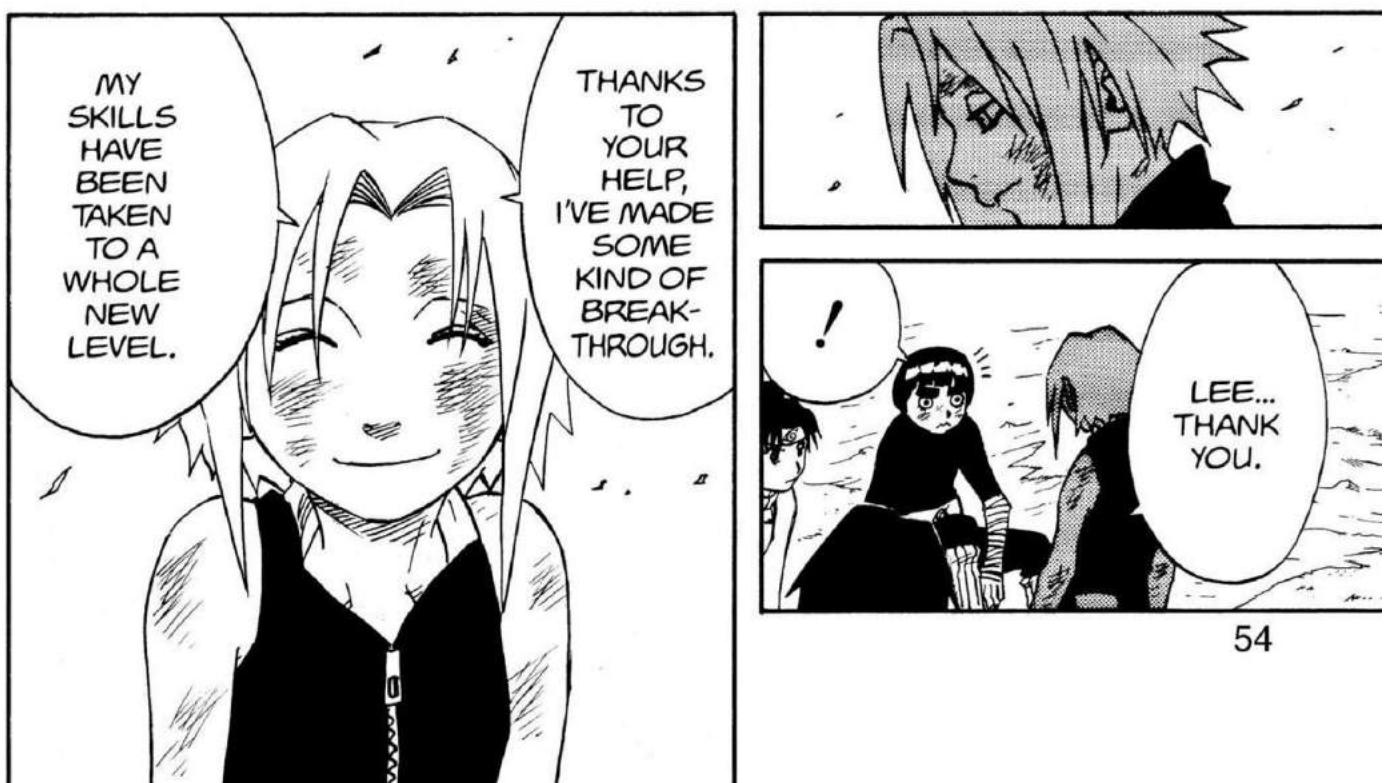
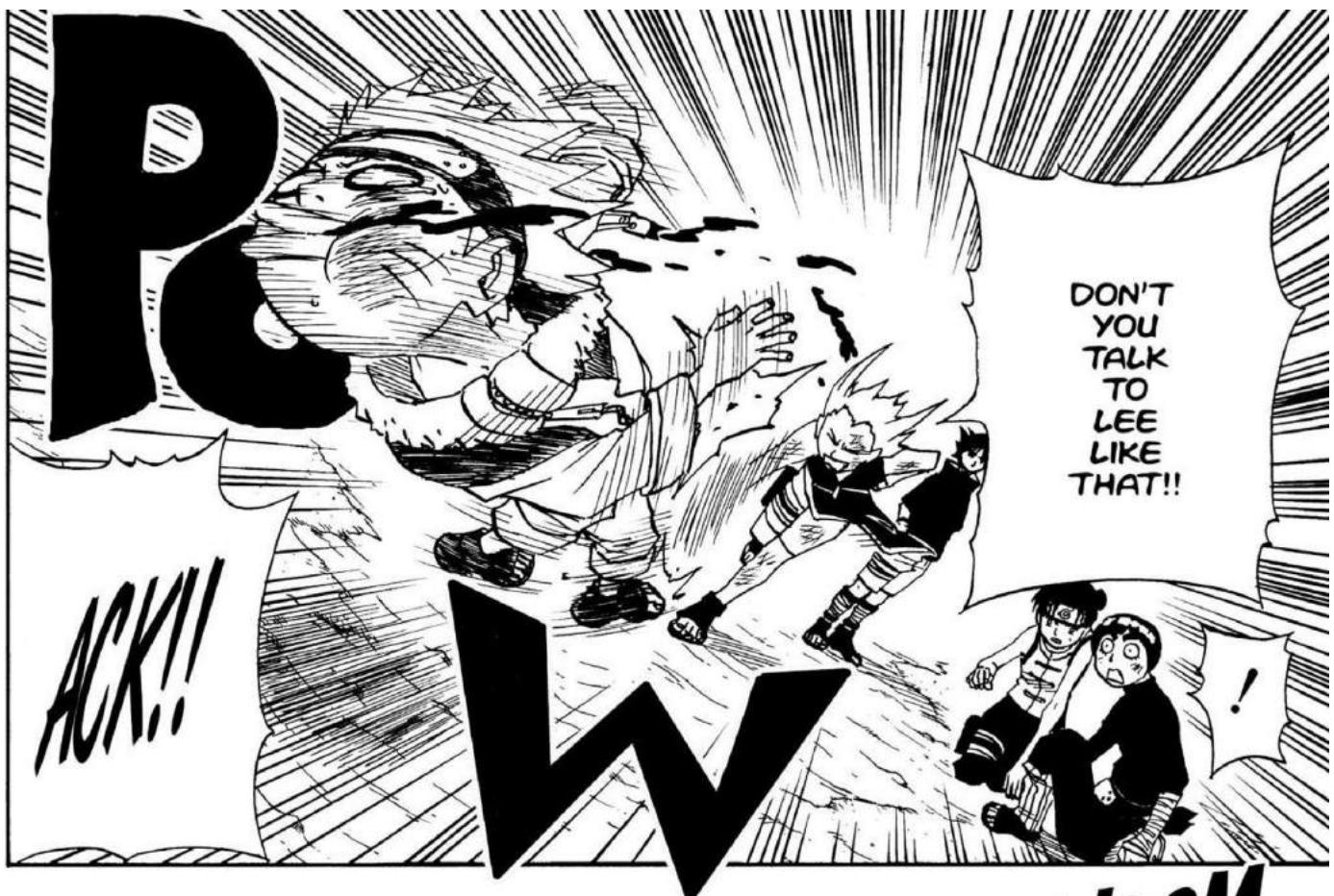


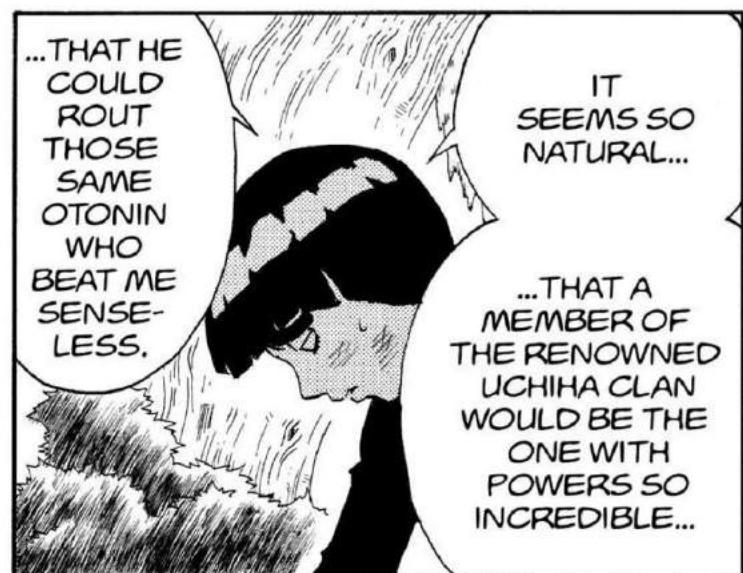


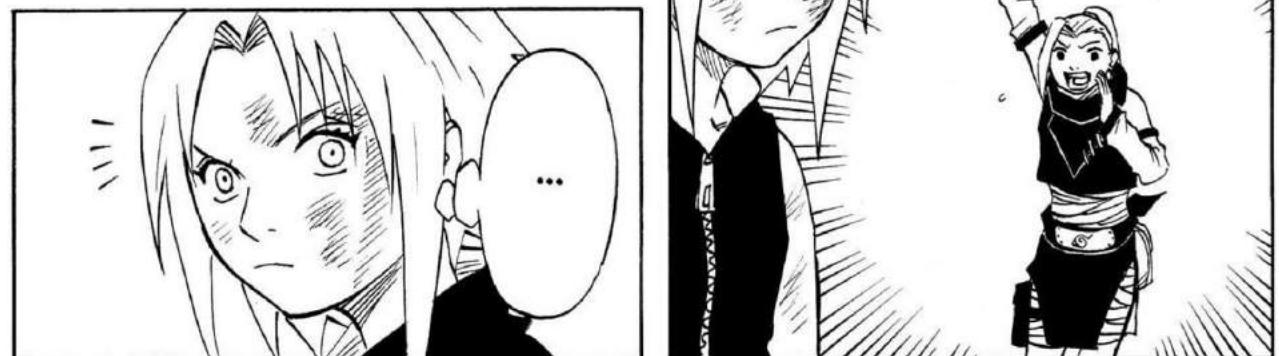












**SHLUK**

WELL,  
AREN'T  
YOU  
SWEET?

...ACTING LIKE  
YOU JUST HAD TO  
HELP SASUKE...  
SO YOU'D HAVE  
AN EXCUSE  
TO HUG HIM...  
BILLBOARD  
BROW!

WHAT  
CAN I SAY?  
YOU SNOOZE,  
YOU LOSE, INO...  
YOU PORKER.

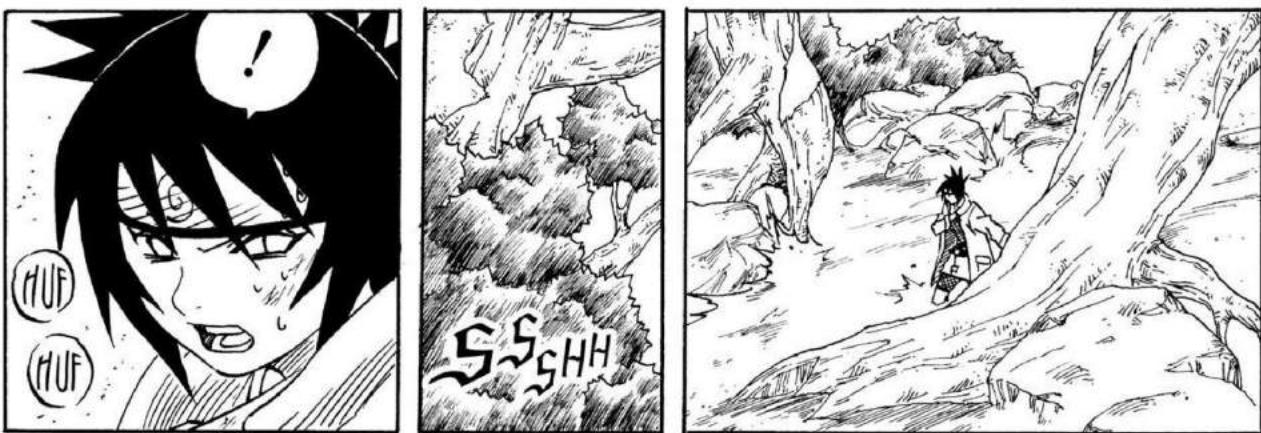
**GR**

THAT  
WAS  
A  
CHEAP  
TRICK...

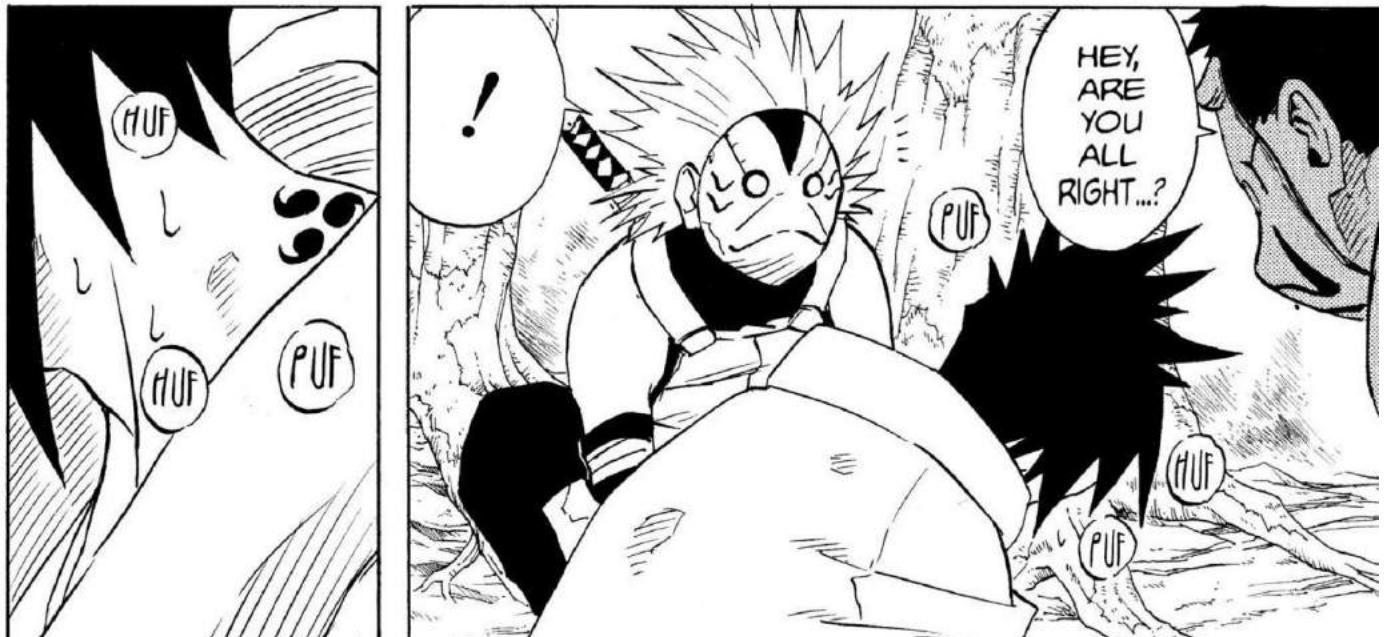
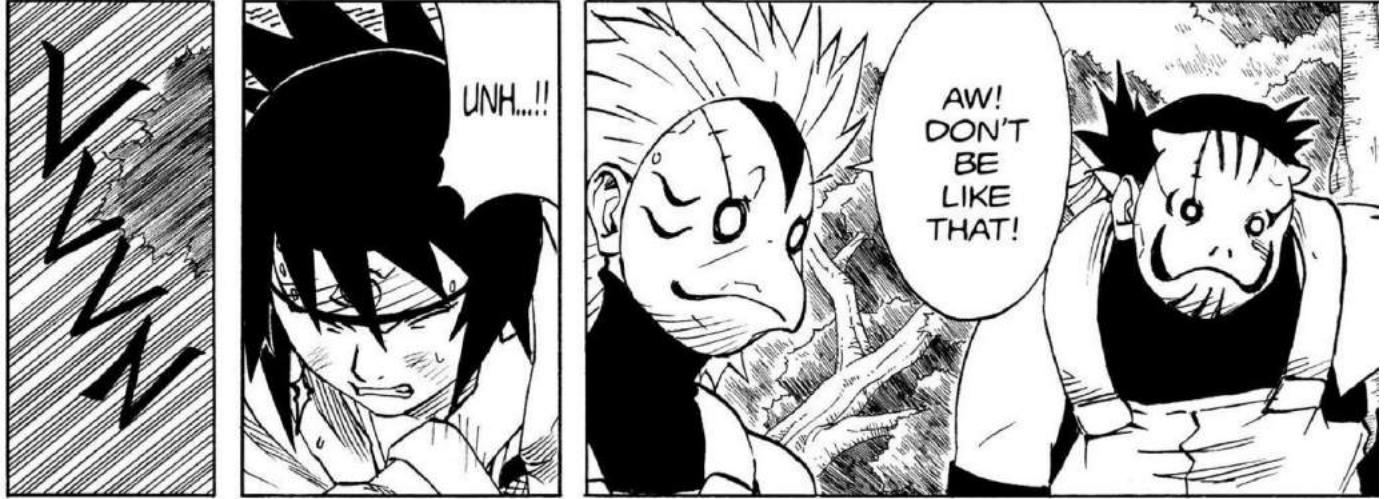
**RRR**

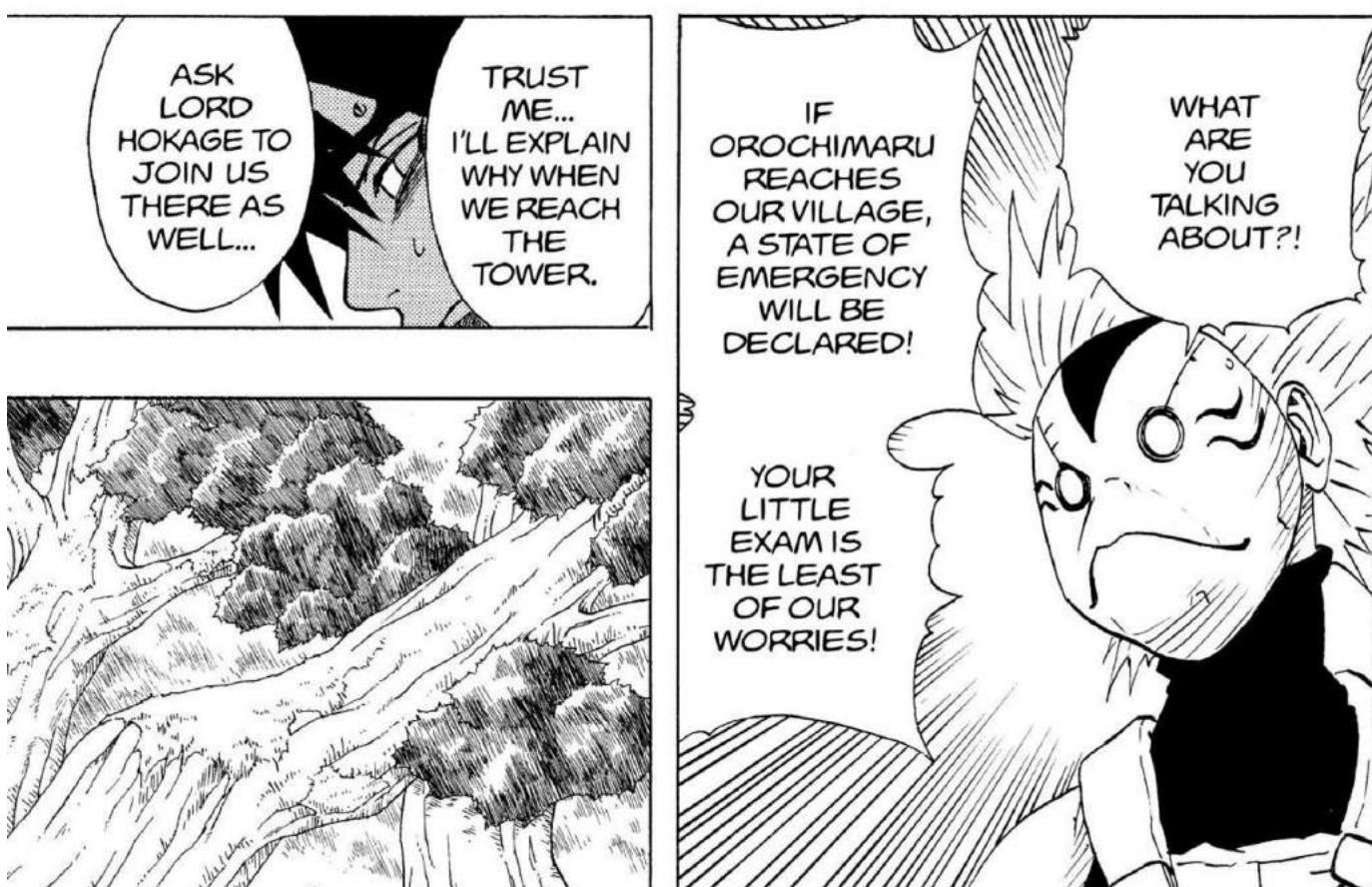
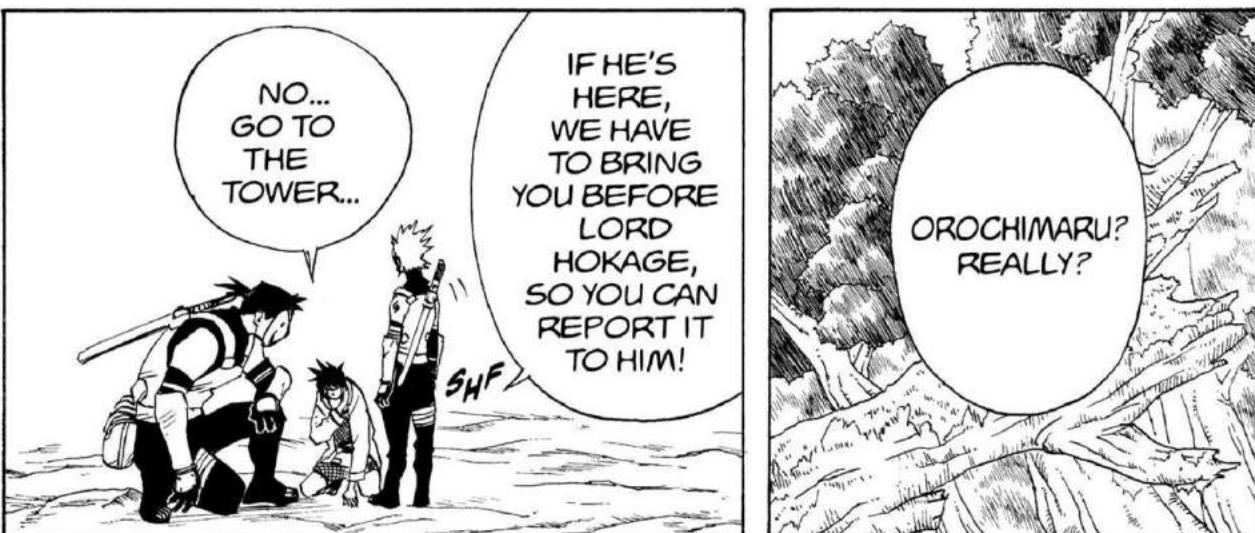
BY  
BIRTH...  
AND BY  
HIS OWN  
ABILITIES...  
HE'S A  
FORMIDABLE  
FOE.

UCHIHA...  
SASUKE...

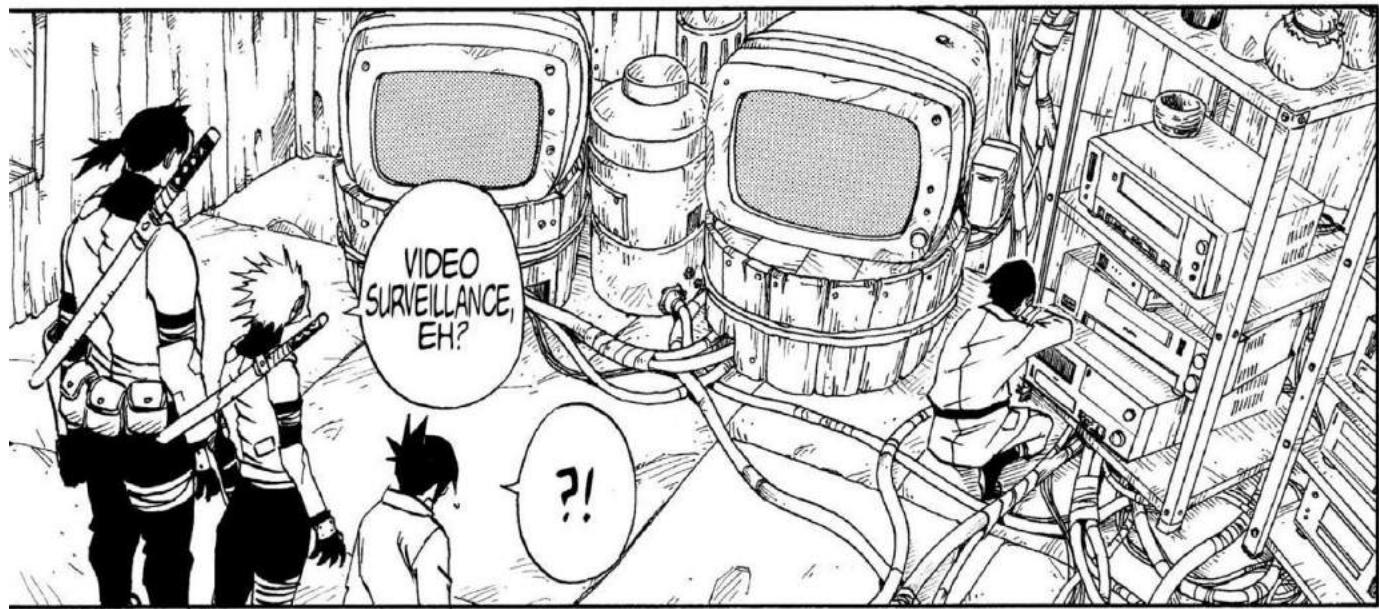












THE  
THREE  
NINJA  
FROM THE  
LAND OF  
SAND...

IT'S  
NOT  
POSSIBLE.



...HAVE  
ALREADY  
COMPLETED  
THE SECOND  
EXAM.



## THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART TWO: STARTING SCHOOL

WHEN I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO GO TO KINDERGARTEN, I BECAME INTERESTED IN A WHOLE VARIETY OF NEW THINGS. BUGS, THE FLOW OF A RIVER... IF SOMETHING CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, IT WOULD HOLD MY FOCUS UNTIL SOMEONE INTERRUPTED ME. I'M TOLD MY MOTHER AND MY TEACHERS HAD TO COME LOOKING FOR ME ALL THE TIME. AT HOME, I DID THE SAME THING. WHEN I WAS WATCHING TV, I'D TUNE OUT THE REST OF THE WORLD. EVEN IF MY FATHER CALLED ME BY MY PET NICKNAME, MABO, AND PHYSICALLY TURNED MY FACE SO HE COULD SEE ME--UNDERSTANDABLY WANTING HIS CHILD TO PAY A LITTLE ATTENTION TO HIM--I STILL CONCENTRATED ON THE SCREEN. HE SAYS THAT MY FOCUS REMAINED SO COMPLETELY ON THE TV AND MY FACE GOT SO INTENSE THAT IT WAS A LITTLE SCARY. AND IT MADE HIM ENVY THE TELEVISION. BACK THEN, TV WAS THE MOST INCREDIBLY THRILLING, STIMULATING THING I COULD IMAGINE. ONE OF MY FAVORITES WAS "DORAEMON." I WOULD DRAW THAT CHARACTER'S FACE OVER AND OVER AGAIN, NO MATTER WHERE I WAS. ACTUALLY, ALL MY KINDERGARTEN CLASSMATES LOVED DORAEMON, TOO, AND ALSO USED TO TRY AND DRAW HIM WITH ME. BUT I WAS A TOTAL STICKLER ABOUT IT, ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE WAY THE CHARACTER'S EYES HAD TO BE DRAWN. THE DIAGRAMS BELOW SHOW WHAT I MEAN. EVERYONE KEPT DRAWING THE CHARACTER THE WAY HE LOOKS IN FIGURE 2...BUT FIGURE 1 IS THE VERSION THAT'S CORRECT! I ALWAYS POINTED THAT OUT TO THEM AND LECTURED THEM ABOUT THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT. IN RETROSPECT, I'D HAVE TO SAY I WAS AN OBNOXIOUS LITTLE PERFECTIONIST. BACK THEN, I EVEN CONDEMNED ANYONE WHO USED THE "DORAEMON DRAWING SONG"<sup>\*</sup> TO DRAW DORAEMON AS A HERETIC!

"EDITOR'S NOTE: "THE DORAEMON DRAWING SONG" (OR "DORAEMON NO O-EKAKI UTA") GIVES STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO DRAW DORAEMON; PRESUMABLY, USING THE SONG SEEMED LIKE A COP-OUT TO THE KINDERGARTEN-AGED KISHIMOTO.

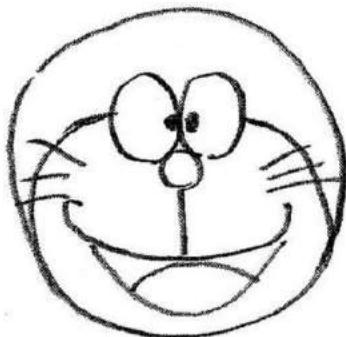


FIG. 1

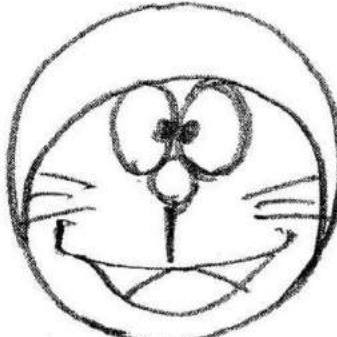
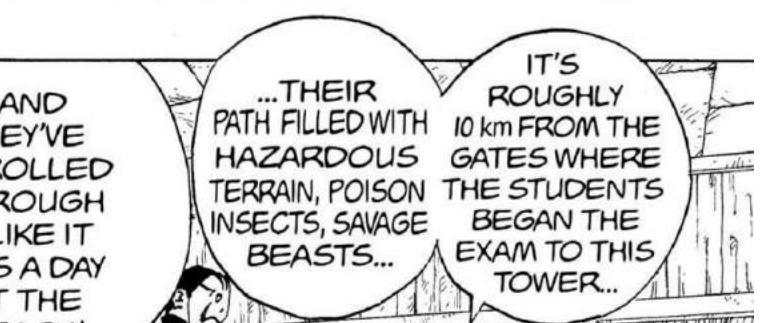
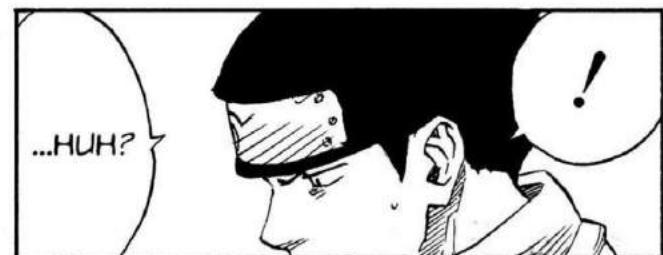


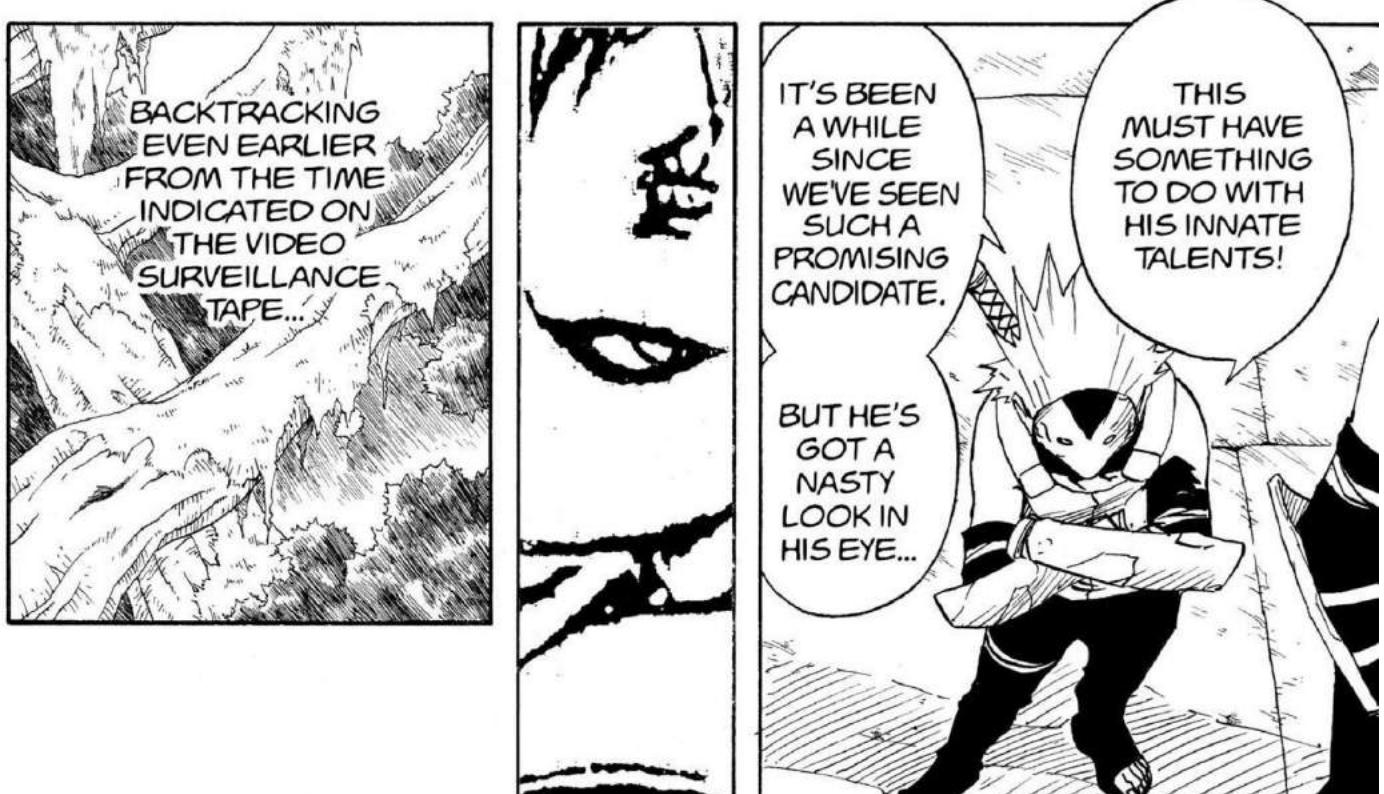
FIG. 2



Number 58: Witnesses...!!







DAY ONE,  
APPROXIMATELY  
50 MINUTES  
AFTER THE  
START  
OF THE  
SECOND  
EXAM...



WE'LL BE  
CELEBRATING  
AT THE  
TOWER  
IN NO  
TIME!!



WE REALLY  
LUCKED OUT...  
THE FIRST  
PEOPLE  
TO FALL INTO  
THE TRAP WE  
SET WERE  
CARRYING  
THE EARTH  
SCROLL  
WE NEEDED!

...DON'T  
WE,  
AKAMARU?!

WOOHOO!!  
SURVIVING IN  
THESE WOODS  
IS AS EASY AS  
I THOUGHT!  
WE RULE...

THESE  
WOODS ARE  
CRAWLING  
WITH ENEMIES,  
YOU KNOW!



CHILL OUT!  
IT'S WAY  
TOO  
EARLY TO  
CELEBRATE!



...MAYBE  
SHINO  
HAS A  
POINT,  
TOO!

B-BUT...  
BUT...

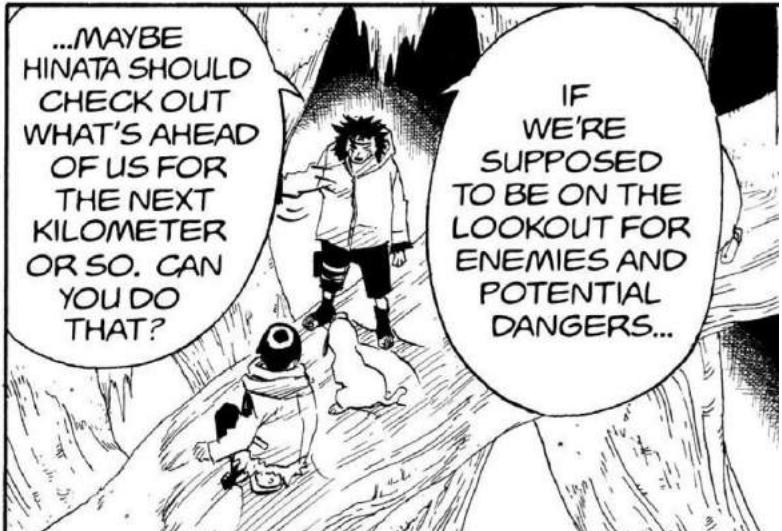
I GET IT...  
BUT HOW  
YOU ALWAYS  
MANAGE TO  
TWIST  
EVERYTHING  
AROUND  
UNTIL IT  
RELATES BACK  
TO INSECTS  
AMAZES ME!

AND, JUST  
FOR THE  
RECORD, I  
AM STILL THE  
LEADER OF  
THIS TEAM!

ALL  
RIGHT,  
ALREADY!

WHEN  
IT FEELS  
THREATENED  
BY EXTERNAL  
DANGER,  
EVEN THE  
SMALLEST  
INSECT WILL  
ALWAYS--

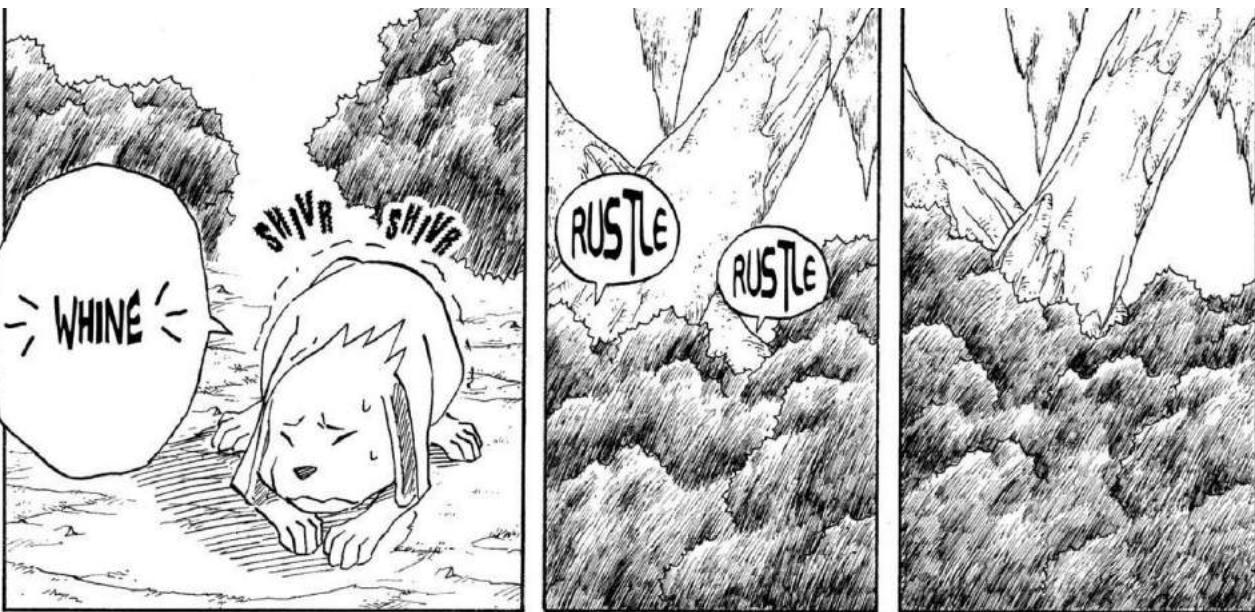
TAK  
TAK

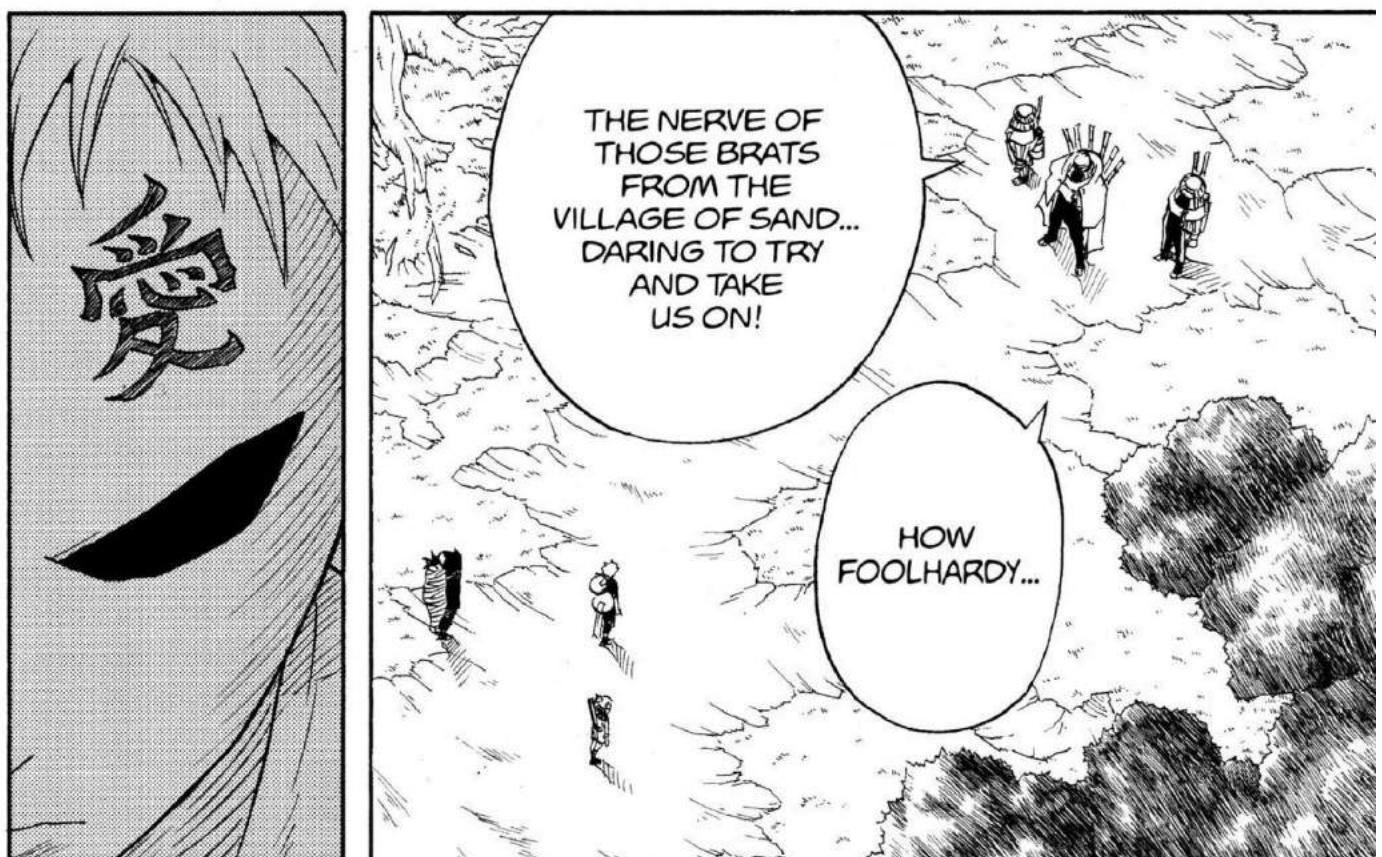


BYAKUGAN!  
THE  
ALL-SEEING  
EVIL EYE,  
HEREDITARY  
TRAIT OF THE  
MEMBERS  
OF CLAN  
HYUGA!





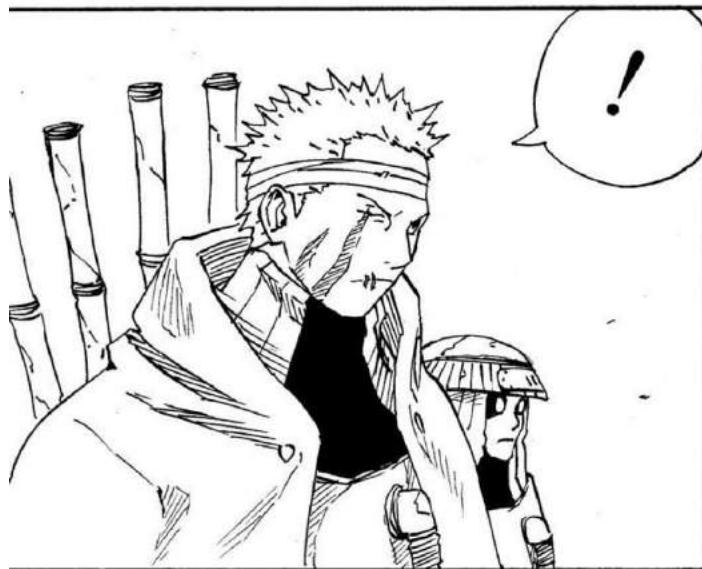
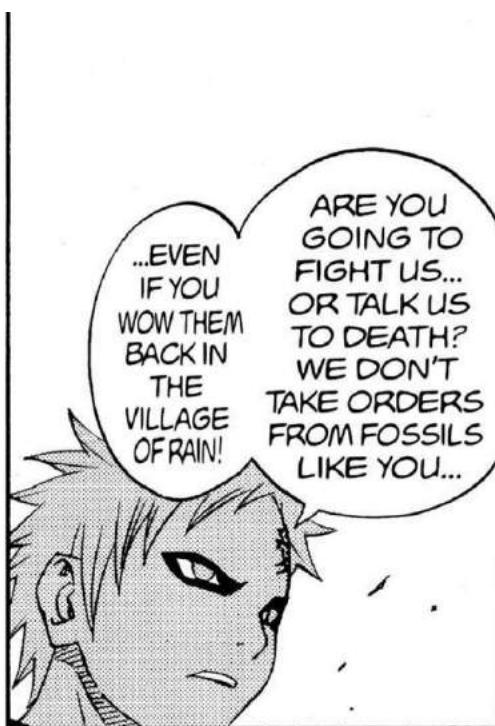


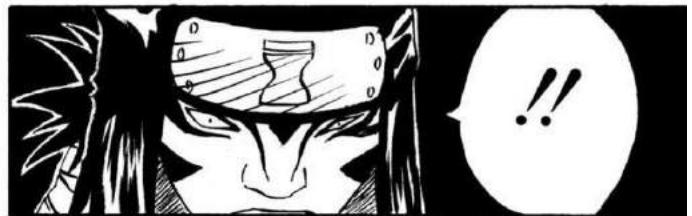


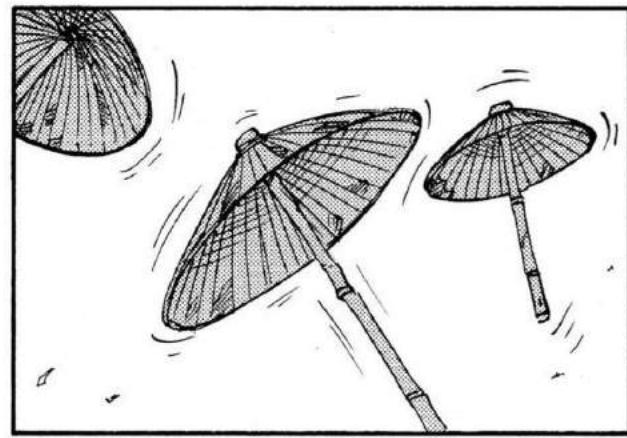
# ONWING

















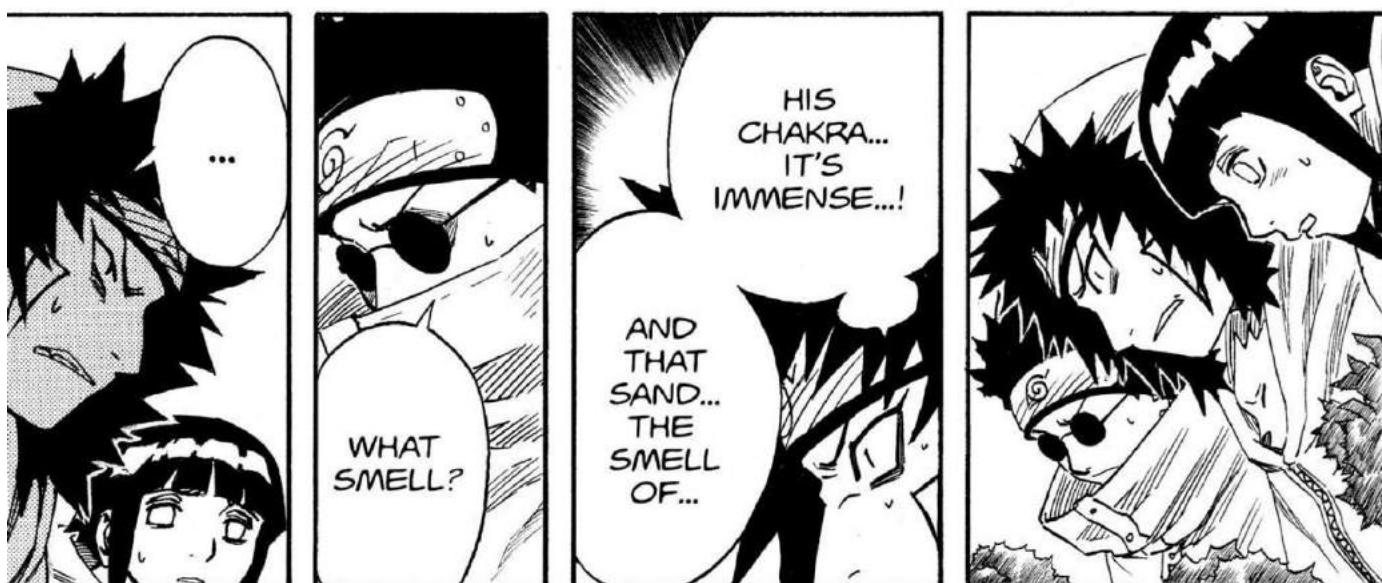
IS  
THAT  
ALL  
YOU'VE  
GOT?

READ  
THIS  
WAY





# Number 59: The Tragedy of the Sand!!





THOSE NEEDLES SHOULD BE ABLE TO PIERCE EVEN A FIVE-MILLIMETER THICKNESS OF TEMPERED STEEL!

N-NO... WAY...

ANY FRONTAL ASSAULT ON GAARA...

...IS DOOMED TO FAIL!

OHH...

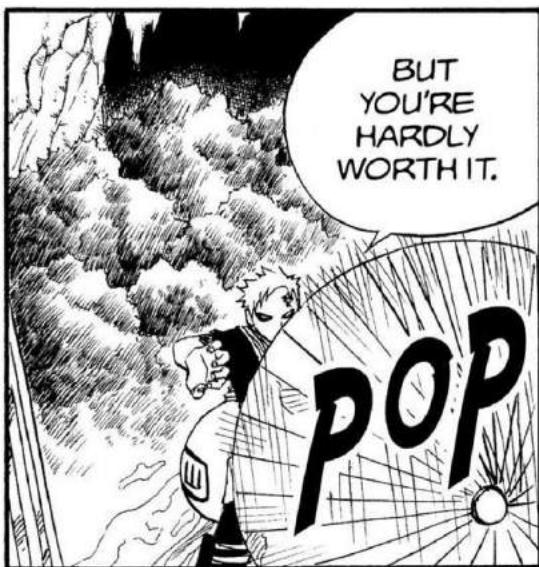
BLAST!

YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO TOUCH OUR GAARA.

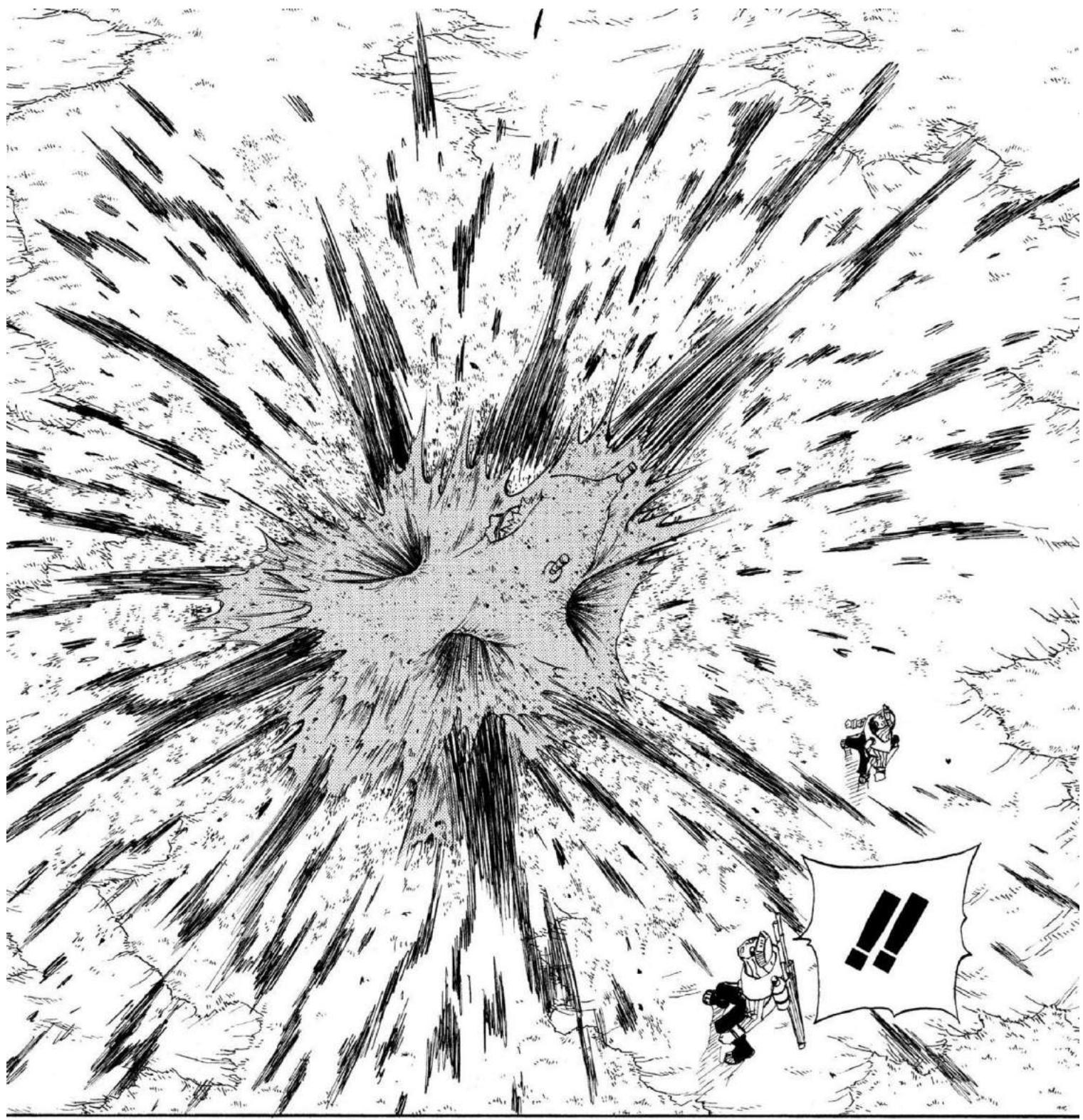
SHUT UP,  
YOU-!!!







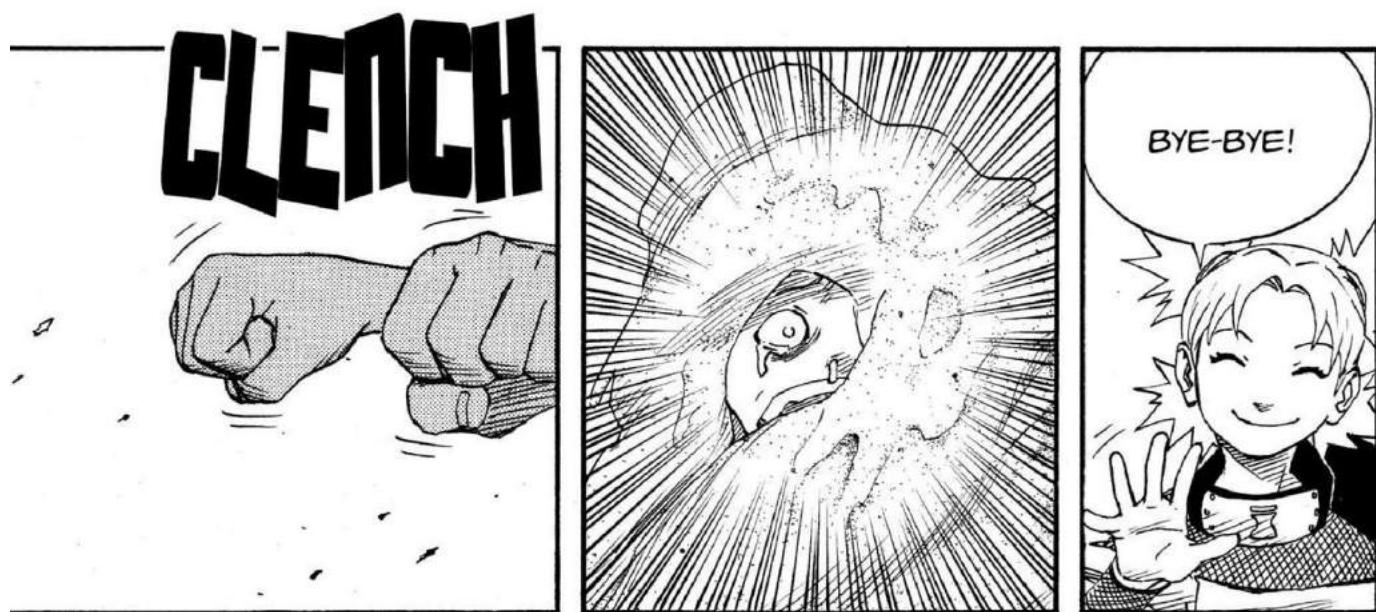




SABAKUSÔSÔ!  
IMPLODING  
SAND  
FUNERAL!

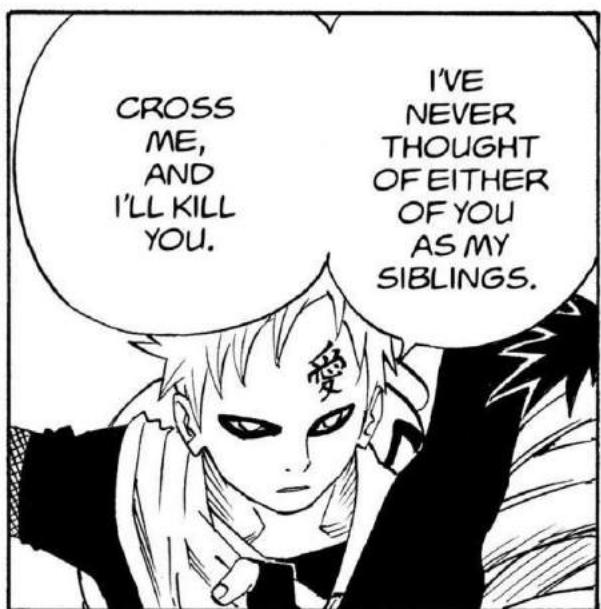




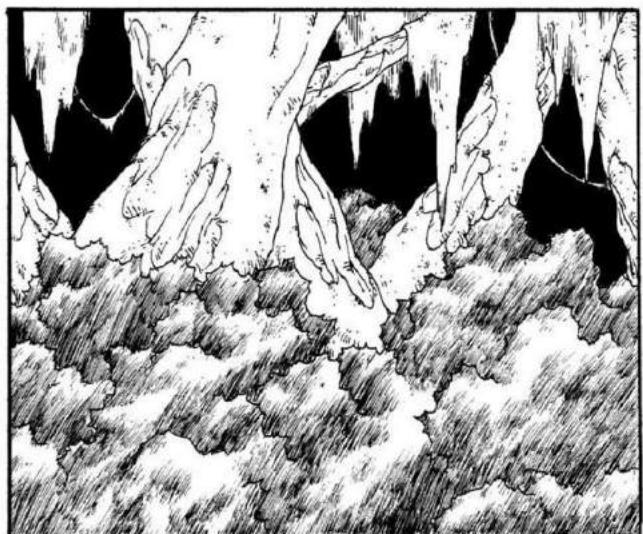
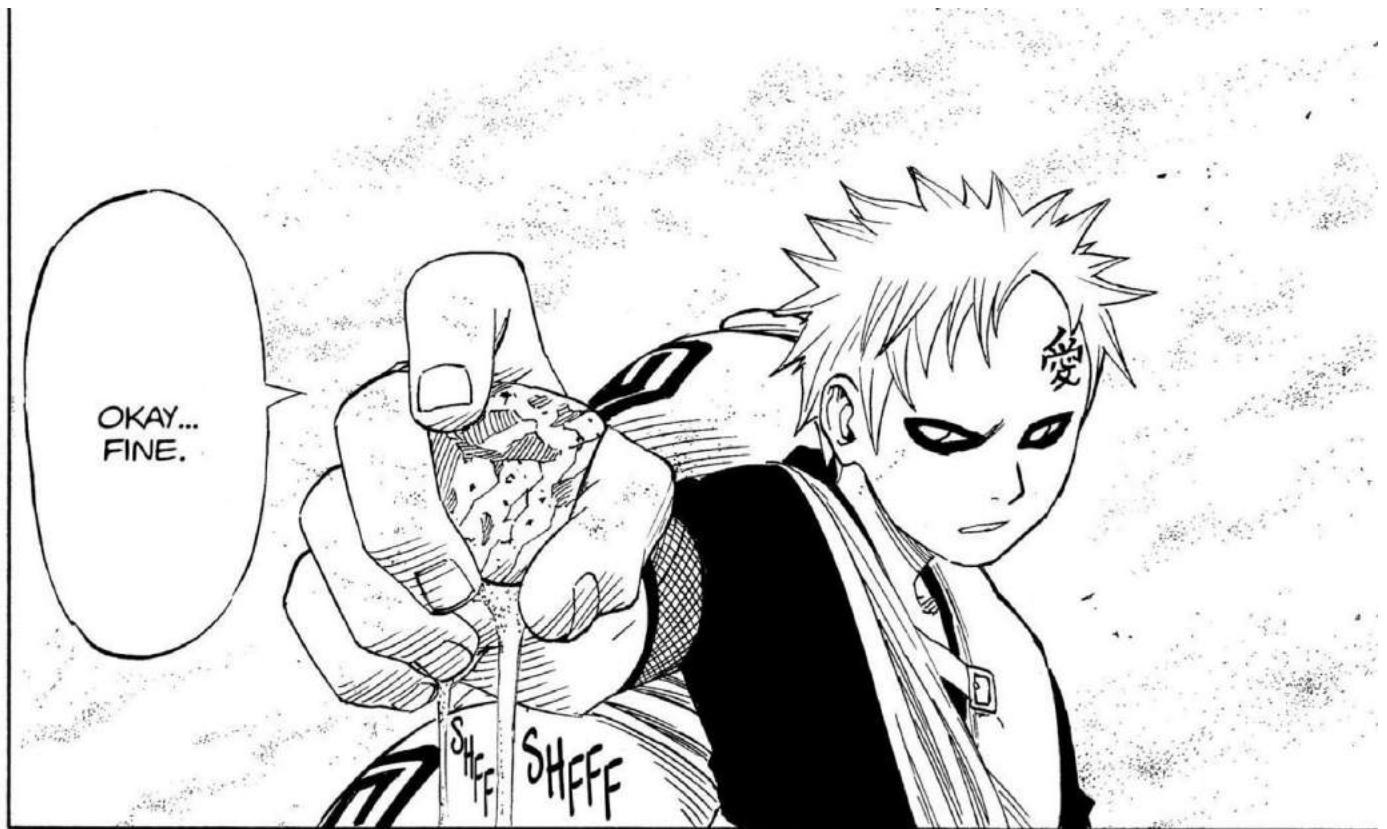


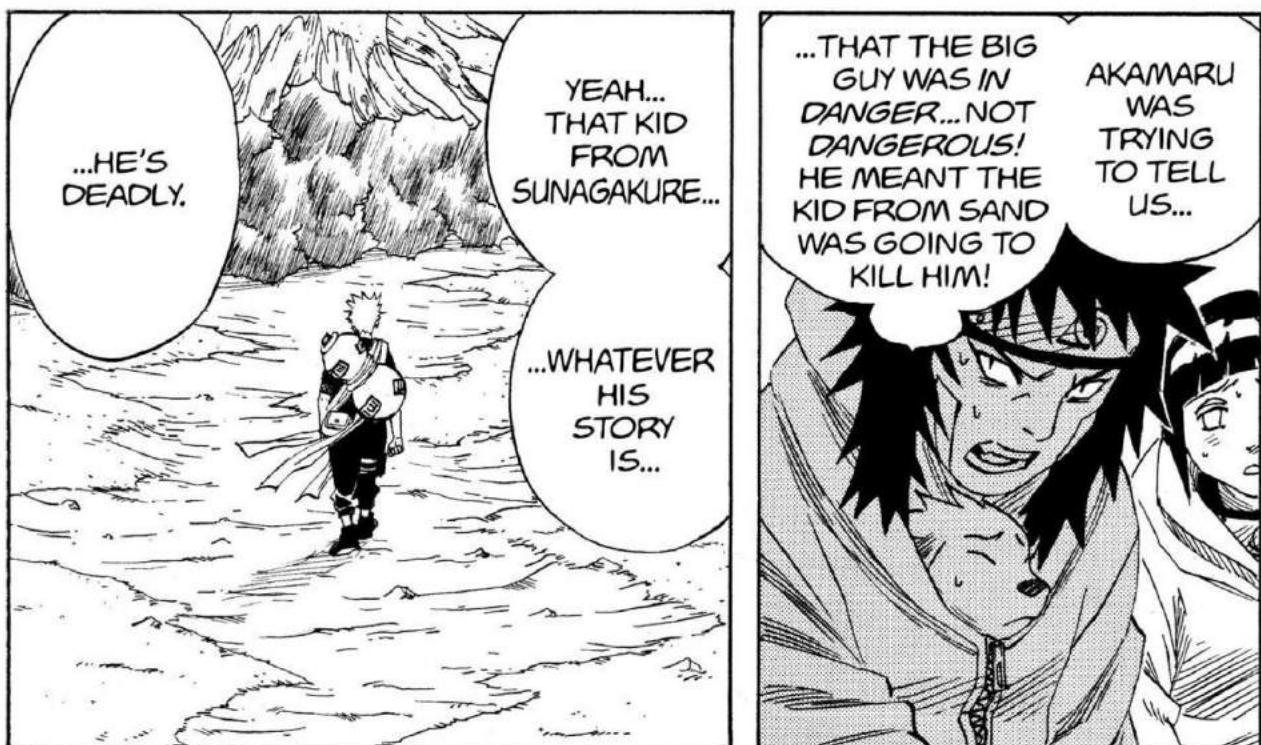












## THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART THREE: PRIMARY SCHOOL

AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER, I SPENT A LOT OF TIME EVERY DAY DOODLING IN MY "ANYTHING GOES" SKETCHBOOK. EVEN WHEN I WAS OUT ON THE PLAYGROUND PLAYING TAG, I ALWAYS HID REALLY WELL IN HOPES THAT WHOEVER WAS "IT" WOULDN'T FIND ME AND SAT QUIETLY, DRAWING DORAEMON IN THE DIRT.

THEN ONE SUCH DAY, I SAW AN AMAZING TV SHOW. "WHAT IN THE WORLD IS IT?" I WONDERED. "IT'S SO COOL, AND THE ARTWORK IS AWESOME." THE SHOW WAS... "MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM." AFTER THAT, MY SKETCHBOOK WAS ALWAYS CRAMMED WITH DRAWINGS OF ROBOTS CALLED MOBILE SUITS. ZAKU, GOUF, DOM, GM, DOZLE ZABI... I FEVERISHLY DREW ALL KINDS OF GUNDAM CHARACTERS.

THEN ON ANOTHER DAY, I SAW ANOTHER INCREDIBLE TV SHOW AND THOUGHT, "W-WOW! THE ART IS AMAZING! AND IT HAS SUCH STYLE!!" THE PROGRAM WAS "DR SLUMP: ARALE-CHAN." FROM THAT POINT ON, ALL I WANTED TO DRAW WAS ARALE-CHAN. I EVEN ENTERED A CRAYON SKETCH OF ARALE-CHAN INTO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION. I CAN STILL REMEMBER MY MOTHER SAYING, "IF THIS ARALE-CHAN IS A GIRL, THEN YOU HAVE TO PUT LIPSTICK ON HER," AND JUST LIKE THAT, SHE ADDED RED LIPSTICK TO MY DRAWING OF ARALE-CHAN. I ALSO REMEMBER CLEARLY THAT THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE THAT I COMPLETELY LOST MY TEMPER.



# Number 60: The Last Chance...!!

MEANWHILE,  
NARUTO  
AND HIS  
TEAM ARE...

DOSH

CONABUNGA!

ART OF THE  
SHADOW DOPPELGANGER!!

YAAAH!

SPLASH-SPLASH

GLUB  
BLUB  
BLUB  
GLUB  
BLUB!!

GLUG GLUG

FUJ

HII





# CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL!!

8TH PLACE  
HAKU  
1,302 VOTES

9TH PLACE  
MOMOCHI ZABUZA  
756 VOTES

6TH PLACE  
ROCK LEE  
2,327 VOTES

3RD PLACE  
UCHIHA SASUKE  
13,674 VOTES

1ST PLACE  
HATAKE KAKASHI  
22,692 VOTES

Number 60:  
The Last Chance...!!

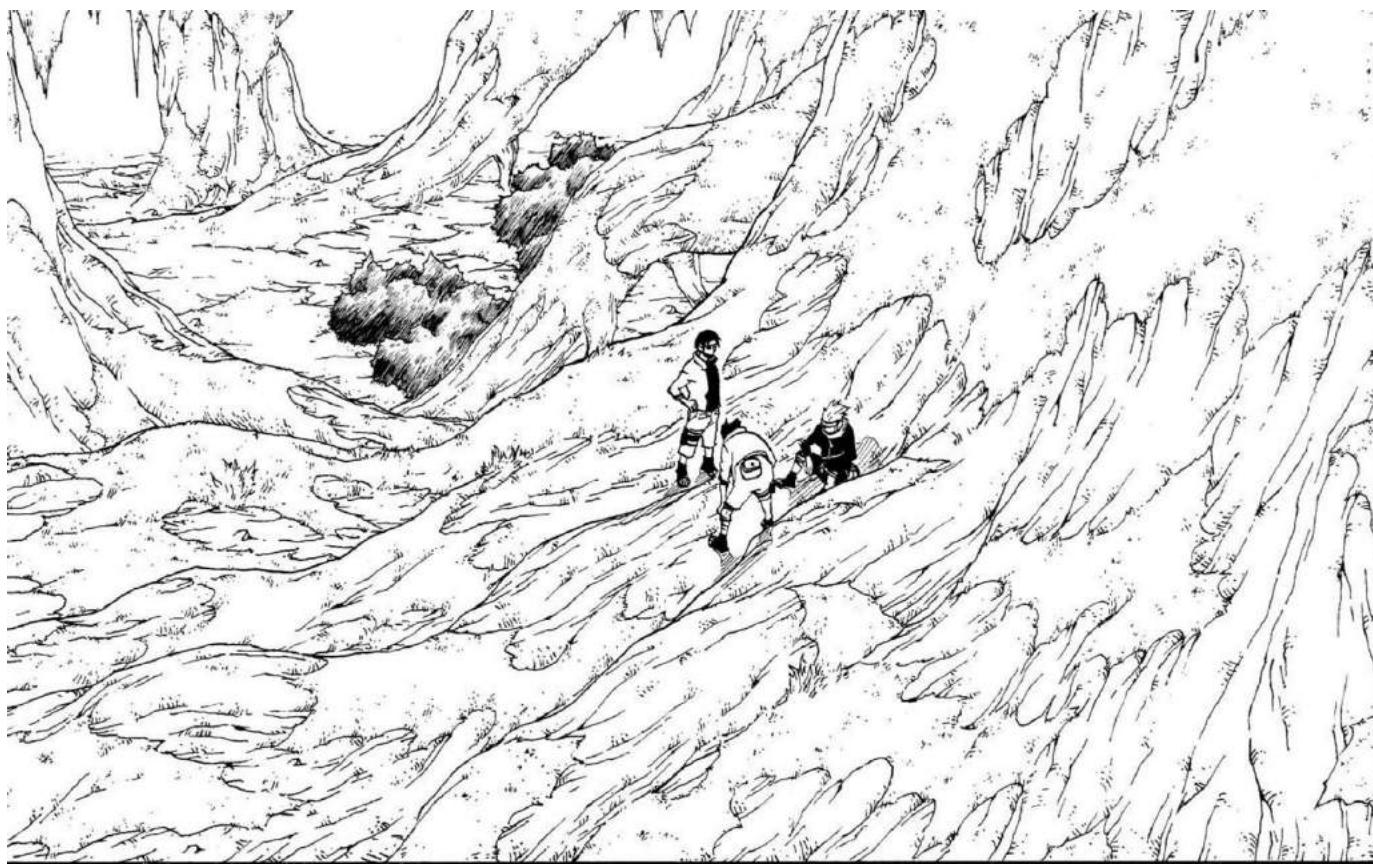
# ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF OUR

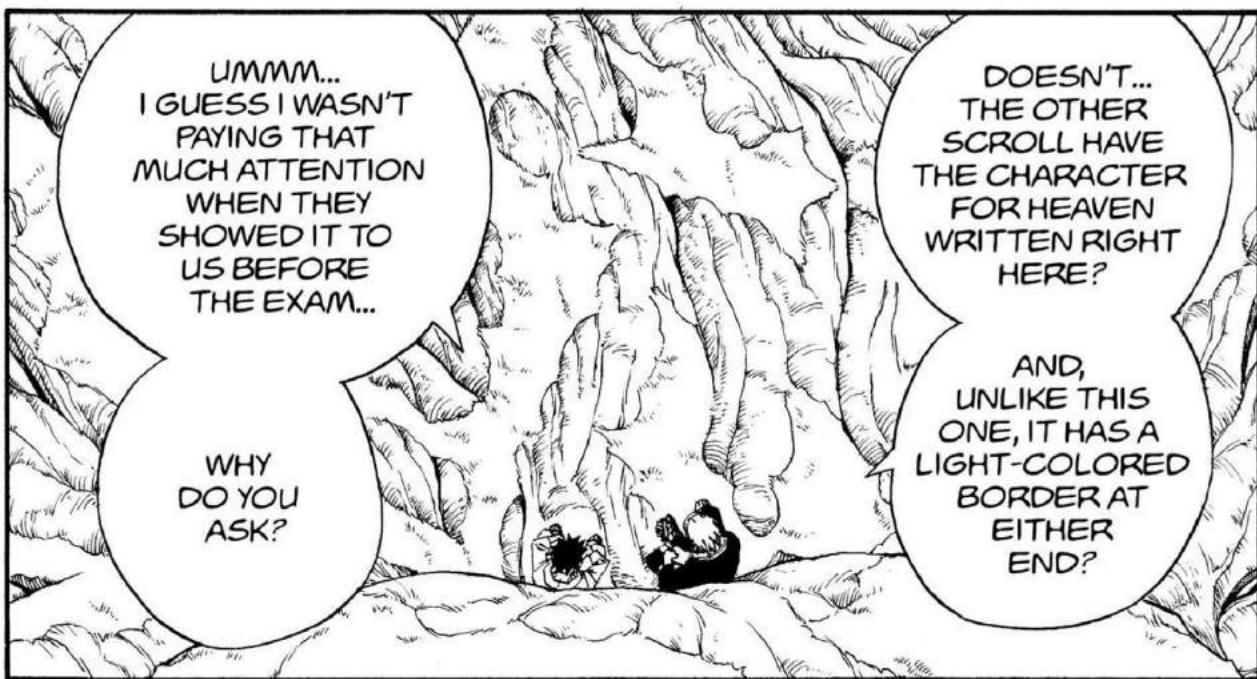
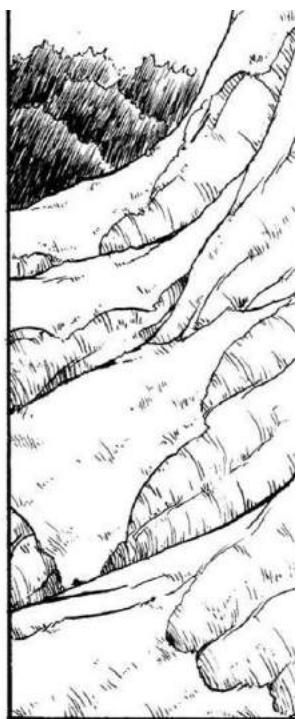


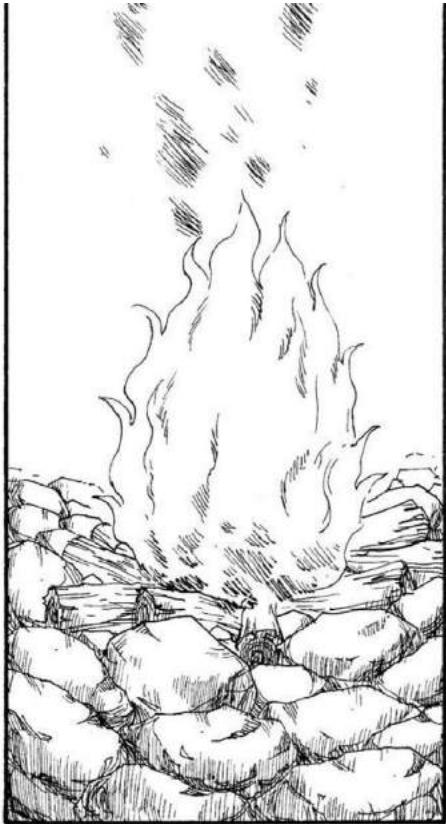
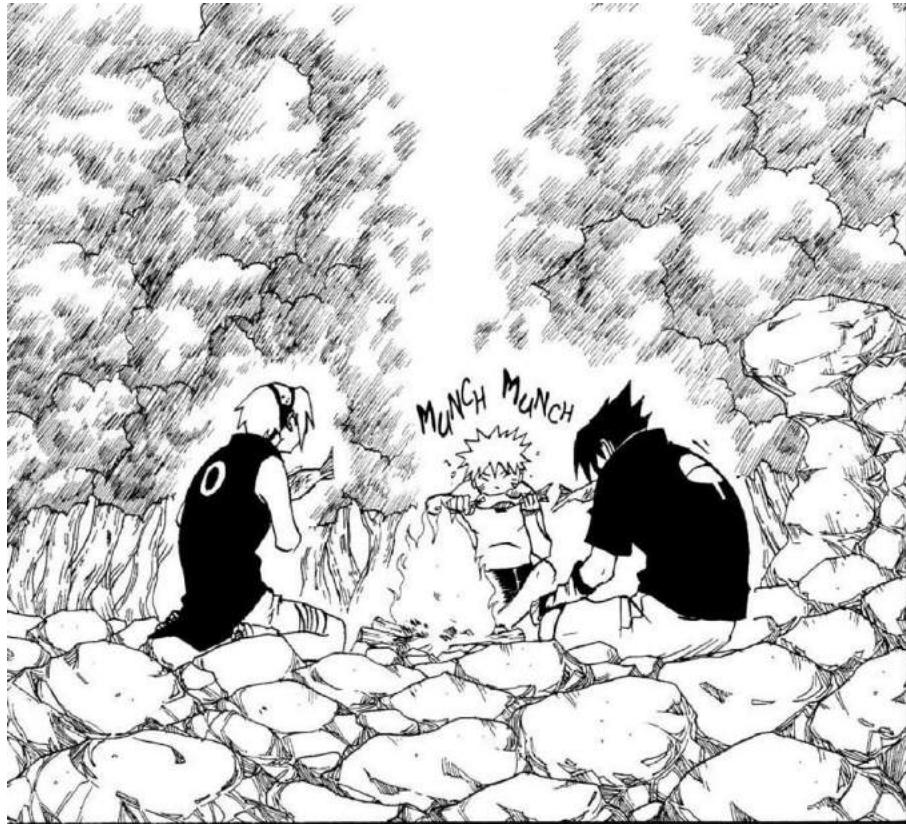
\*THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF A CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL CONDUCTED IN JAPAN. VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER BY WRITING TO:

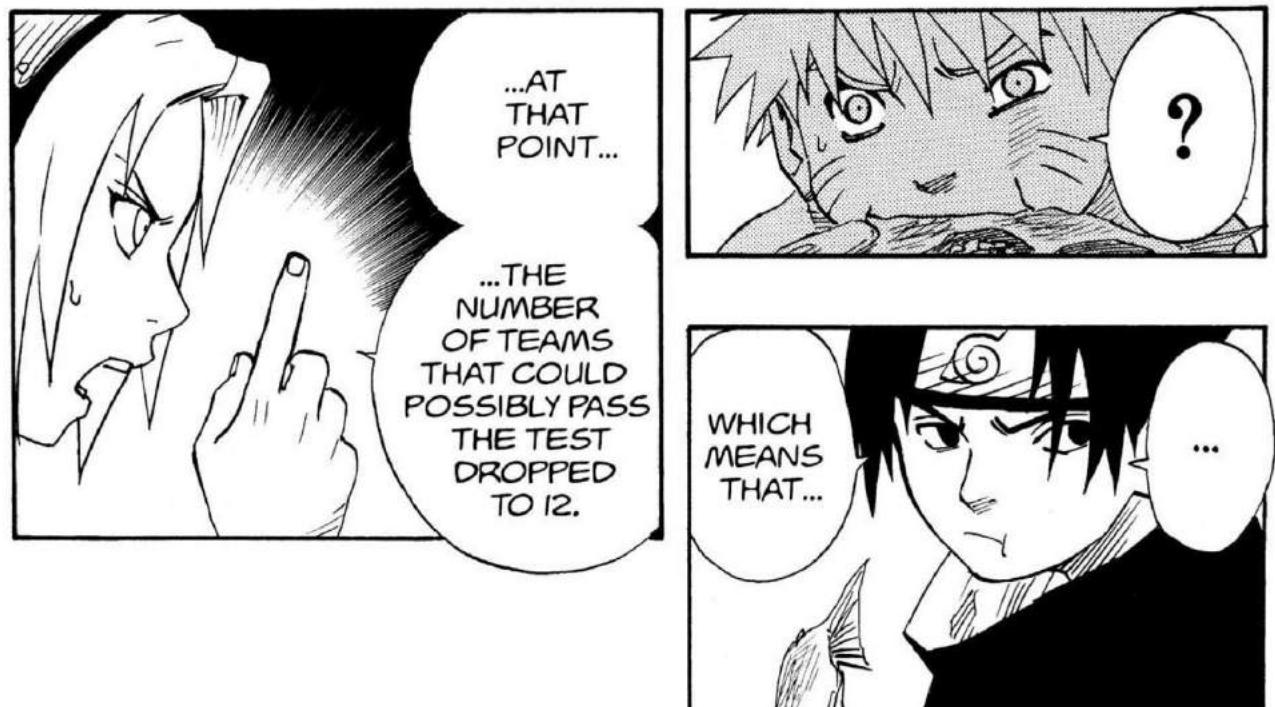
NARUTO CHARACTER POLL  
SHONEN JUMP  
C/O VIZ, LLC  
P.O. BOX 77010  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107











READ  
THIS  
WAY



AS SOON AS ONE OF EITHER TYPE OF SCROLL IS DESTROYED...

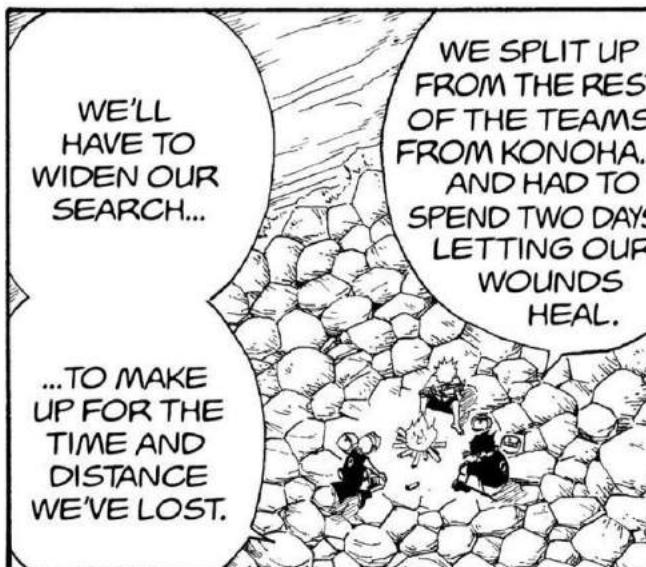
...ONE SCROLL OF THE OTHER TYPE AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES USELESS.



AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF ALL 25 OF THE OTHER SCROLLS SURVIVED, EITHER.



THE NEXT ENEMY WE MEET...



WE'LL HAVE TO WIDEN OUR SEARCH...

...TO MAKE UP FOR THE TIME AND DISTANCE WE'VE LOST.

WE SPLIT UP FROM THE REST OF THE TEAMS FROM KONOHA... AND HAD TO SPEND TWO DAYS LETTING OUR WOUNDS HEAL.

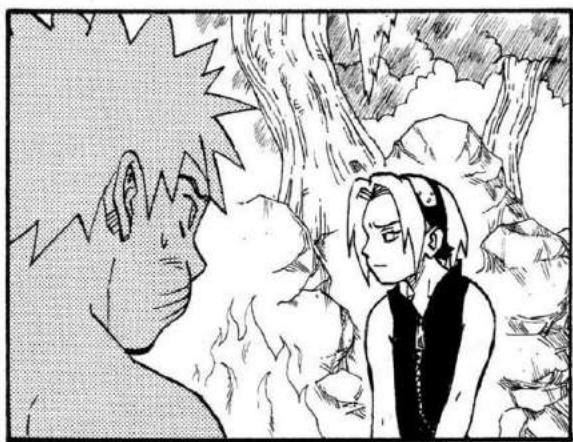


...



...OUR LAST CHANCE!!

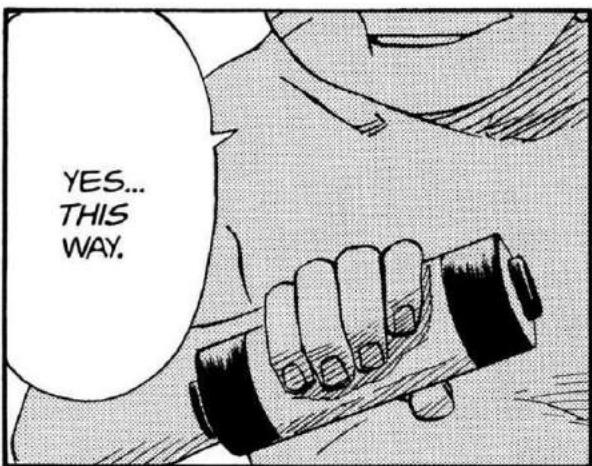
...COULD BE...



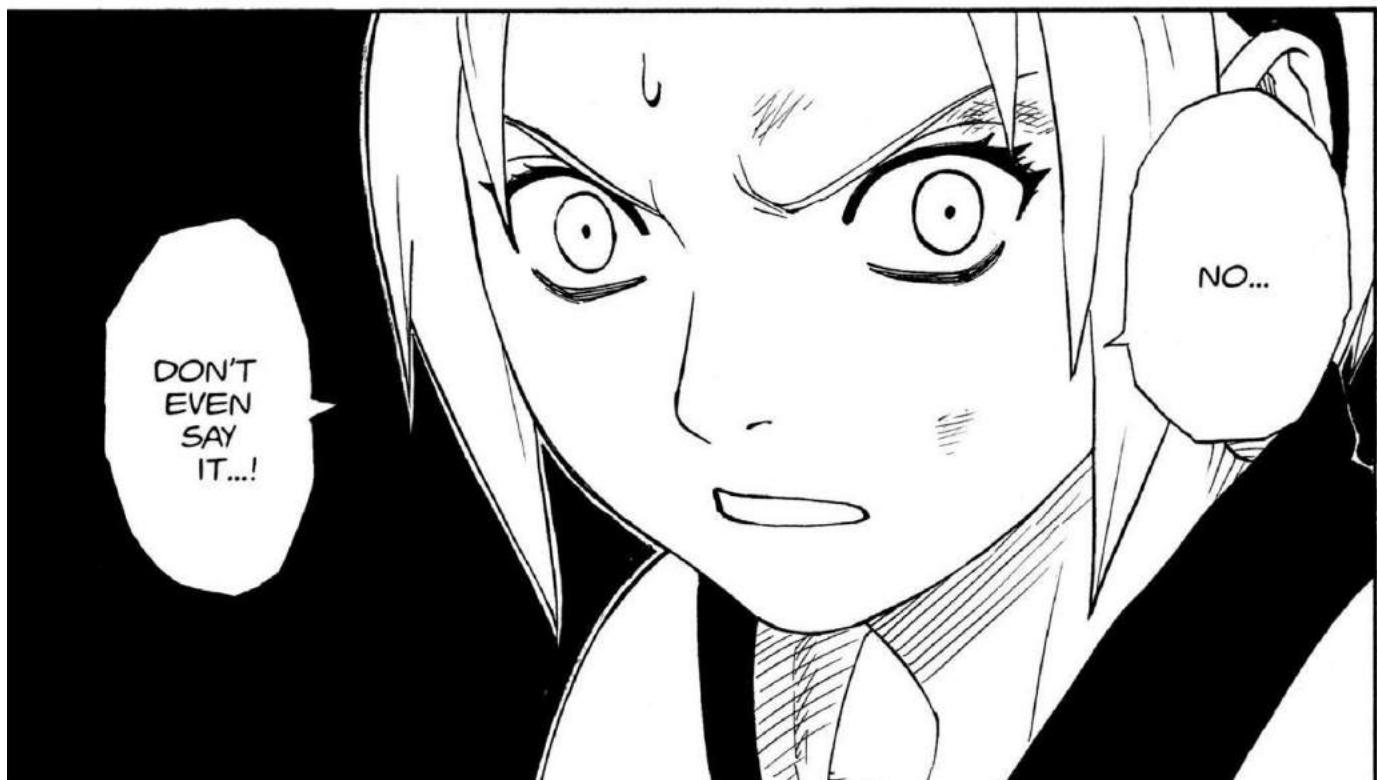


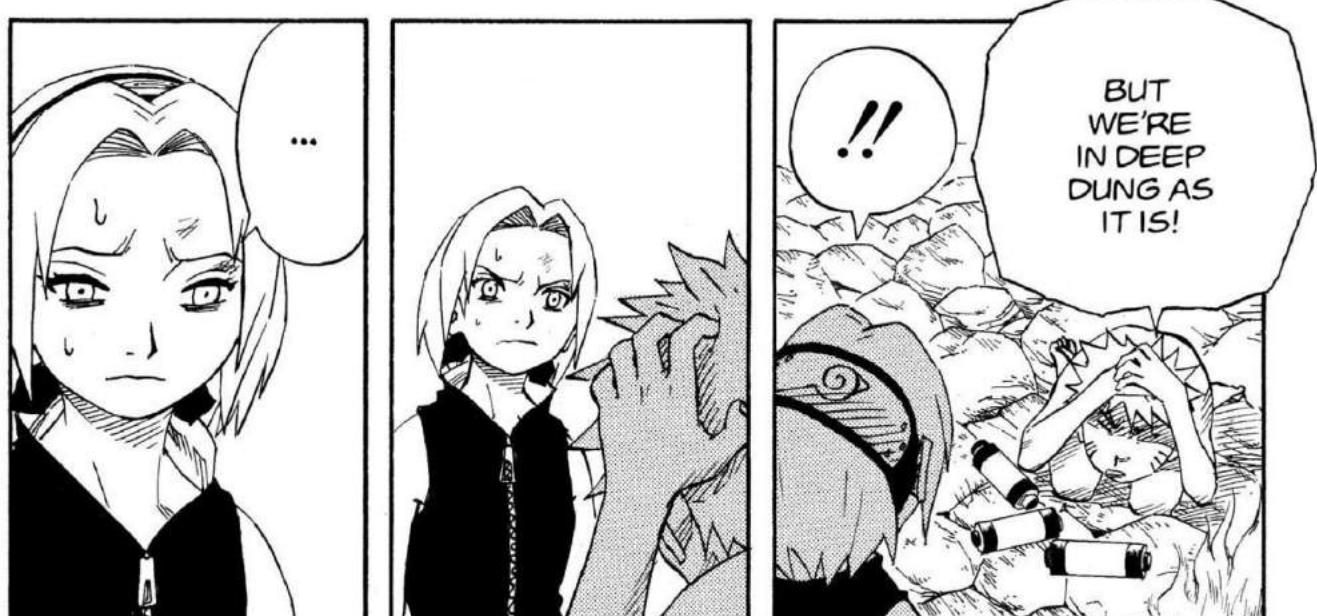
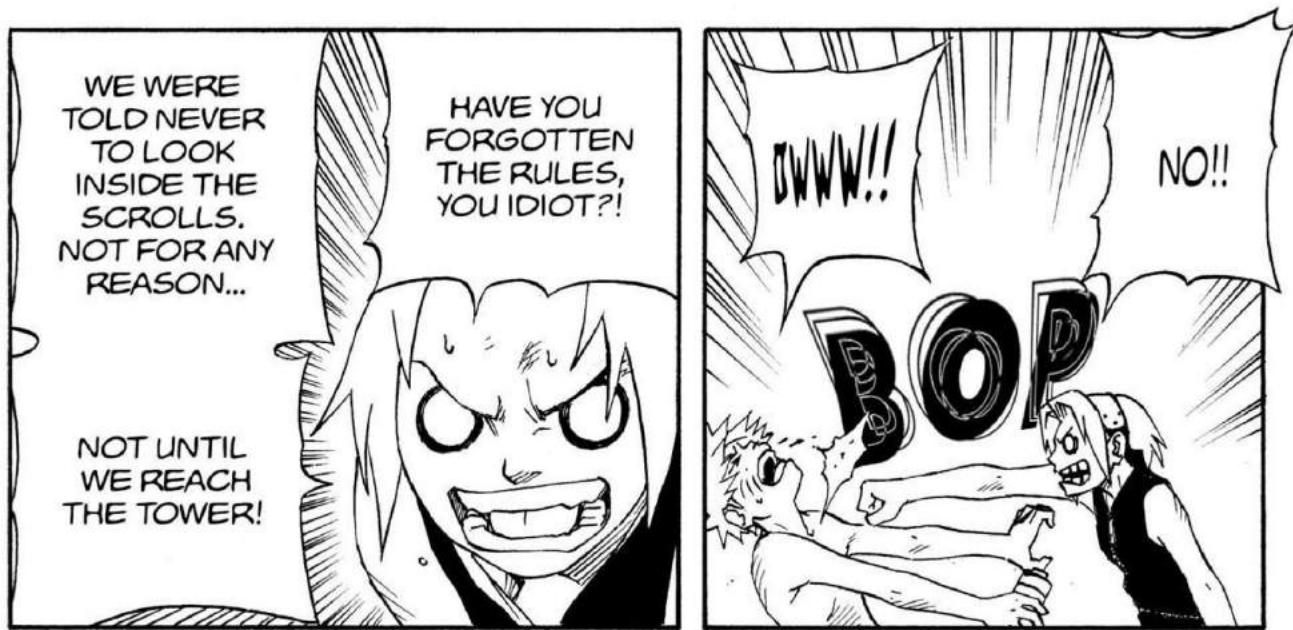
AND WE  
WON'T EVEN  
HAVE TO  
THROW A  
PUNCH!

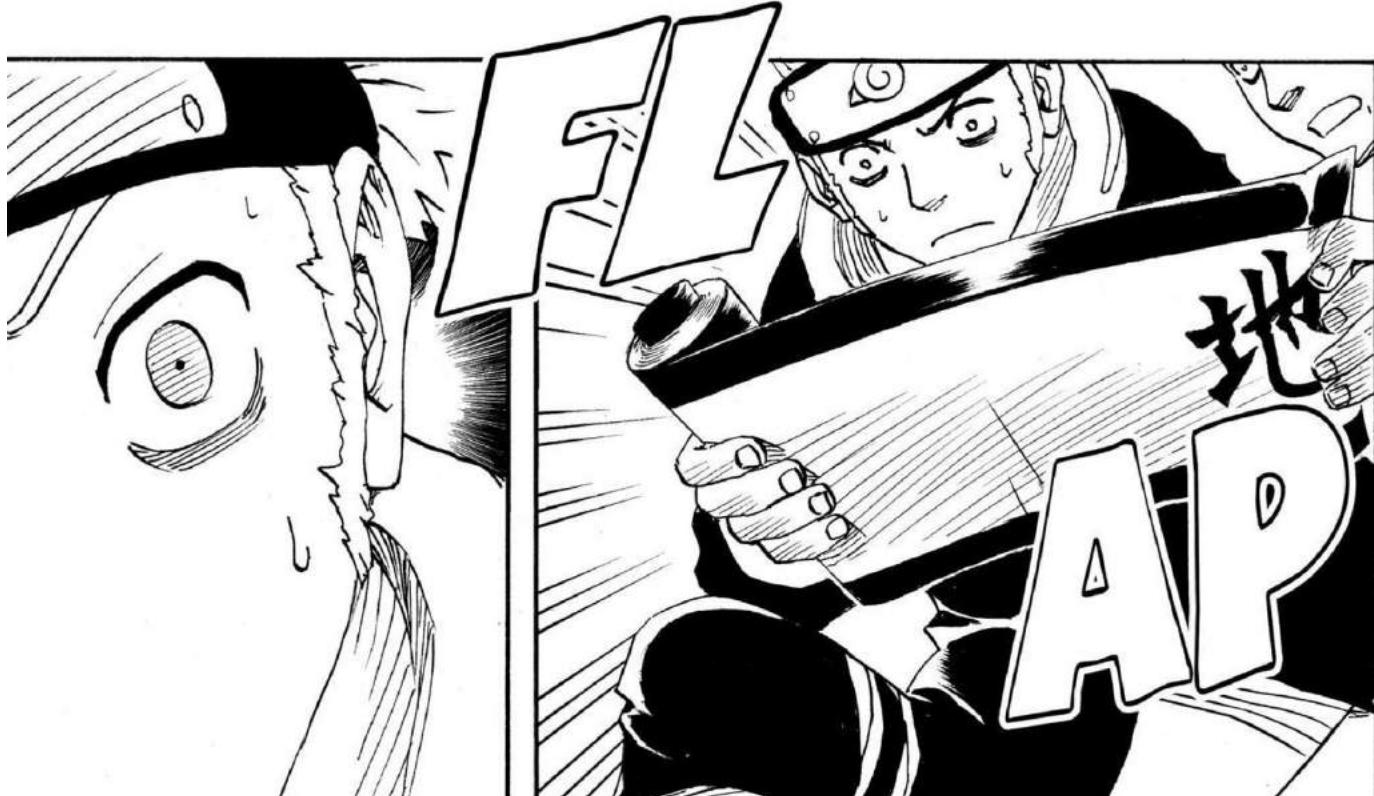
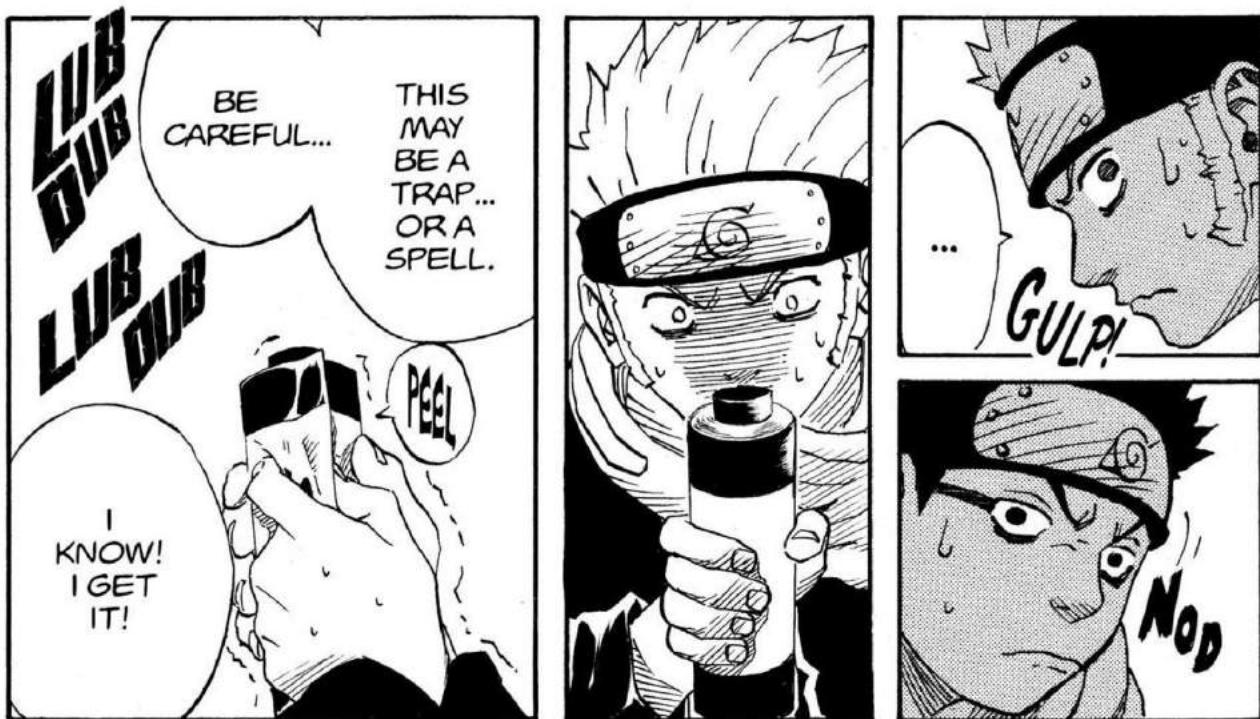
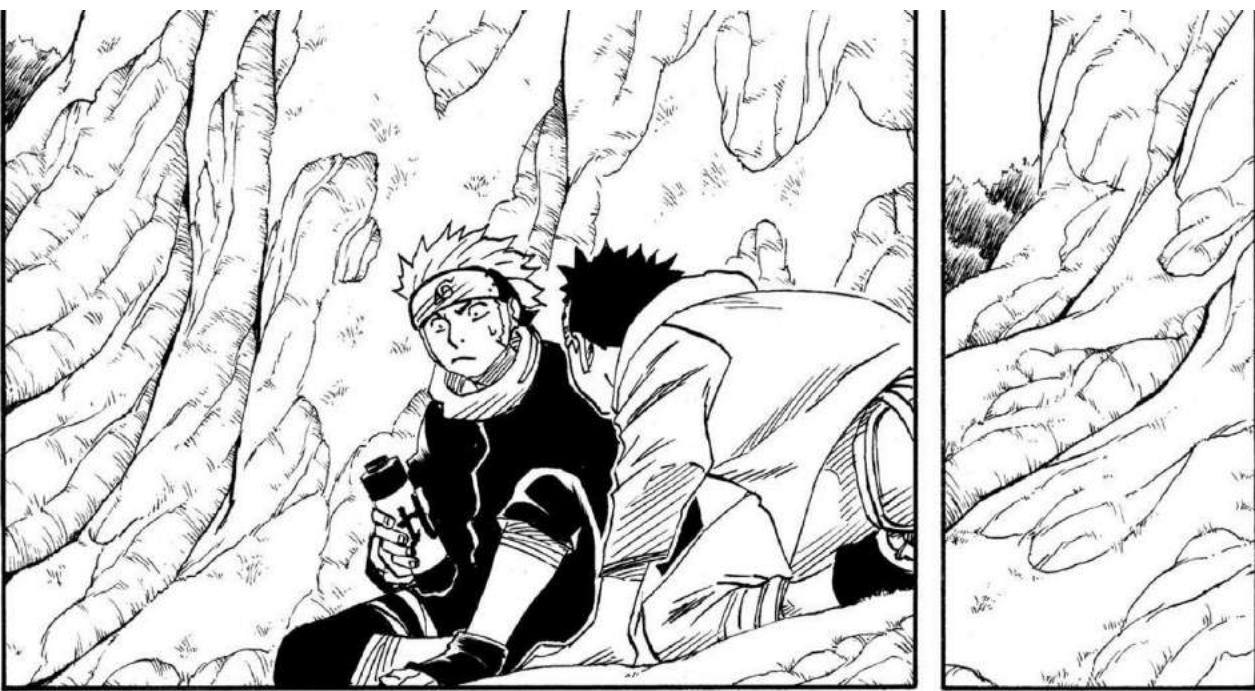
THERE'S  
ANOTHER  
WAY TO  
GET A  
HEAVEN  
SCROLL!



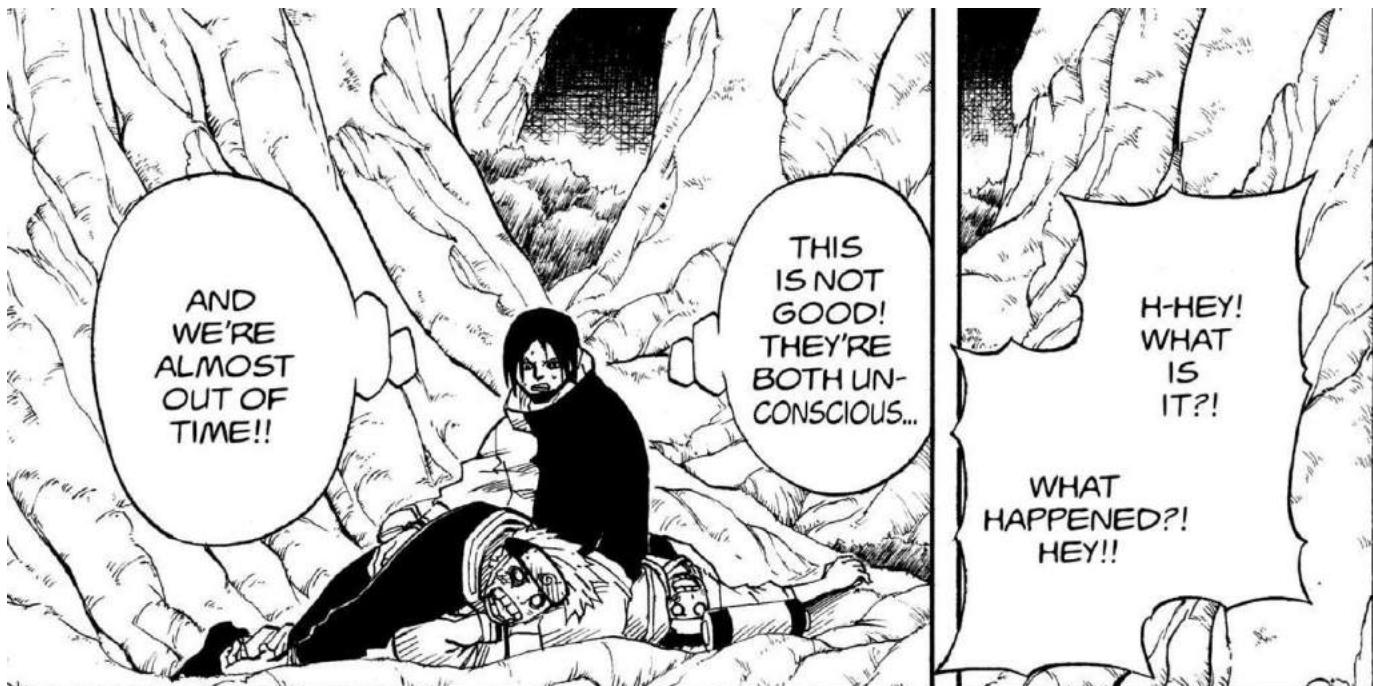




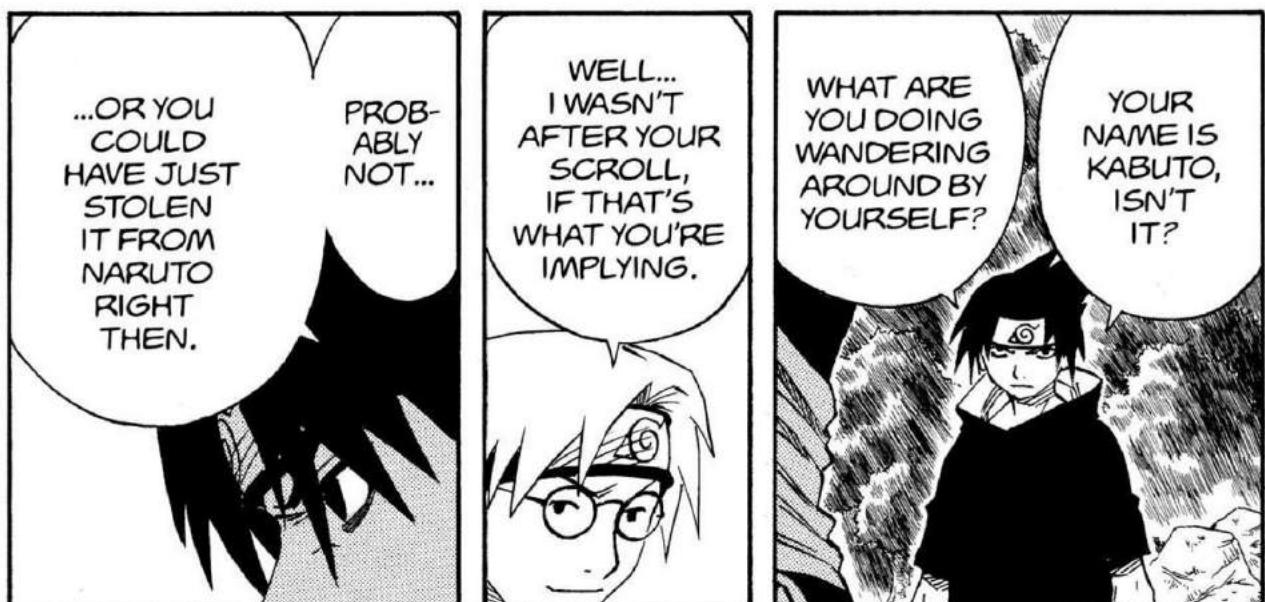
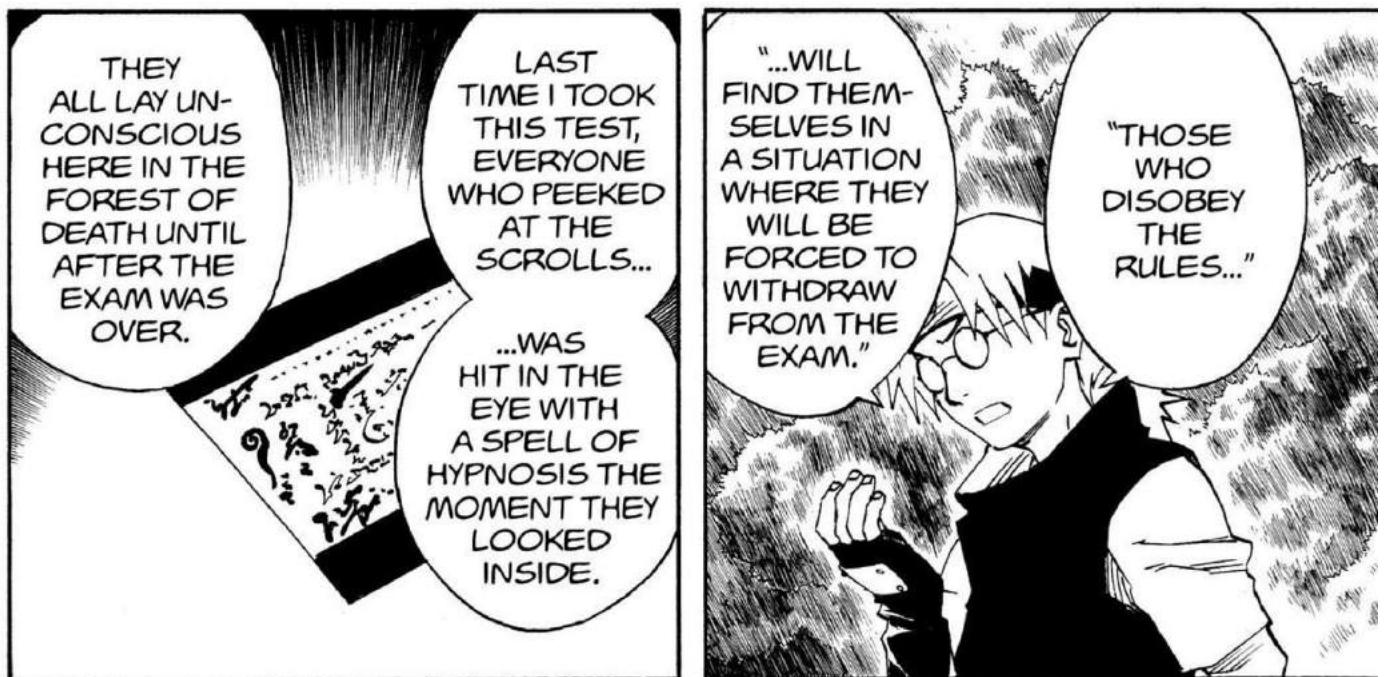
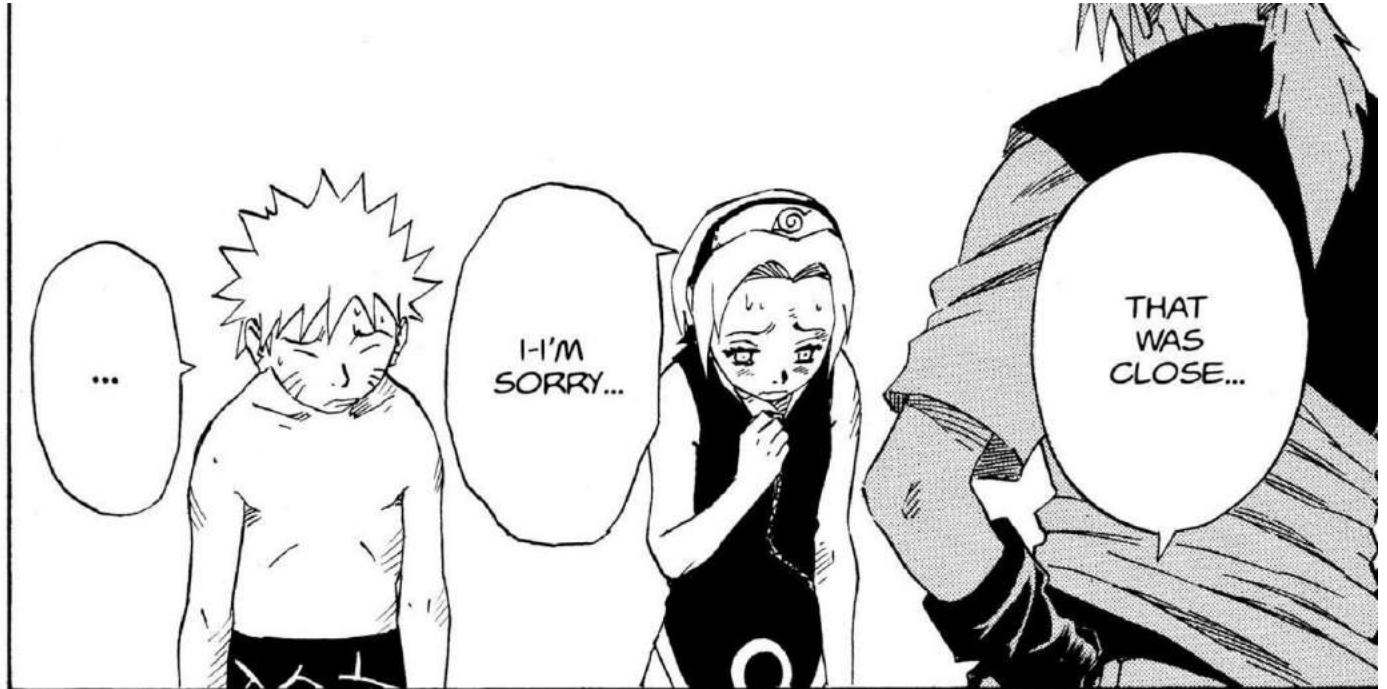


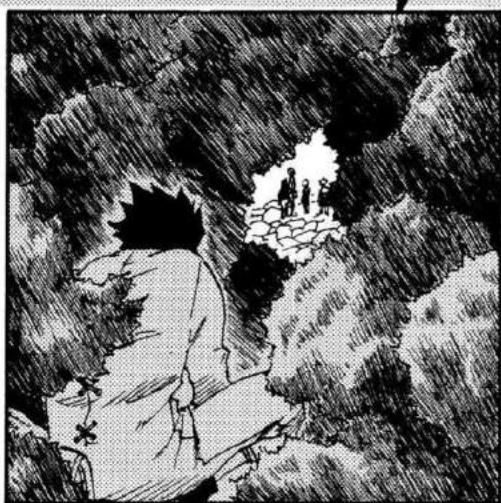
















Number 61:

The Path You Should Tread...!!!

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62

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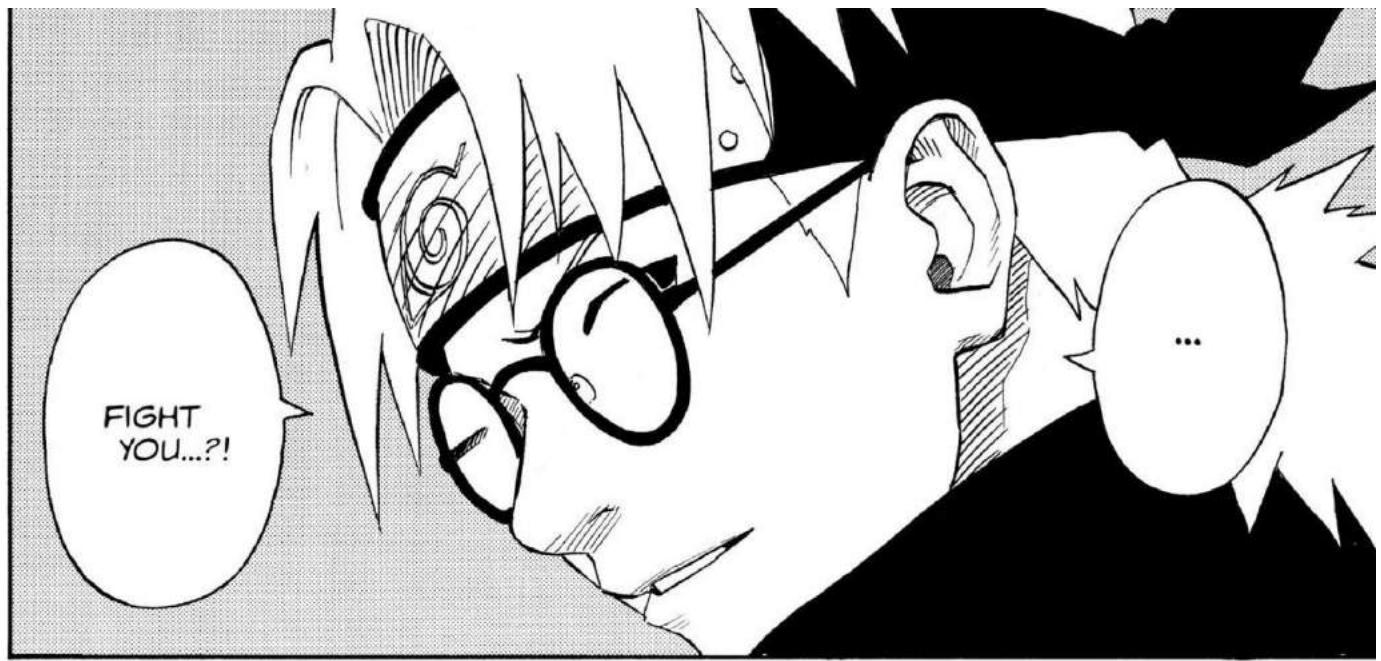
64

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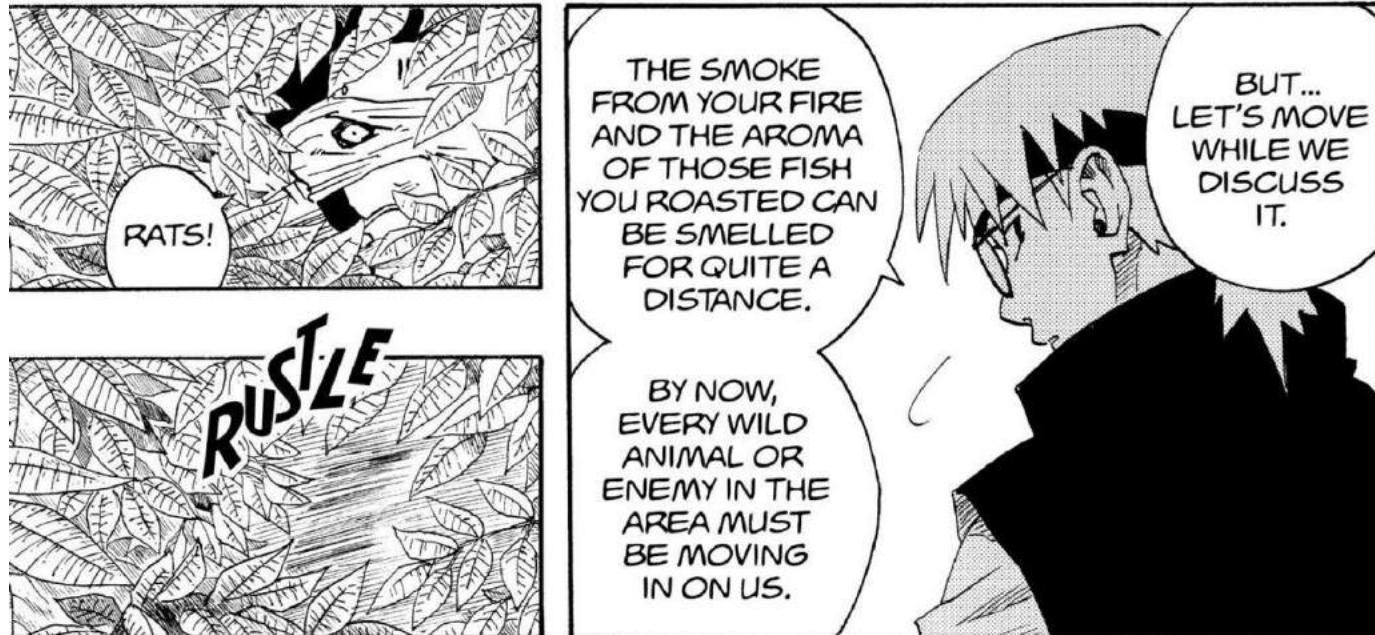
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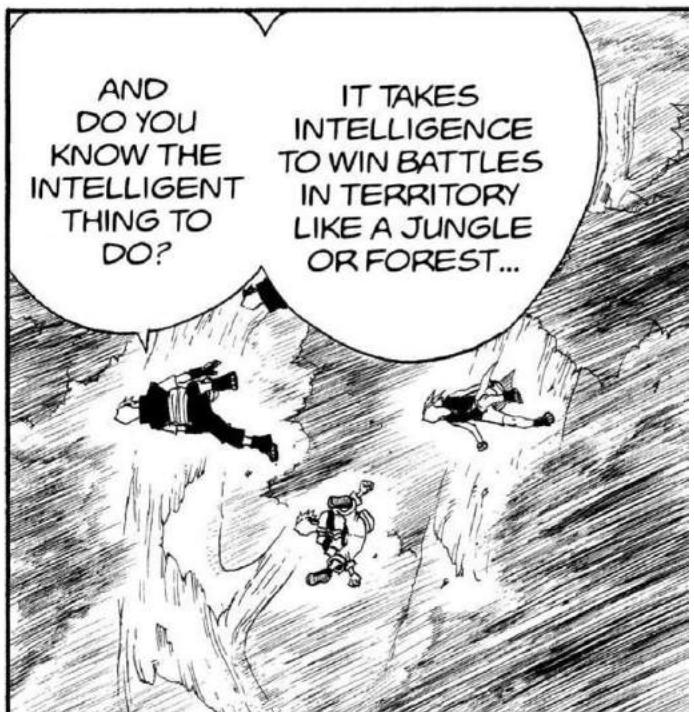


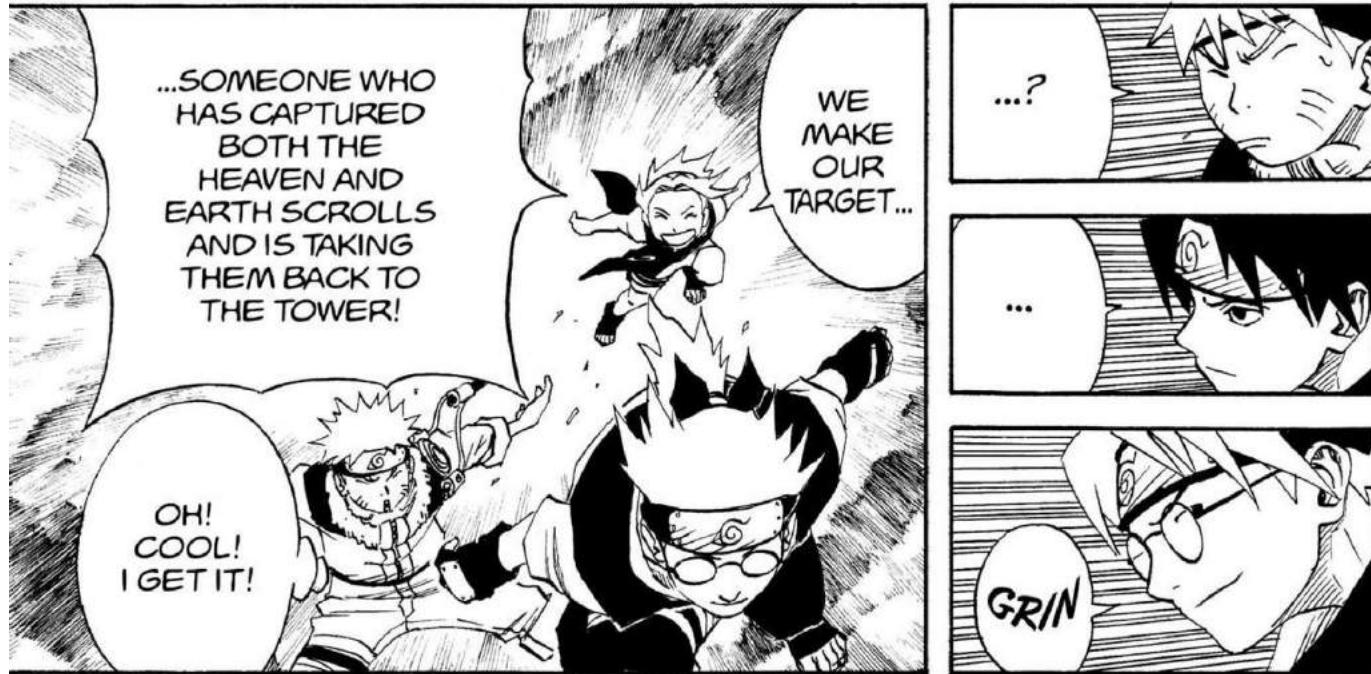


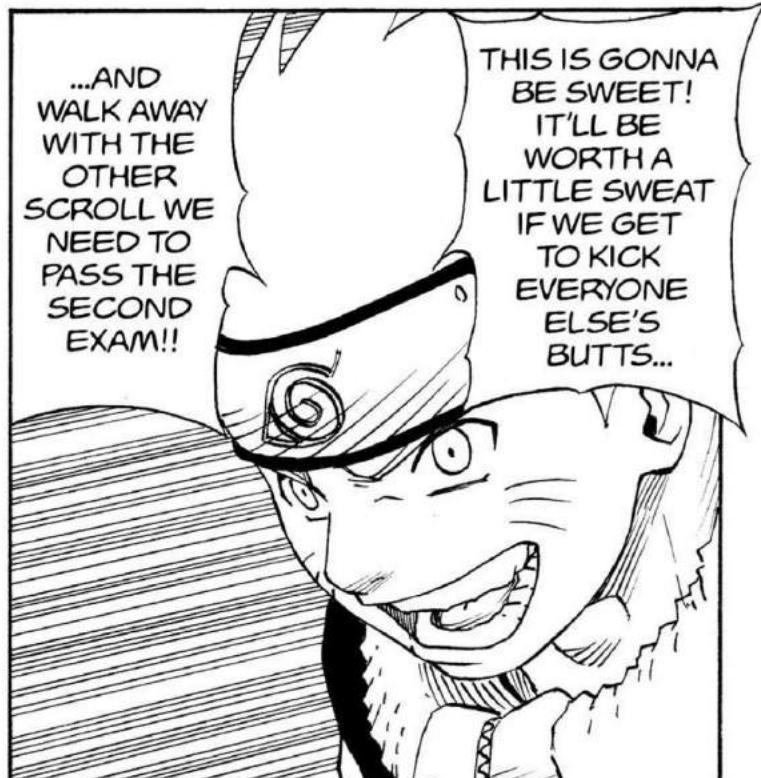
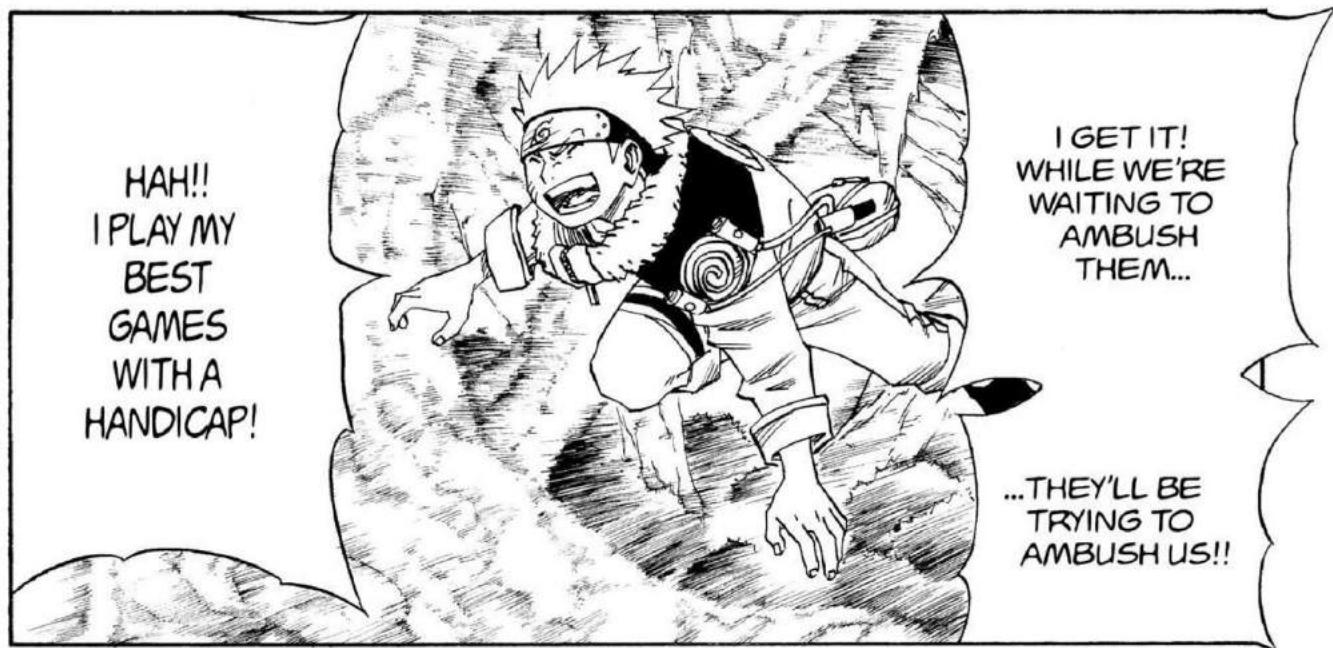
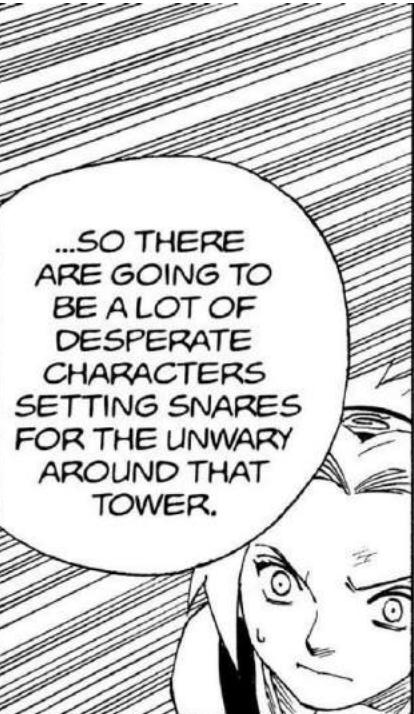












...AND YOU  
THINK YOU'RE  
HOME FREE,  
DON'T RELAX  
YOUR GUARD  
FOR AN INSTANT.  
THE CONDITIONS  
OF THIS EXAM ARE  
APT TO GIVE RISE  
TO THEM...

EVEN  
WHEN  
YOU'RE  
STANDING  
AT THE  
TOWER  
DOOR...  
COLLECTORS?

THIS  
TYPE OF  
EXAM BRINGS  
OUT ANOTHER  
SORT OF  
ENEMY...  
I CALL  
THEM THE  
COLLECTORS.

...SO THEY TRY  
TO GET THEIR  
HANDS ON AS  
MANY EXTRA SETS OF  
SCROLLS AS THEY CAN  
TO BUY THEMSELVES  
SAFE PASSAGE  
FROM ANYONE  
THEY CAN'T OR  
WON'T FACE  
FAIRLY.

...BOTTOM  
FEEDERS.  
THEY'RE THE  
ONES WHO MAY  
NOT BE GOOD  
ENOUGH TO  
BEAT EVERY  
ENEMY THEY  
FIND...

...BECAUSE IF  
THOSE TEAMS ARE  
ON THEIR SECOND  
OR THIRD ATTEMPTS  
AT PASSING THE CHŪNIN  
EXAMS, THE COLLECTORS  
CAN BARTER THE SURPLUS  
SCROLLS FOR ADVANCE  
INTELLIGENCE ABOUT  
THE NEXT STAGES  
OF THE TEST.

SOME OF  
THEM ALSO  
WANT TO HAVE  
EXTRA SCROLLS  
TO OFFER OTHER  
TEAMS FROM THEIR  
HOME VILLAGES  
WHO MAY NOT  
HAVE FARED  
AS WELL...

...JUST SO  
THEY'LL HAVE  
LESS COMPETITION  
TO DEAL WITH AS  
THEY MOVE ON TO  
THE THIRD EXAM  
AND BEYOND.

AND THERE  
ARE THOSE WHO  
AREN'T AFTER  
YOUR SCROLL...  
THEY'RE AFTER  
YOUR LIFE! THEY  
WANT TO ELIMINATE  
STRONG TEAMS  
NOW...





## THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 4: GRADE-SCHOOL OBSESSIONS

BY THE MIDDLE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MY INTEREST HAD GROWN TO INCLUDE SCULPTING AND MODEL-MAKING. INITIALLY, ANY TIME MY PARENTS WOULDN'T BUY ME A TOY I REALLY WANTED, I'D MAKE IT FOR MYSELF OUT OF CLAY. BUT THAT DIDN'T SATISFY ME FOR LONG, SO I TURNED TO THE PLASTIC MODELS BASED ON THE GUNDAM SERIES -- GUNPLA (GUNDAM PLASTIC) FOR SHORT. I GOT SOME FOR A NEW YEAR'S GIFT AND ASSEMBLED THEM IN AN ABSOLUTE FRENZY. THE NEXT FAD WAS PLAMORAJICON (OR PLARAJI) -- RADIO-CONTROLLED PLASTIC MODEL VEHICLES -- AND I JUMPED ON THAT PONY AS WELL (IN AMERICA, THESE WERE CALLED R/C CARS).

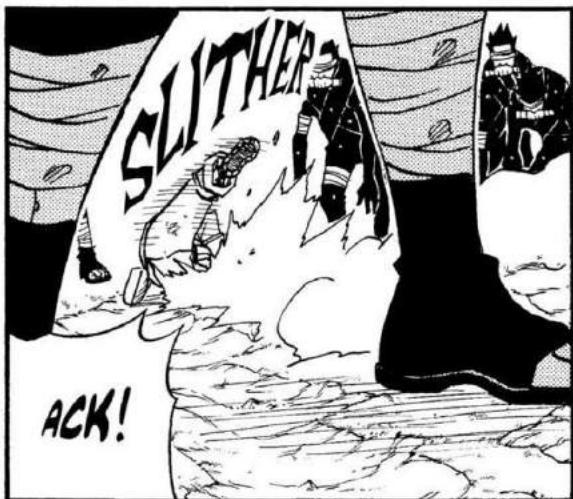
I NAMED MY PLARAJI "THE ELEPHANT," MADE AN ELEPHANT-SHAPED DECAL OUT OF SHEET PLASTIC, STUCK IT ON, AND RACED IT... DUE, NO DOUBT, TO THE INFLUENCE OF A POPULAR MANGA OF THE TIME CALLED "RAJICON BOY." THE PLARAJI I OWNED WAS BASED ON THE MITSUBISHI PAJERO, BUT IT WASN'T VERY FAST, AND WAS CONSTANTLY BEING OVERTAKEN BY THE PLARAJIS OF MY LITTLE BROTHER AND ALL OF MY FRIENDS. THIS ANNOYED ME VERY MUCH, SO I REMODELED MY PAJERO WITH THE "GRASSHOPPER UPGRADE KIT," WHICH WAS ACTUALLY DESIGNED FOR A DIFFERENT MODEL ENTIRELY. I MELTED THE PAJERO'S PLASTIC CHASSIS WITH A SOLDERING IRON -- NEVER GIVING A THOUGHT TO THE TOXIC FUMES BEING RELEASED INTO THE UNVENTILATED LITTLE ROOM -- AND WAS ECSTATIC WHEN I SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THE UPGRADE. BUT MY IDIOTIC ELATION WAS SHORT-LIVED, AS NEW PROBLEMS QUICKLY UNFOLDED!

BECAUSE I HAD FORCIBLY WELDED INCOMPATIBLE PARTS ONTO MY CAR, THE PAJERO'S BODY NO LONGER FIT WELL ONTO THE CHASSIS. I WAS TERRIBLY DEPRESSED OVER THE IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE I'D DONE TO MY CAR, WITH THE BODY LEANING OFF THE CHASSIS AT ABOUT A TEN-DEGREE ANGLE, BUT I INSISTED THAT APPEARANCE MEANT NOTHING. A PLARAJI SHOULD BE JUDGED BY HOW IT PERFORMS, NOT HOW IT LOOKS! BUT WHEN WE RACED AGAIN, THE OTHERS OUTMATCHED MY POOR LITTLE CAR IN BOTH SPEED AND APPEARANCE.

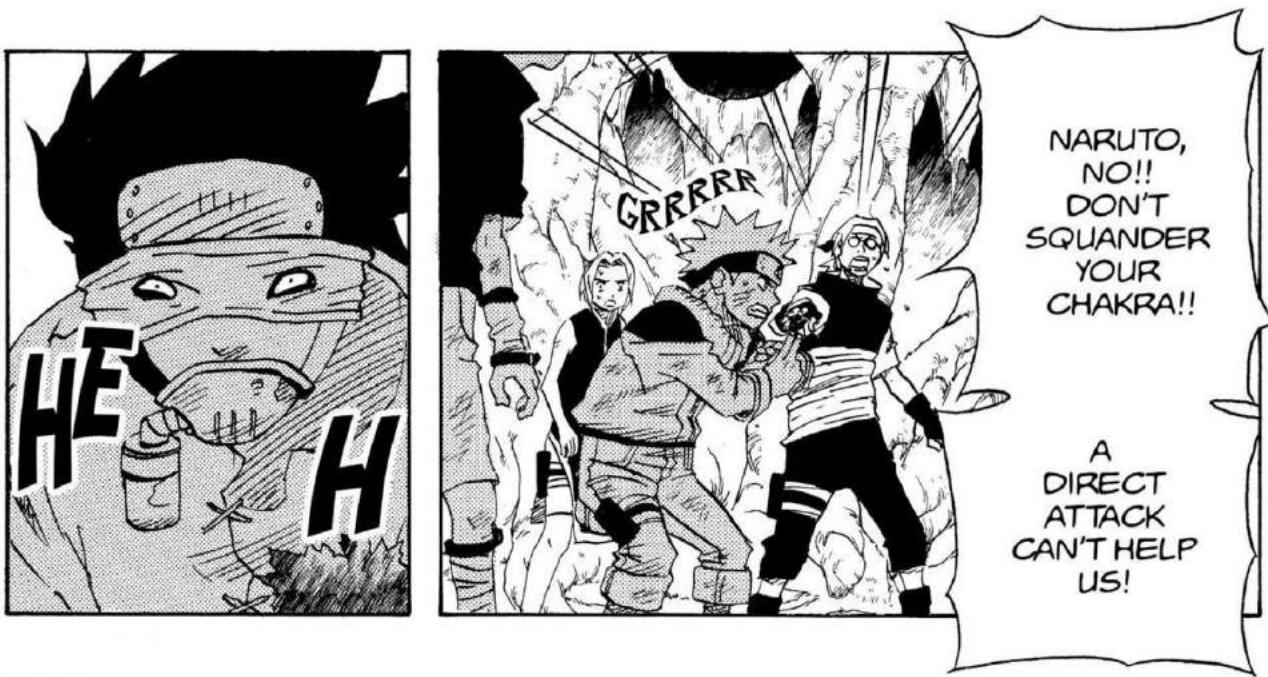
UNDAUNTED EVEN AFTER GETTING HIT WITH THIS ONE-TWO COMBINATION OF DISAPPOINTMENTS, I MANAGED TO GET MY HANDS ON AN INCREDIBLE MOTOR CALLED THE "BLACK MOTOR ANGELS" AND INSTALLED IT IN THE PAJERO. "I'LL NEVER LOSE AGAIN!" I SAID, AND FINALLY WON THE RACING VICTORY THAT HAD BEEN MY HEART'S DESIRE. BUT THE MOTOR WAS SO POWERFUL THAT SUDDENLY SMOKE BEGAN POURING OUT OF THE CONTROLS. THE PAJERO WOULD NEVER ENTER ANOTHER RACE. I KEPT IT ON DISPLAY IN MY ROOM, BUT IN MY HEART I WAS DESPONDENT AND FULL OF REGRET ABOUT EVER HAVING TRIED THE GRASSHOPPER UPGRADE KIT.









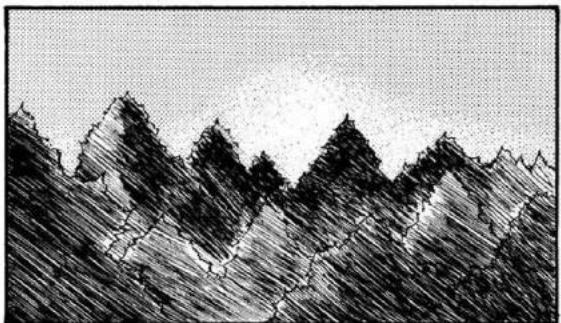




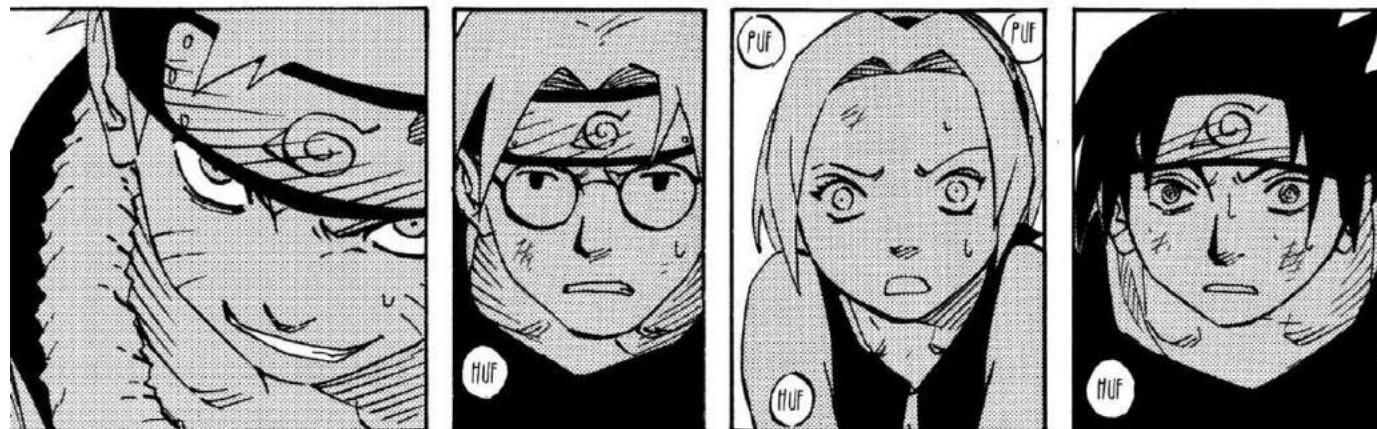
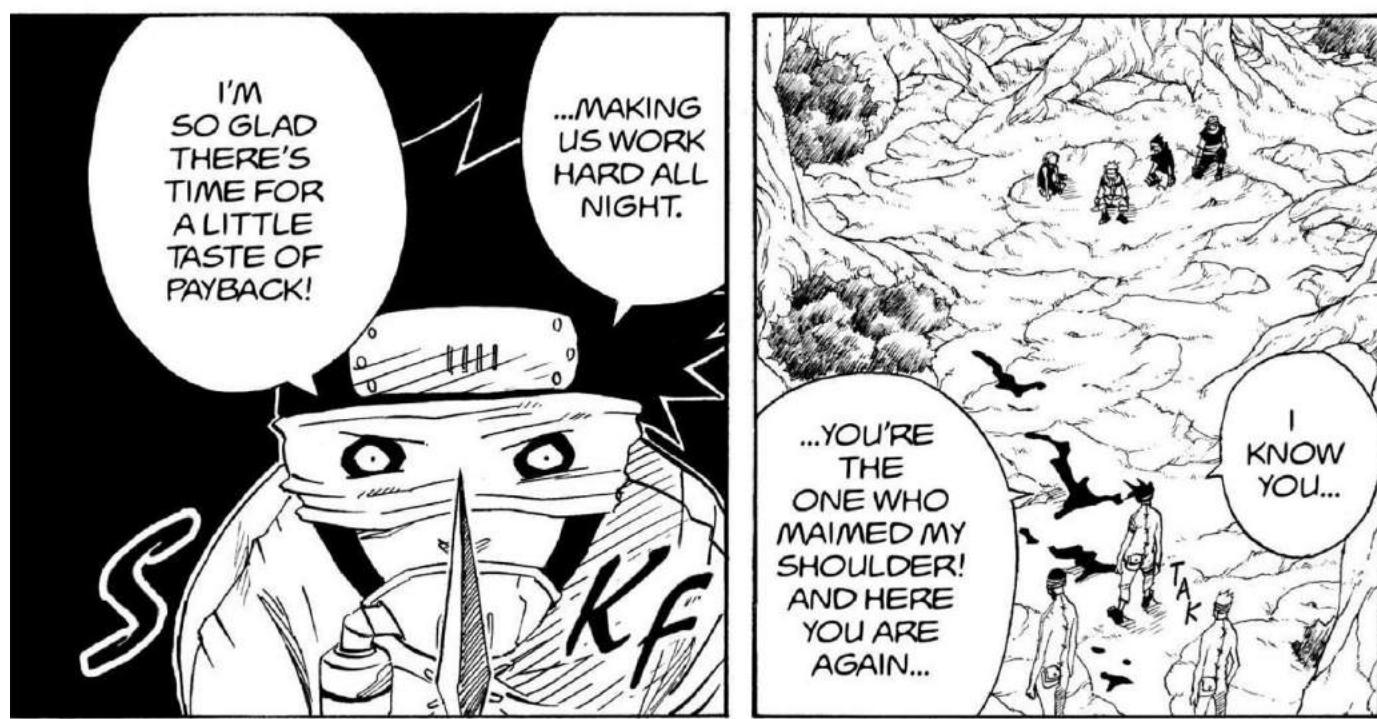
READ  
THIS  
WAY



IT WOULD  
SEEM  
OUR BEST  
COURSE IS  
TO INCREASE  
OUR  
NUMBERS.



















ART  
OF THE  
DOPPELGANGER--  
MIST  
TECHNIQUE!

POP

!!



I'LL JUST  
PLOW RIGHT  
THROUGH  
THEM UNTIL  
I GET TO THE  
REAL GUY!

THERE'S  
GOT TO  
BE MORE  
TO THEM  
THAN THIS...  
STAY  
ALERT!

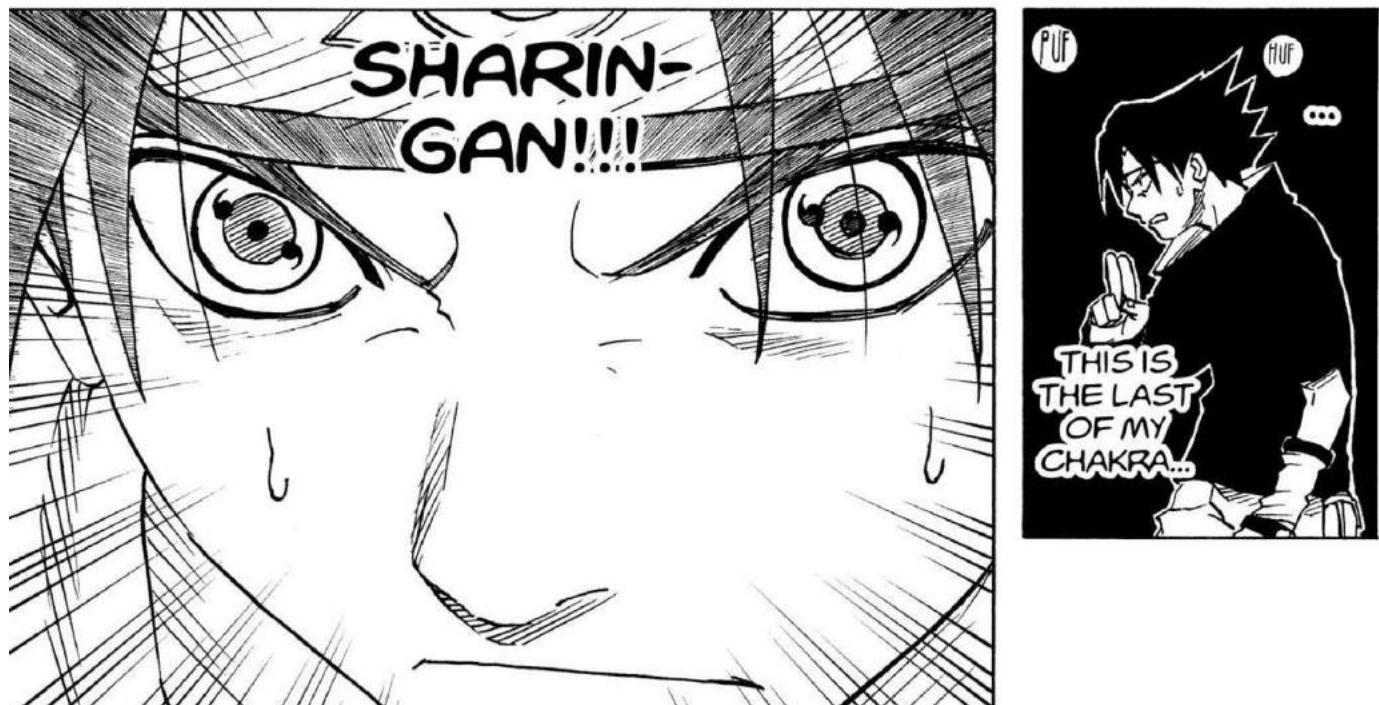
NO...  
JUST  
ORDINARY  
DOPPEL-  
GANGERS...  
BUT...

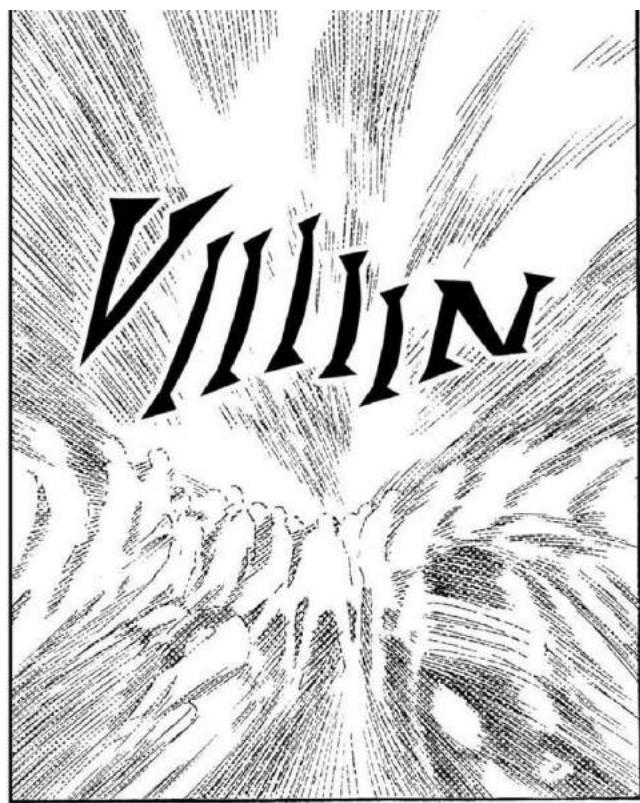
...SHADOW  
DOPPEL-  
GANGERS...?

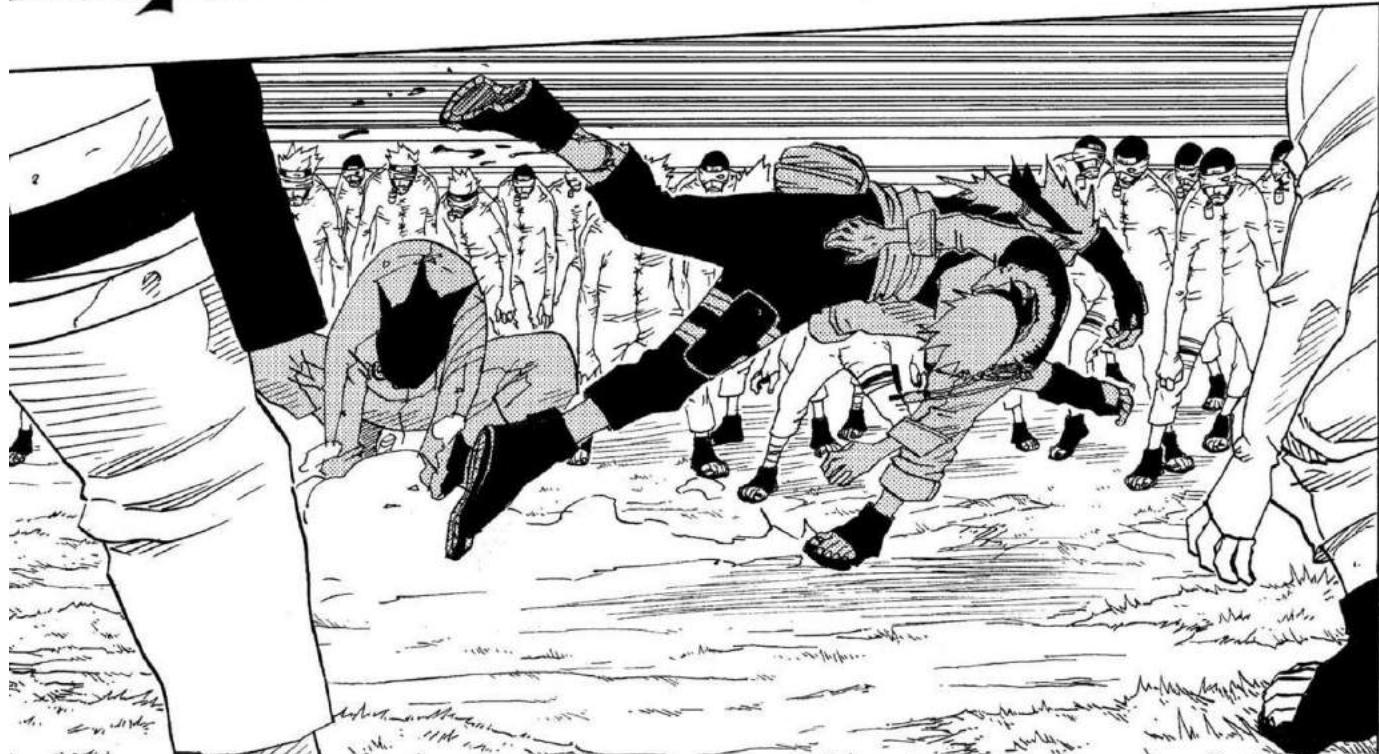
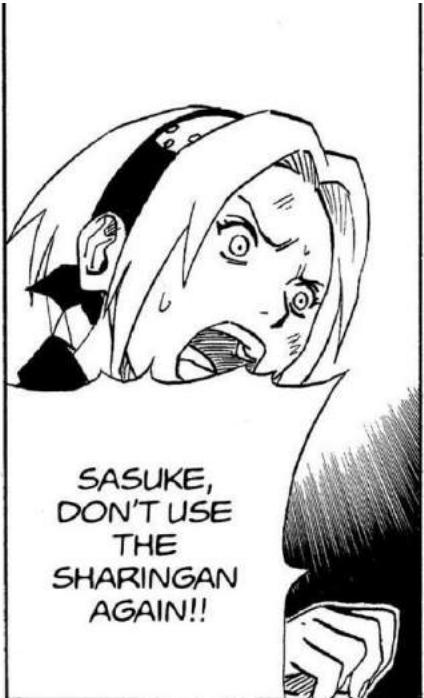
HAH!  
IF MOST  
OF THEM ARE  
ILLUSIONS...  
THEN THERE'S  
JUST ONE  
SOLID  
BODY.



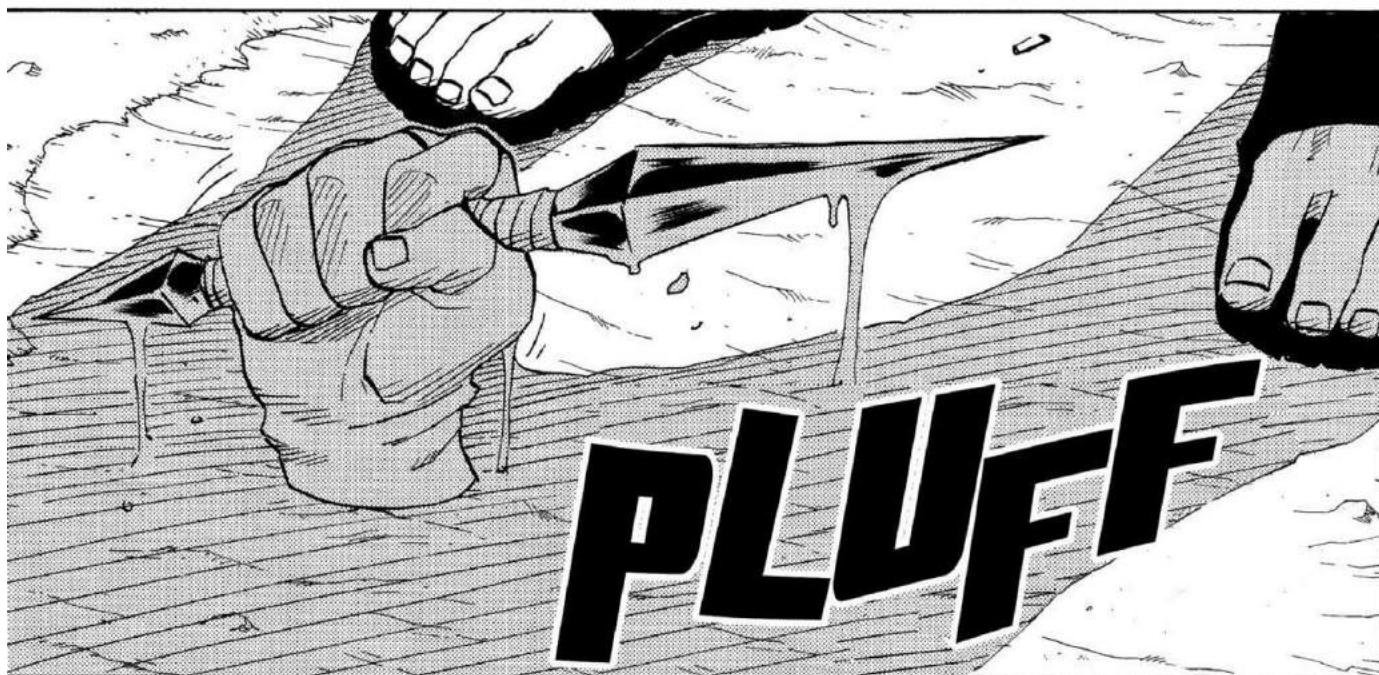
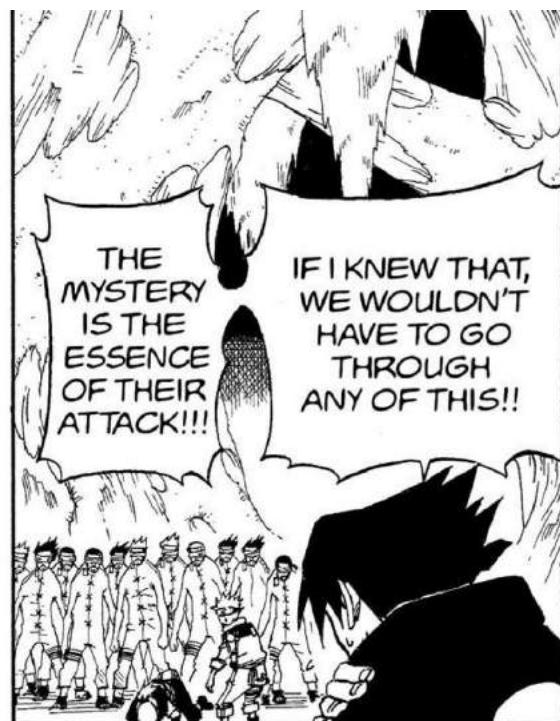


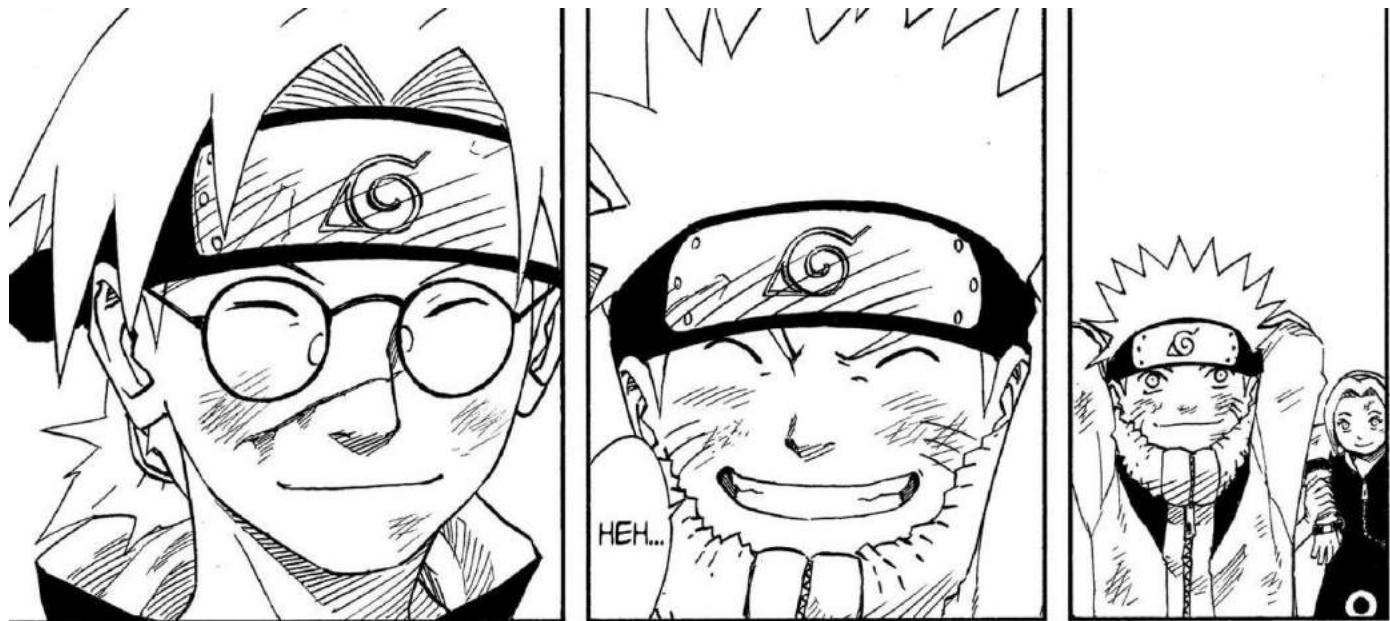








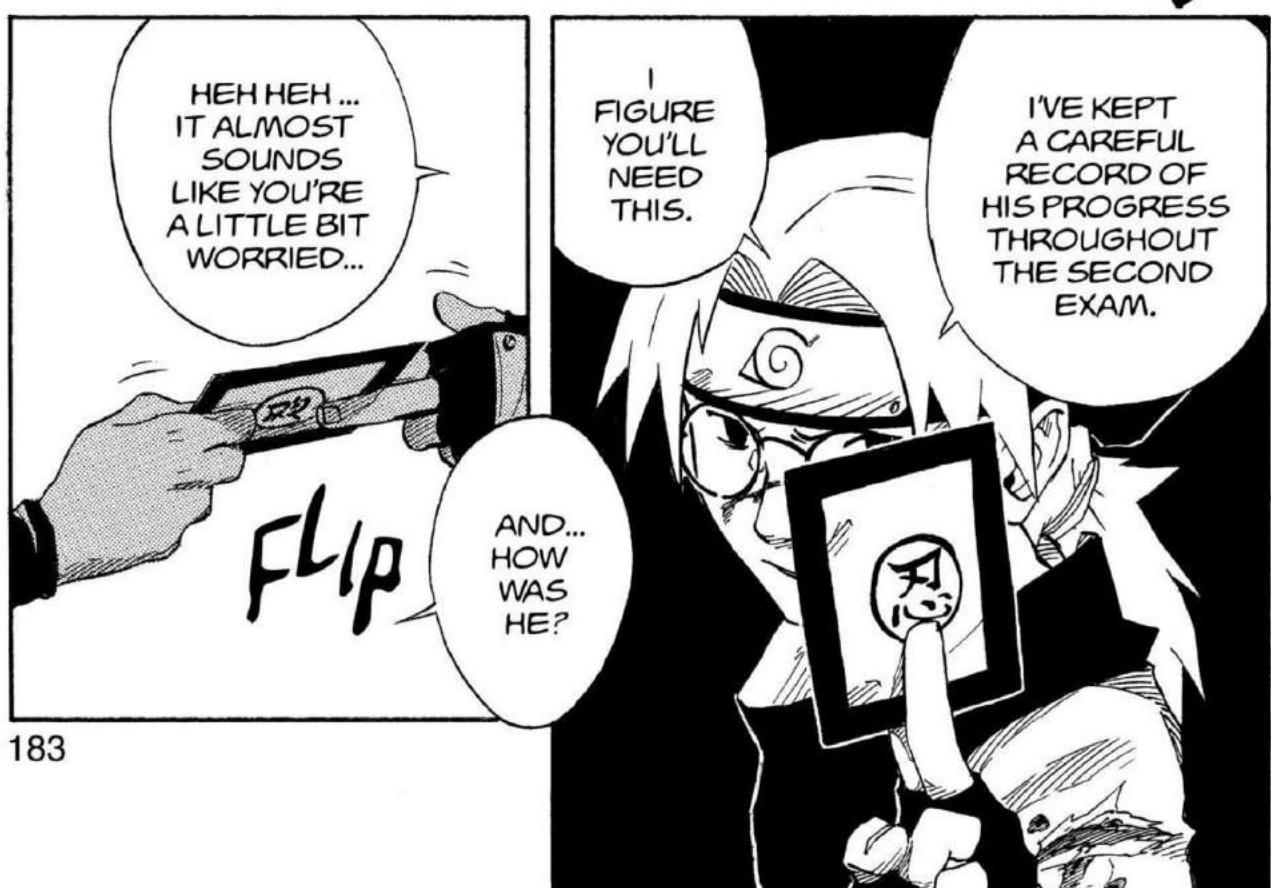




THE SEAL ON THE DOOR SAYS "OPEN." ↴



THE CHARACTER ON THE CARD SAYS "SHINOBI." ↴





...LORD  
OROCHIMARU.

NO...  
I'M JUST  
CURIOS  
TO HEAR  
YOUR  
OPINION...

**vizmanga**

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