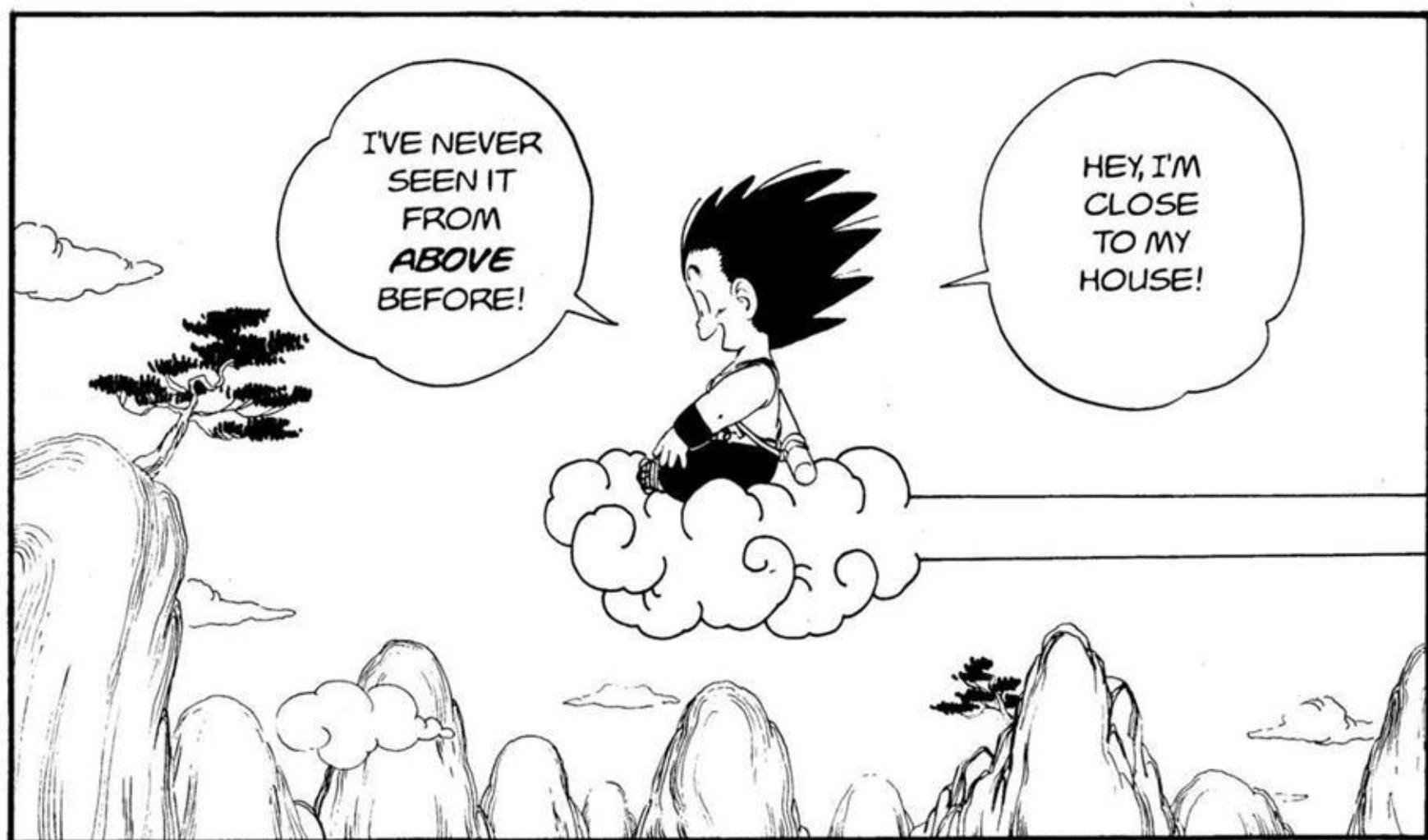
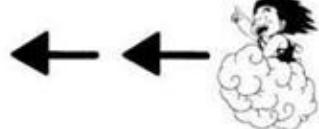


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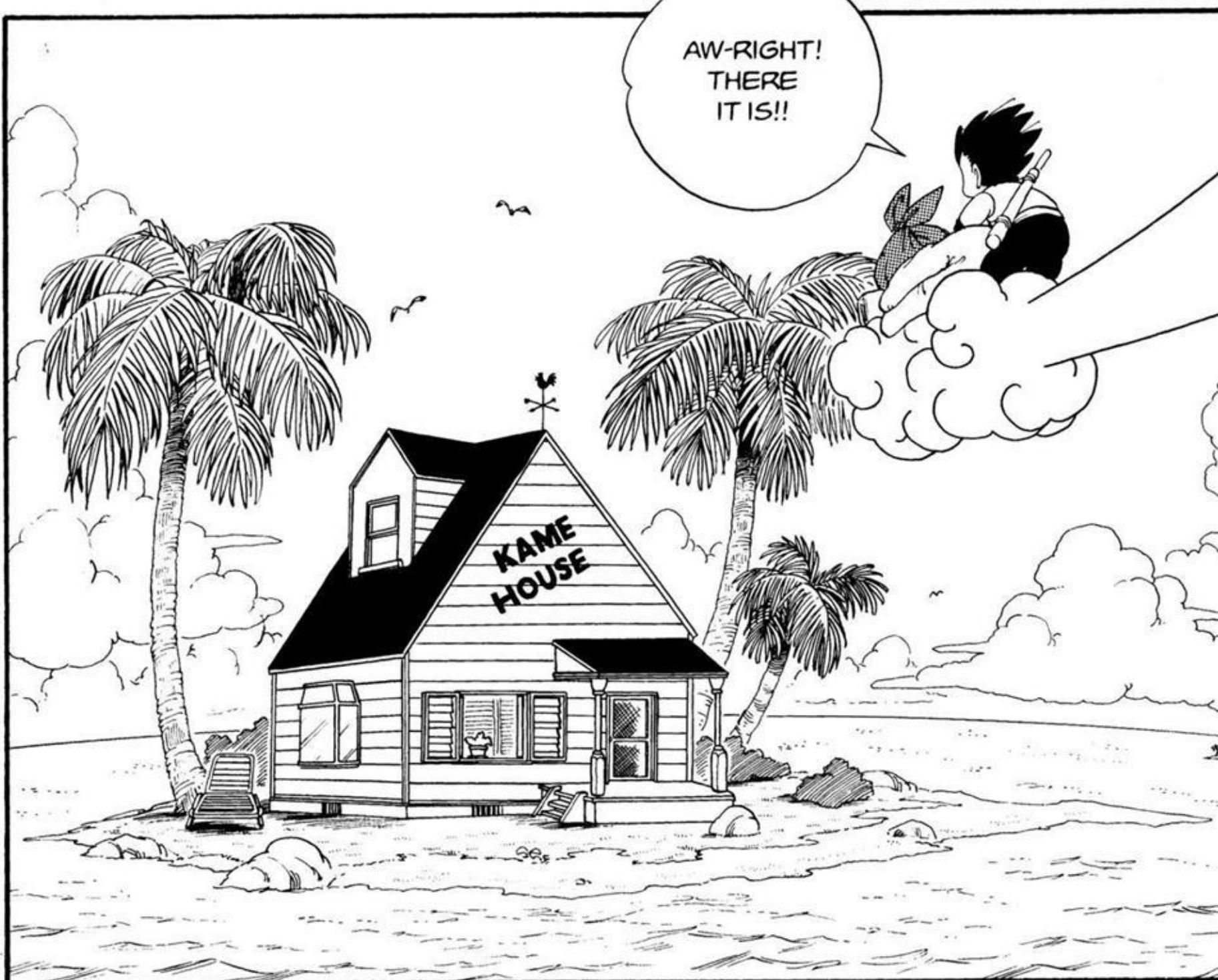
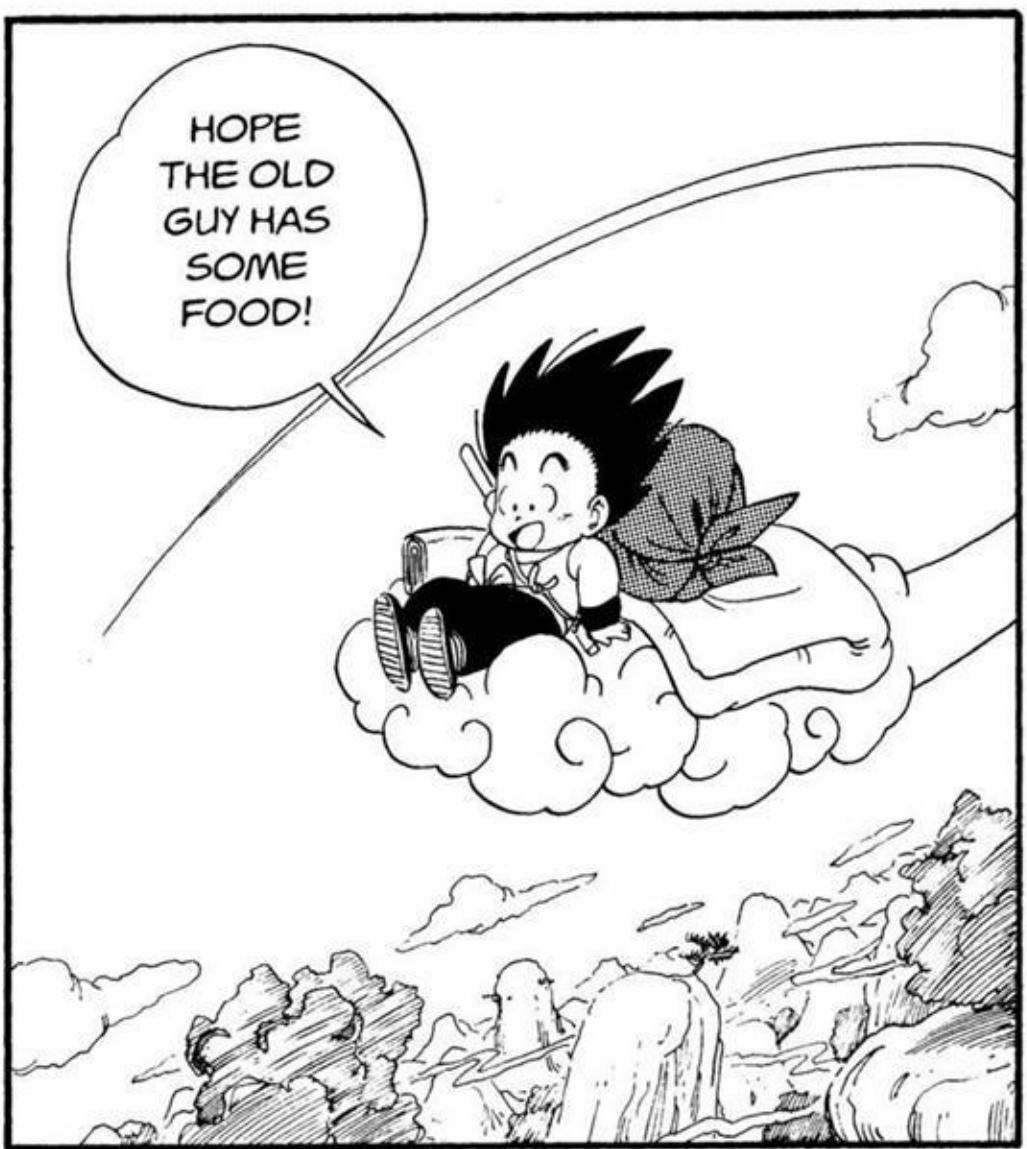
AFTER PARTING WITH BULMA AND CO.,
SON GOKU RACES ON CLOUDBACK TO THE
HERMITAGE OF KAME-SEN'NIN, WHERE HE HOPES
TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL TRAINING...

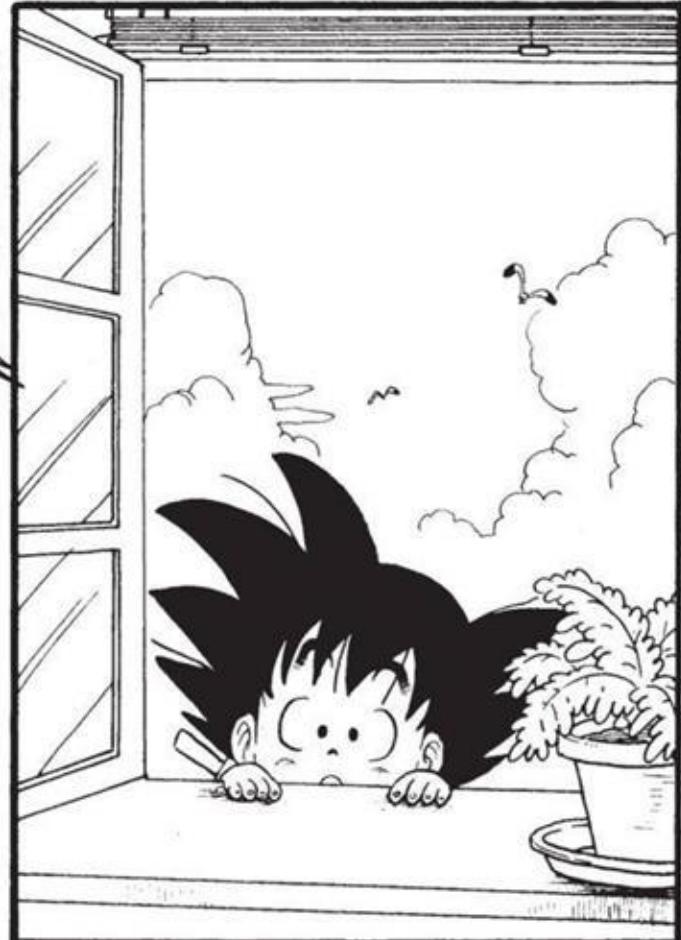
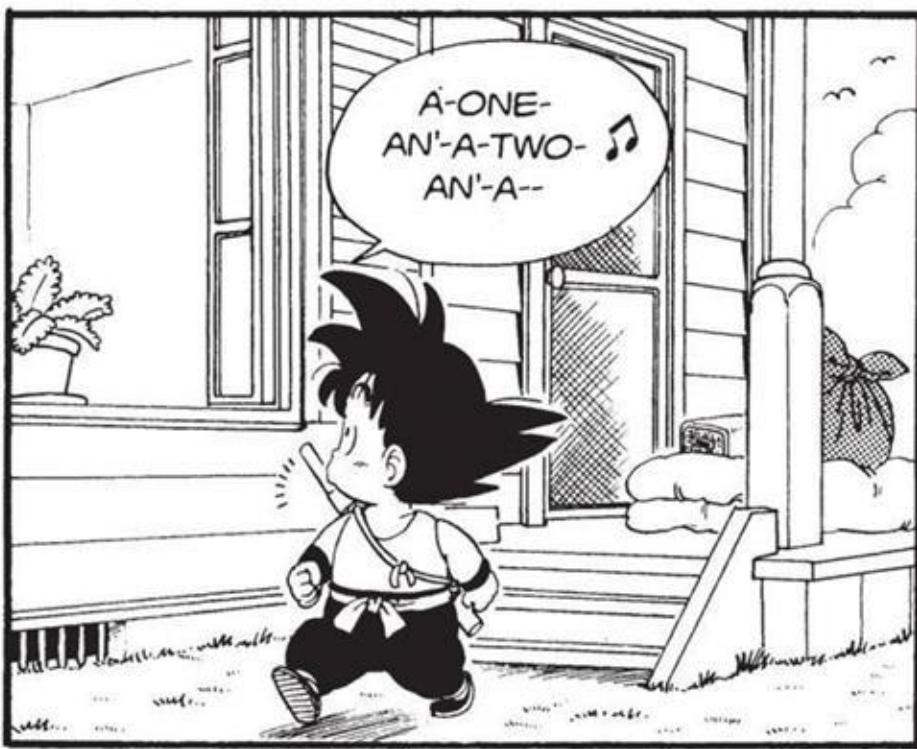
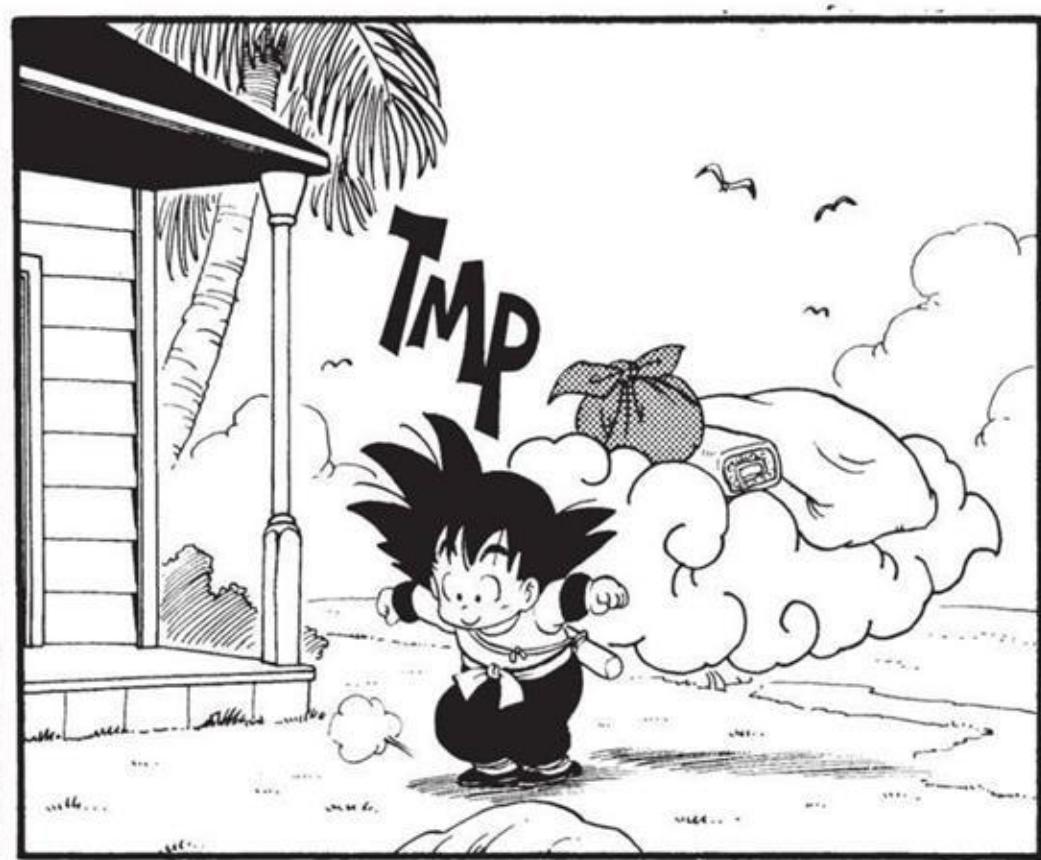
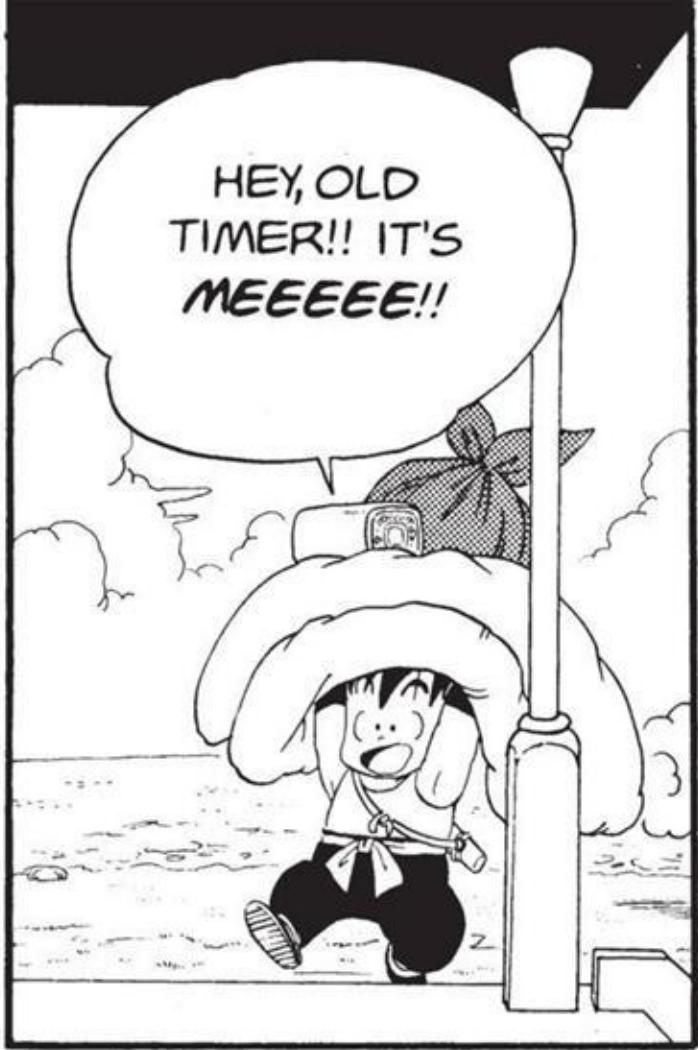
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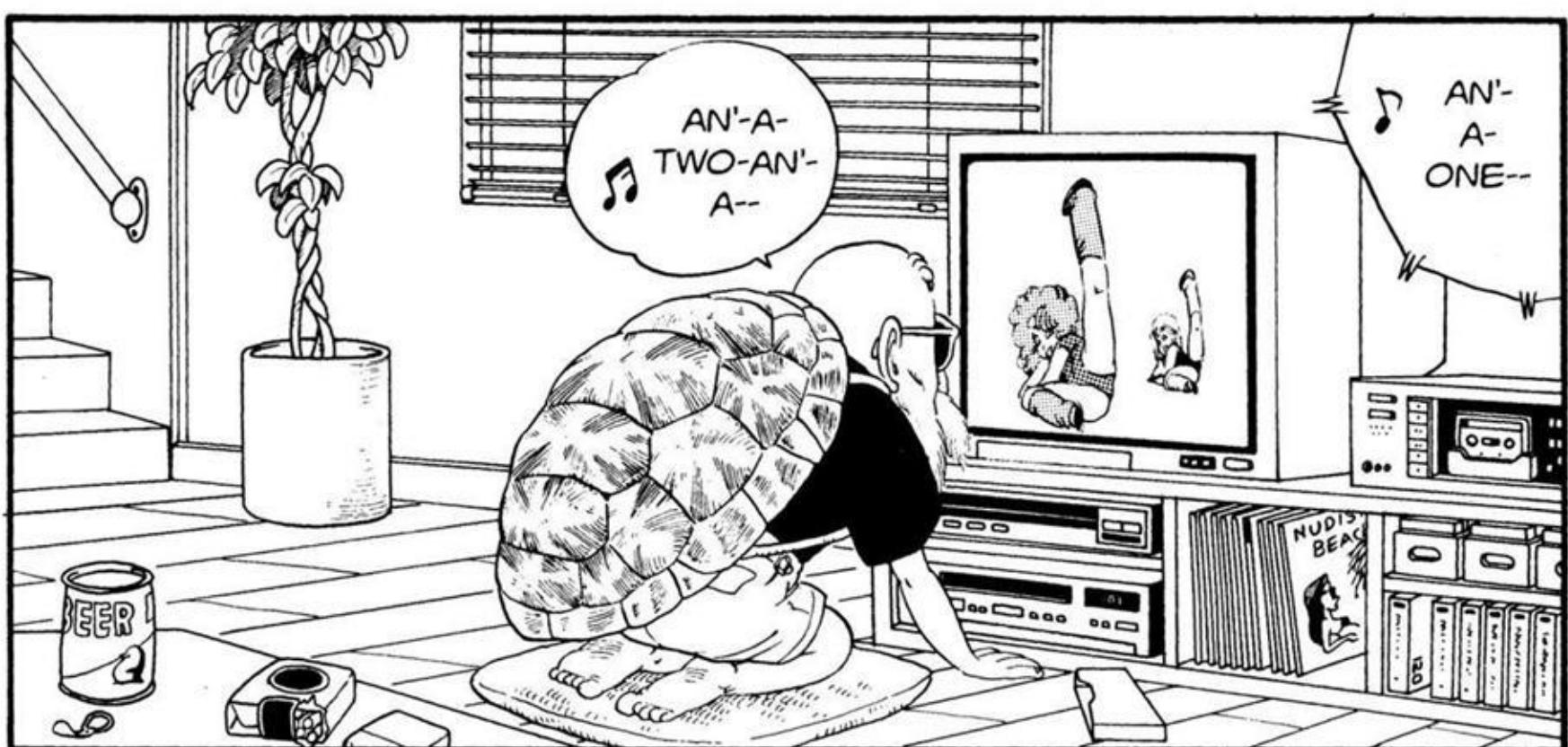
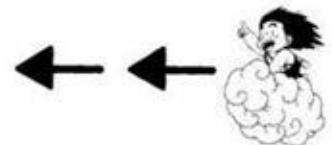


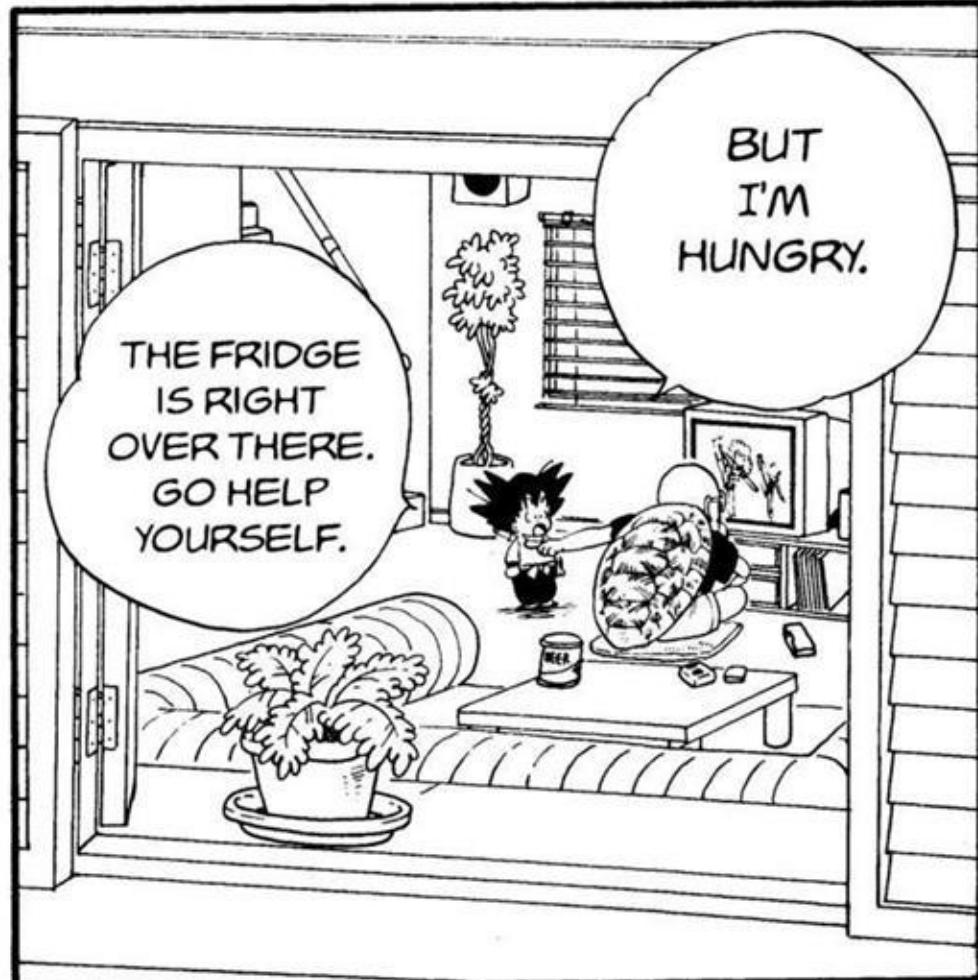
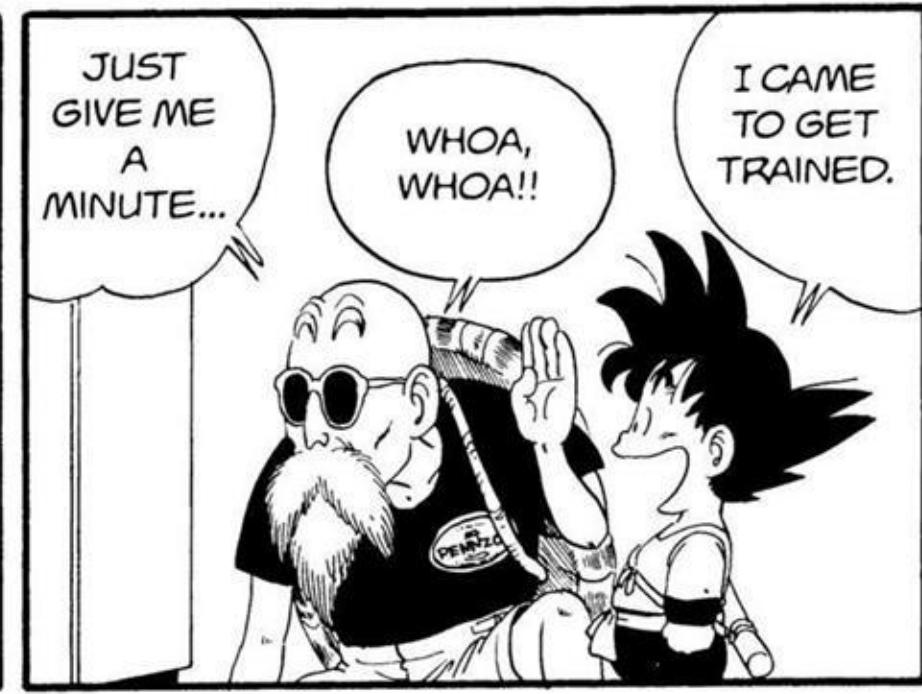
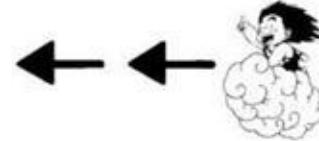


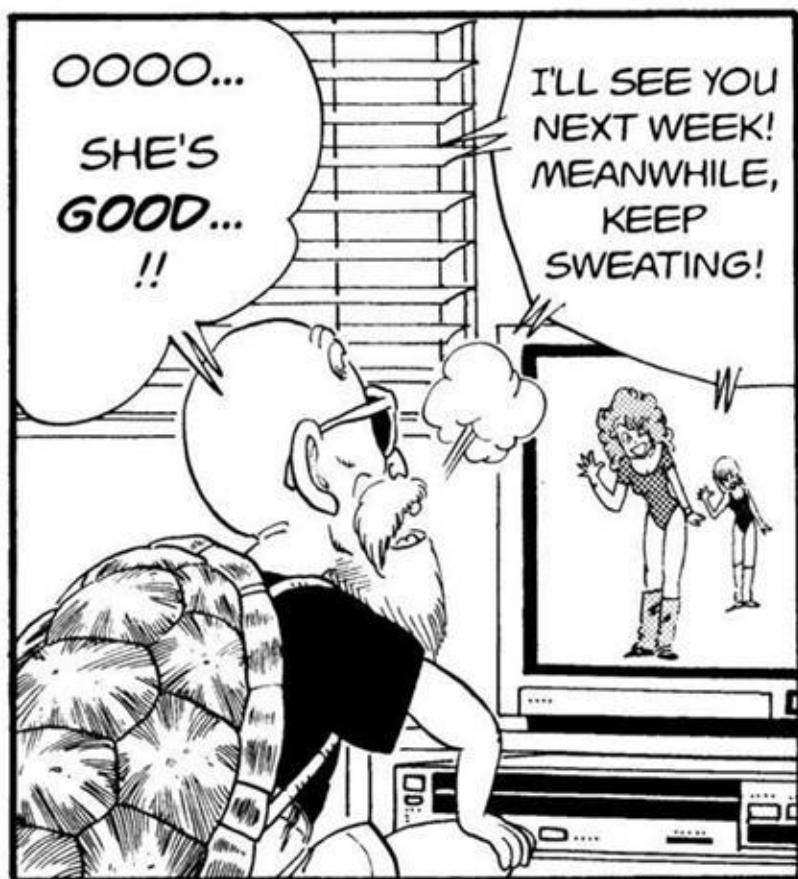
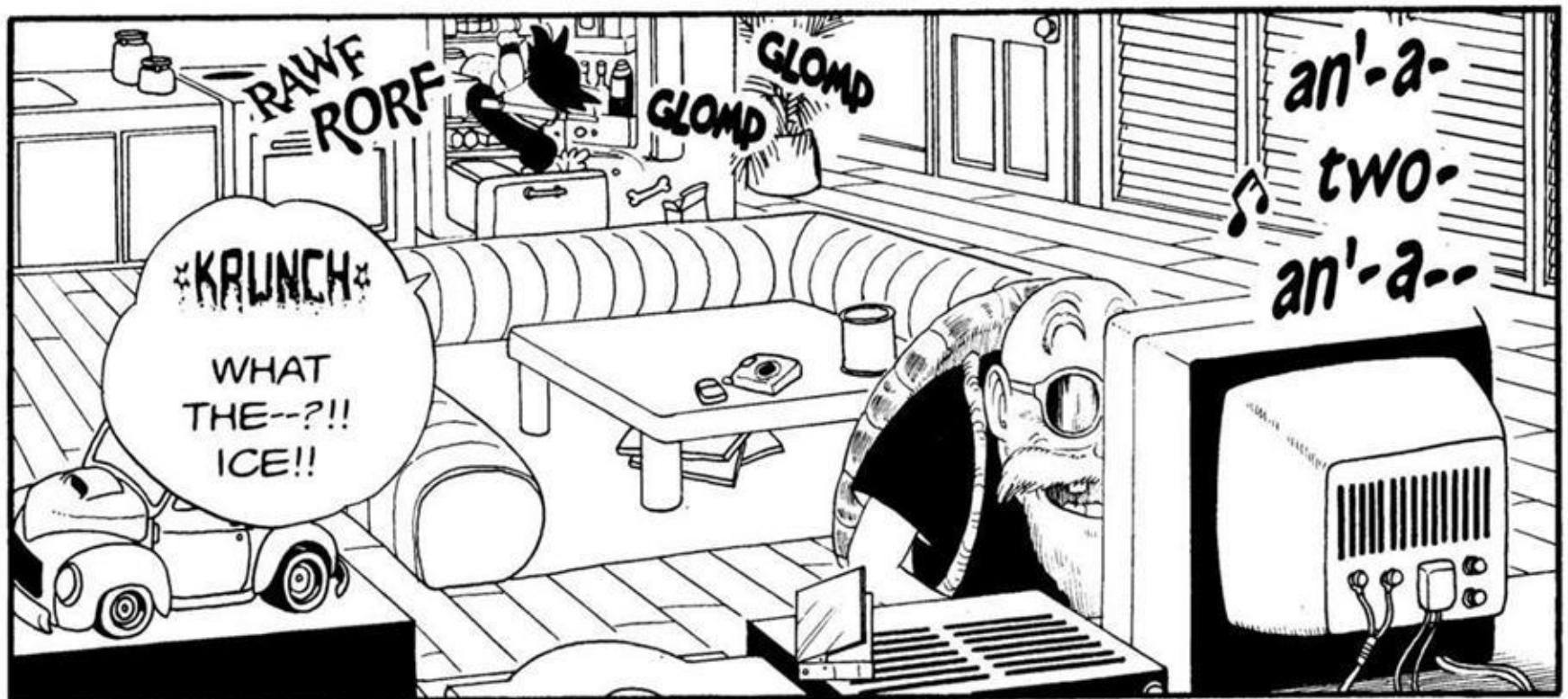
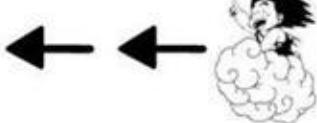
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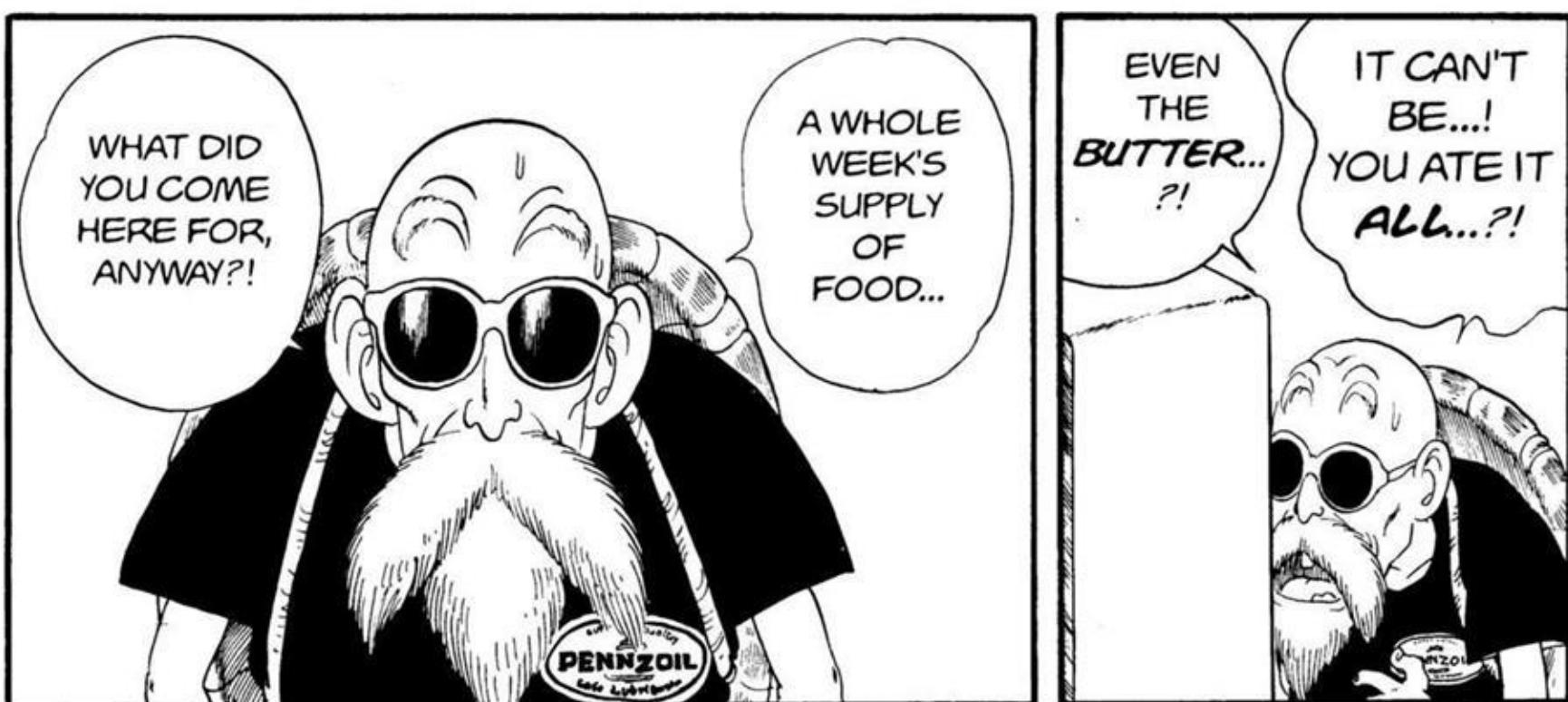
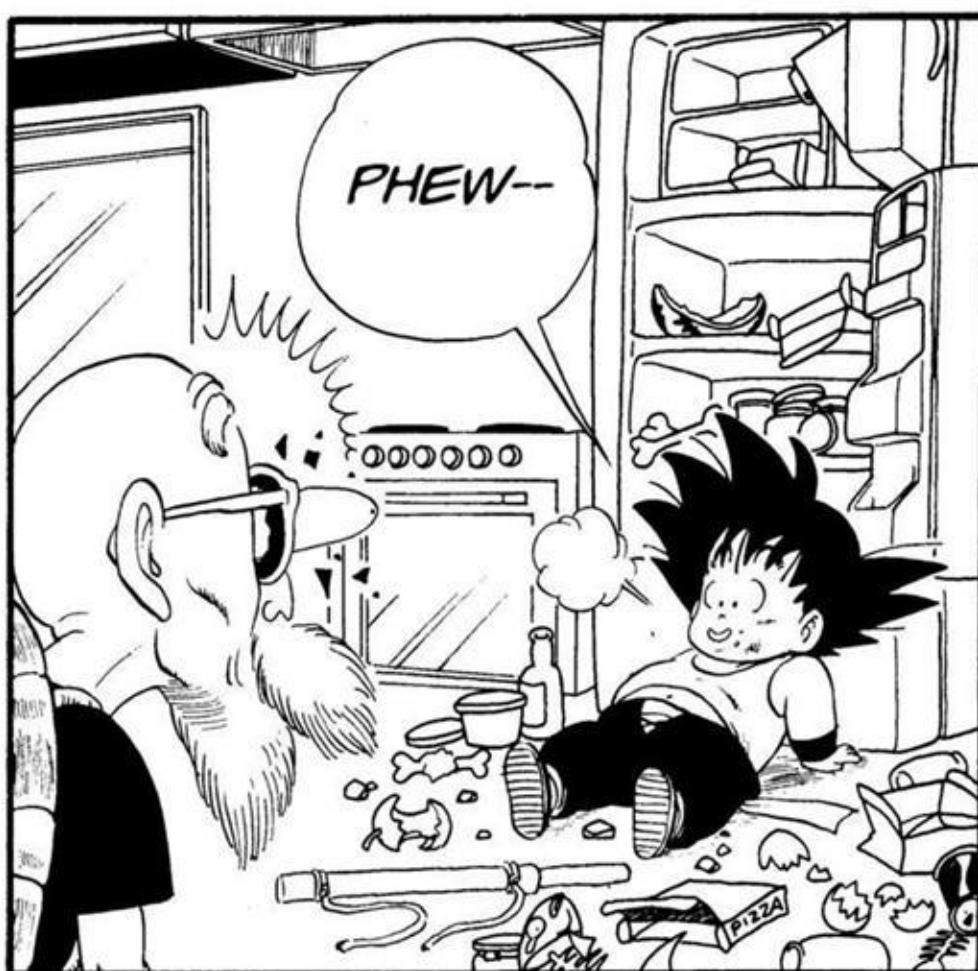
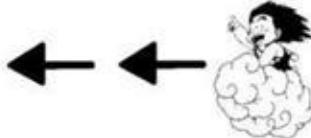


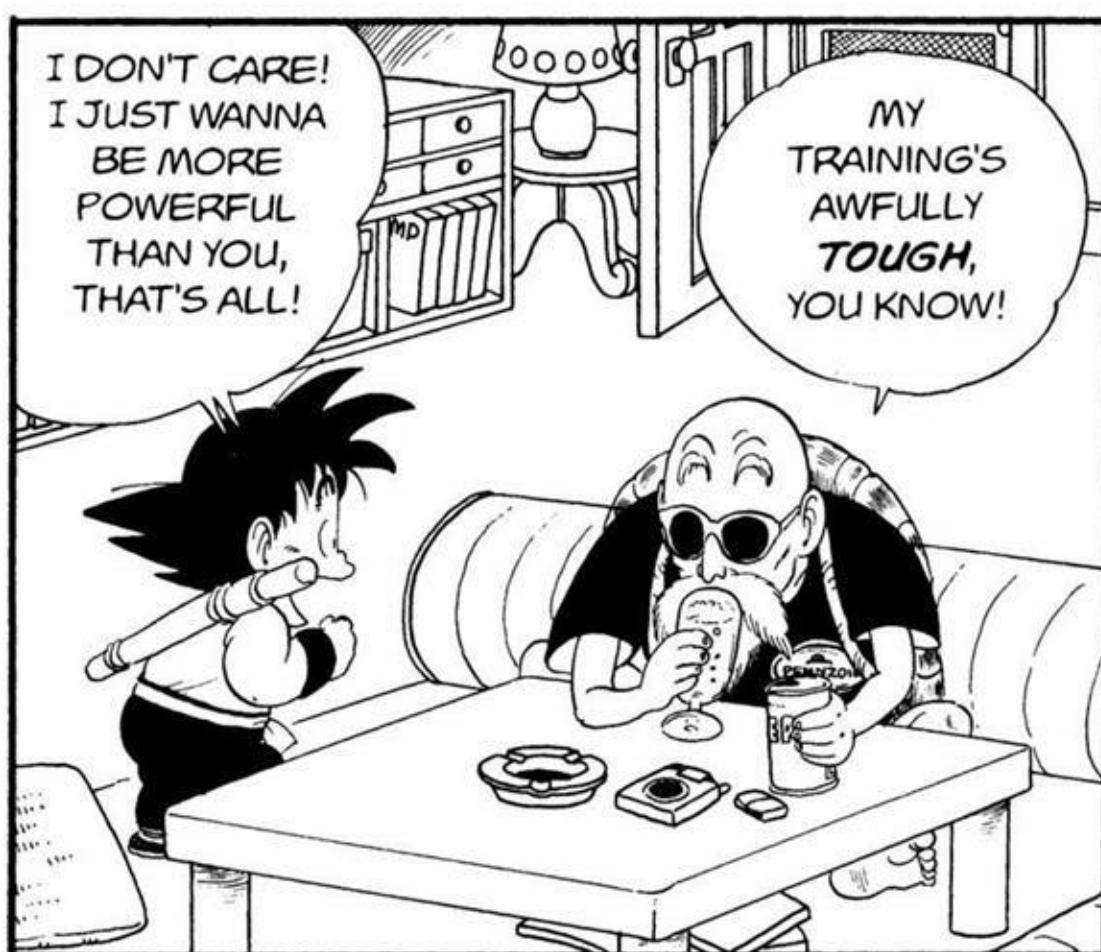
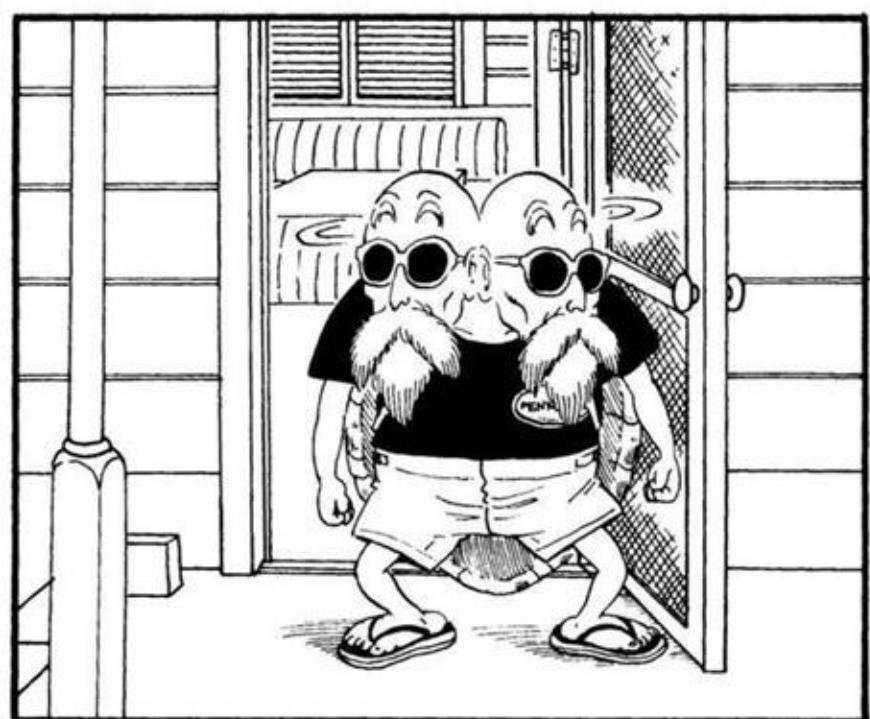
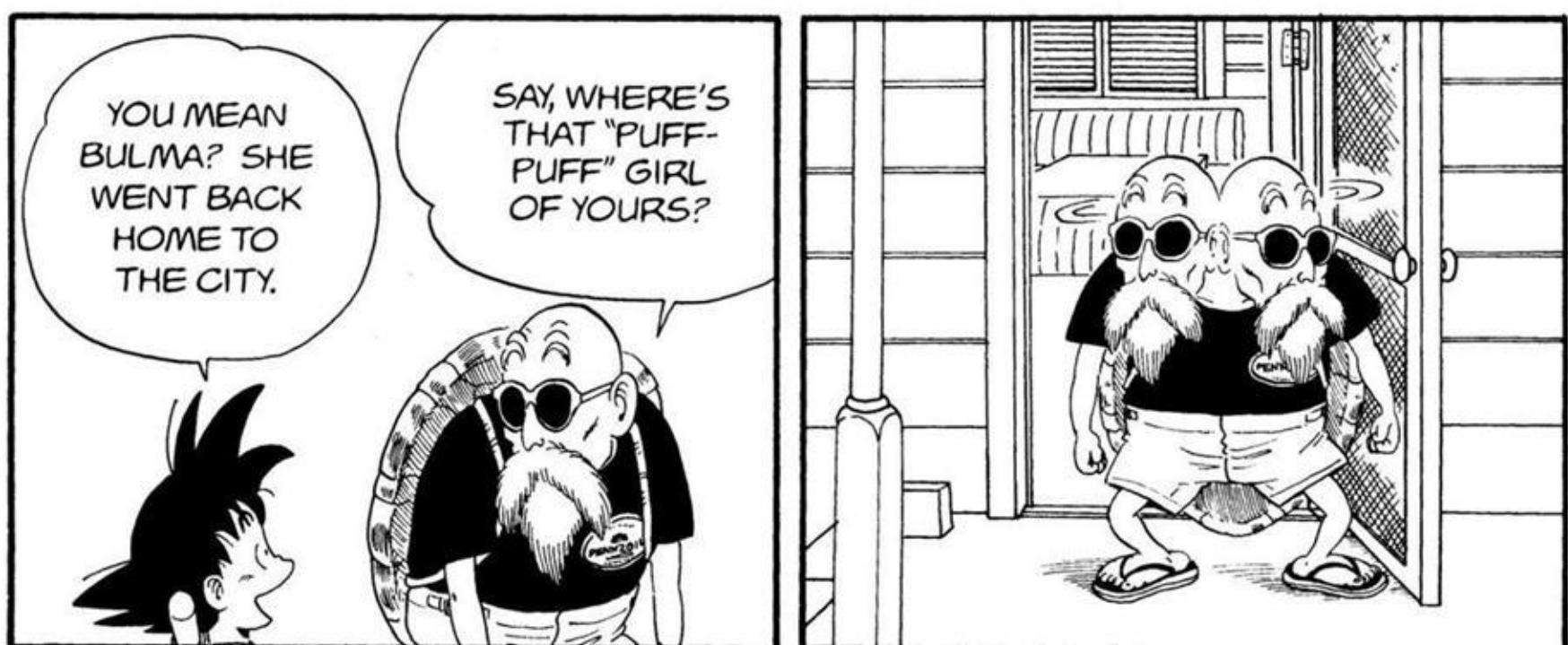
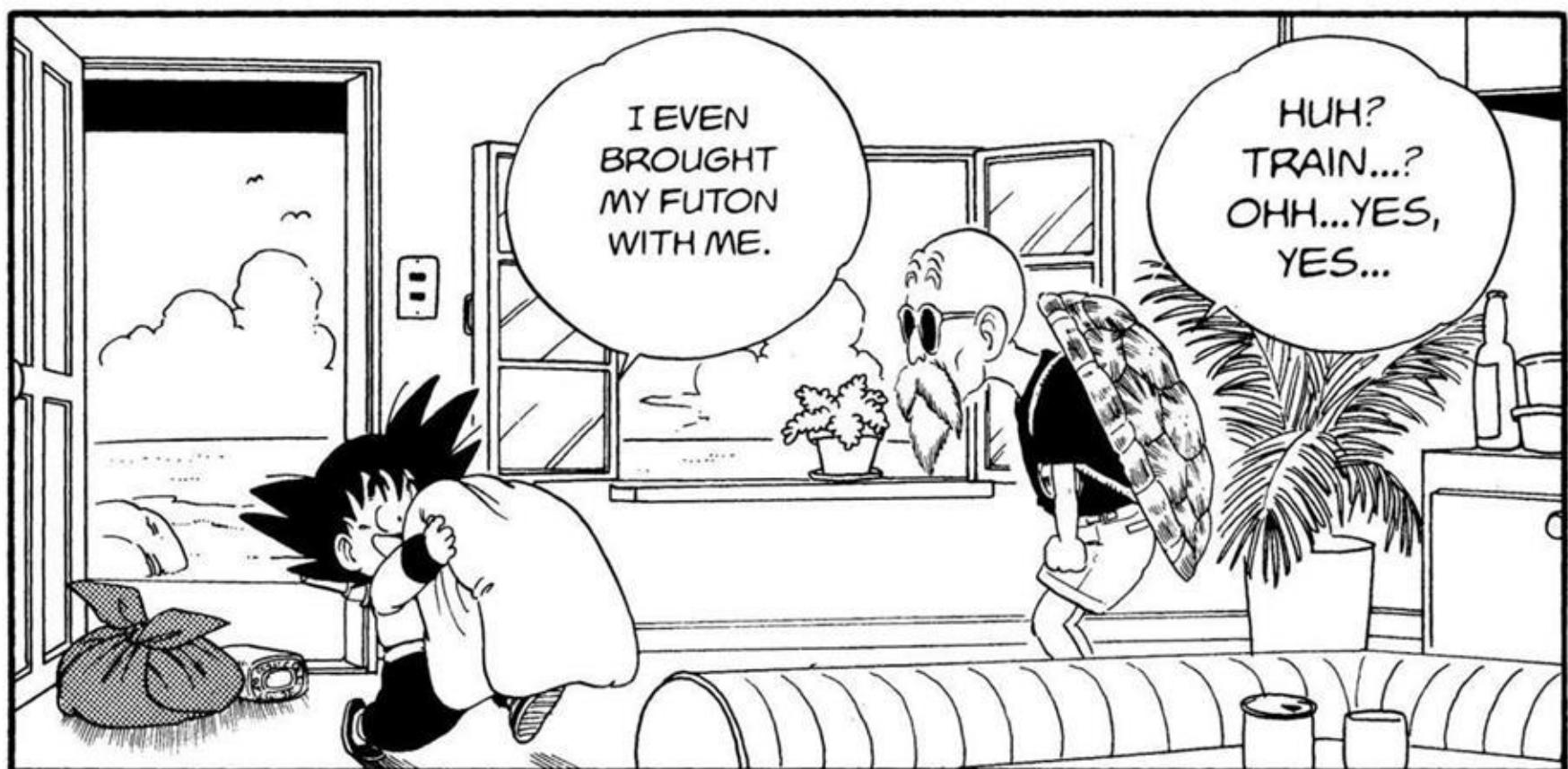
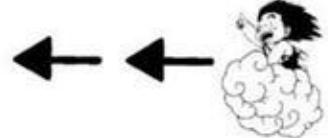


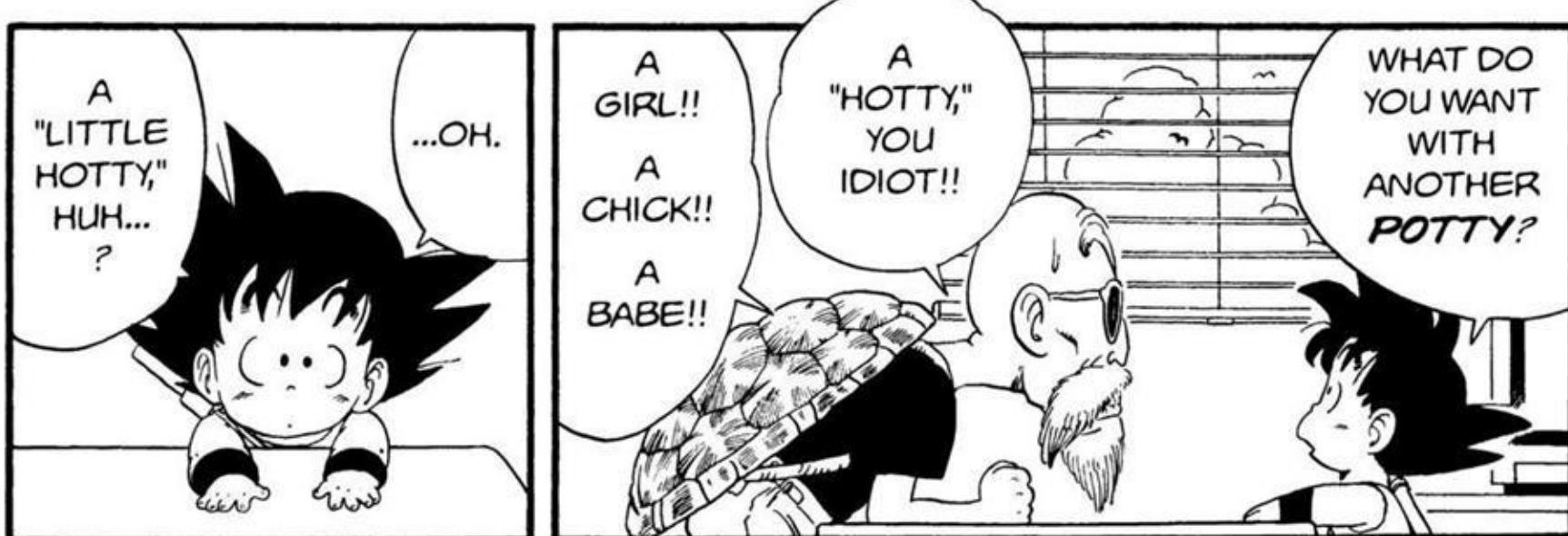
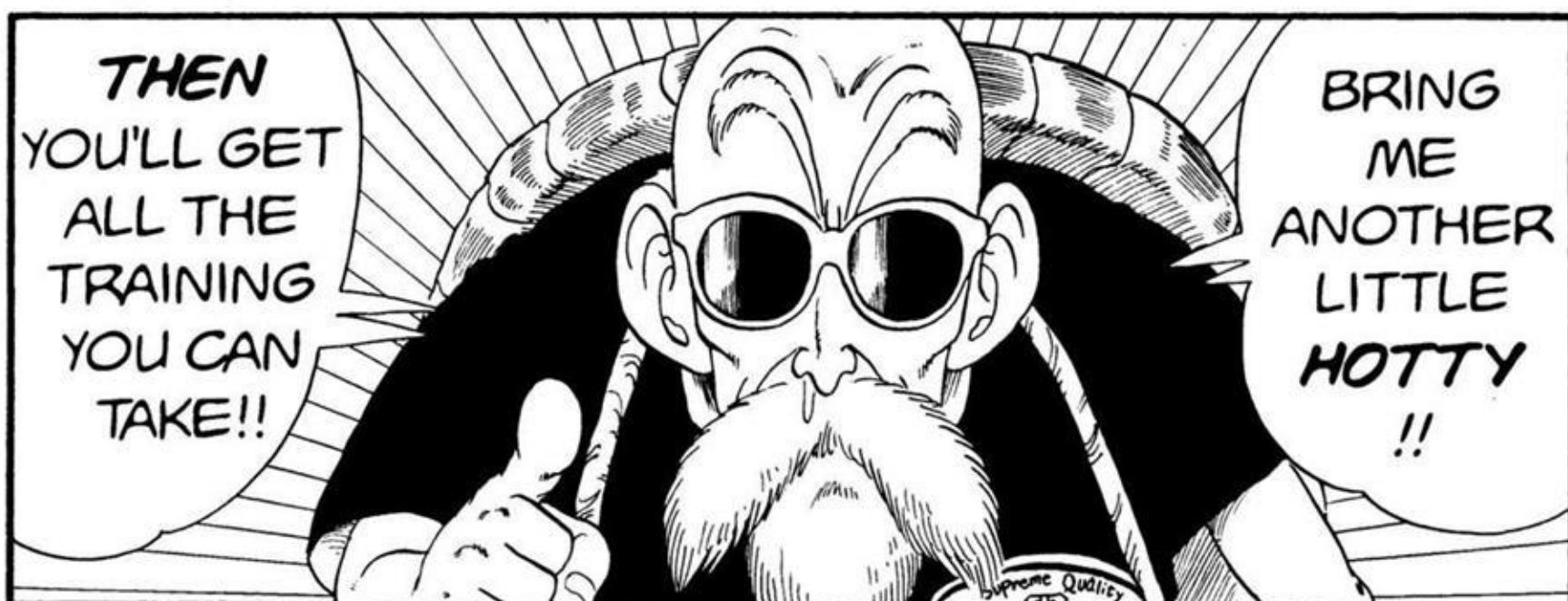
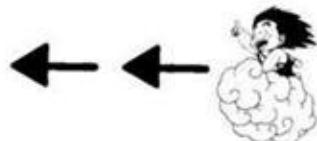


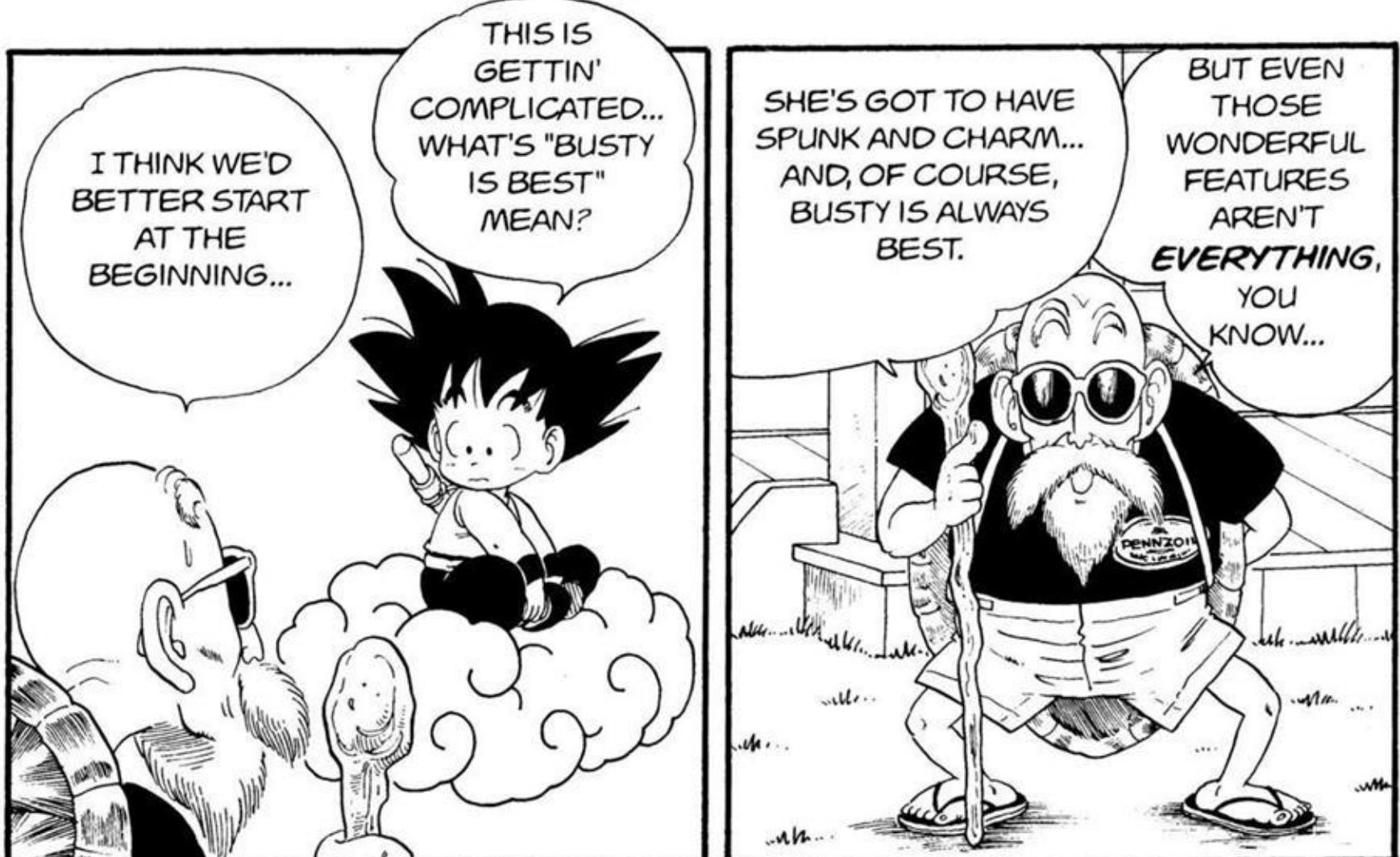
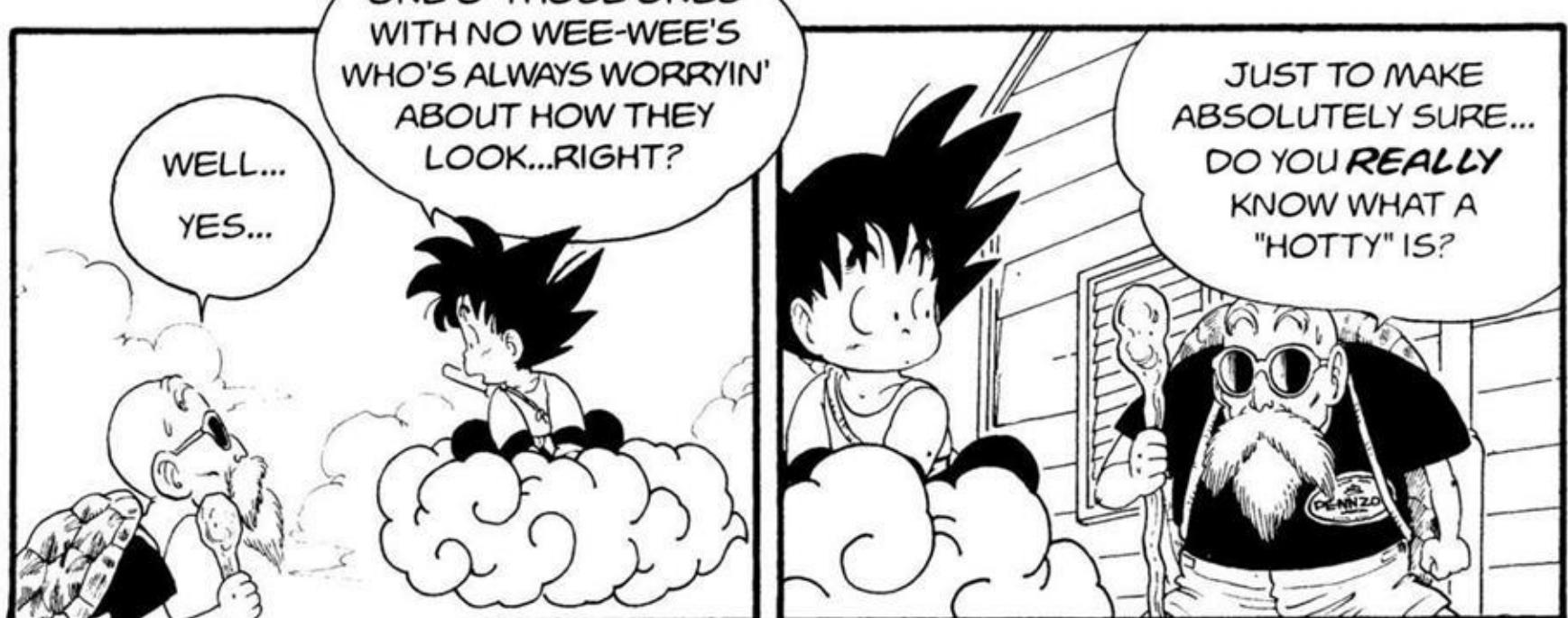
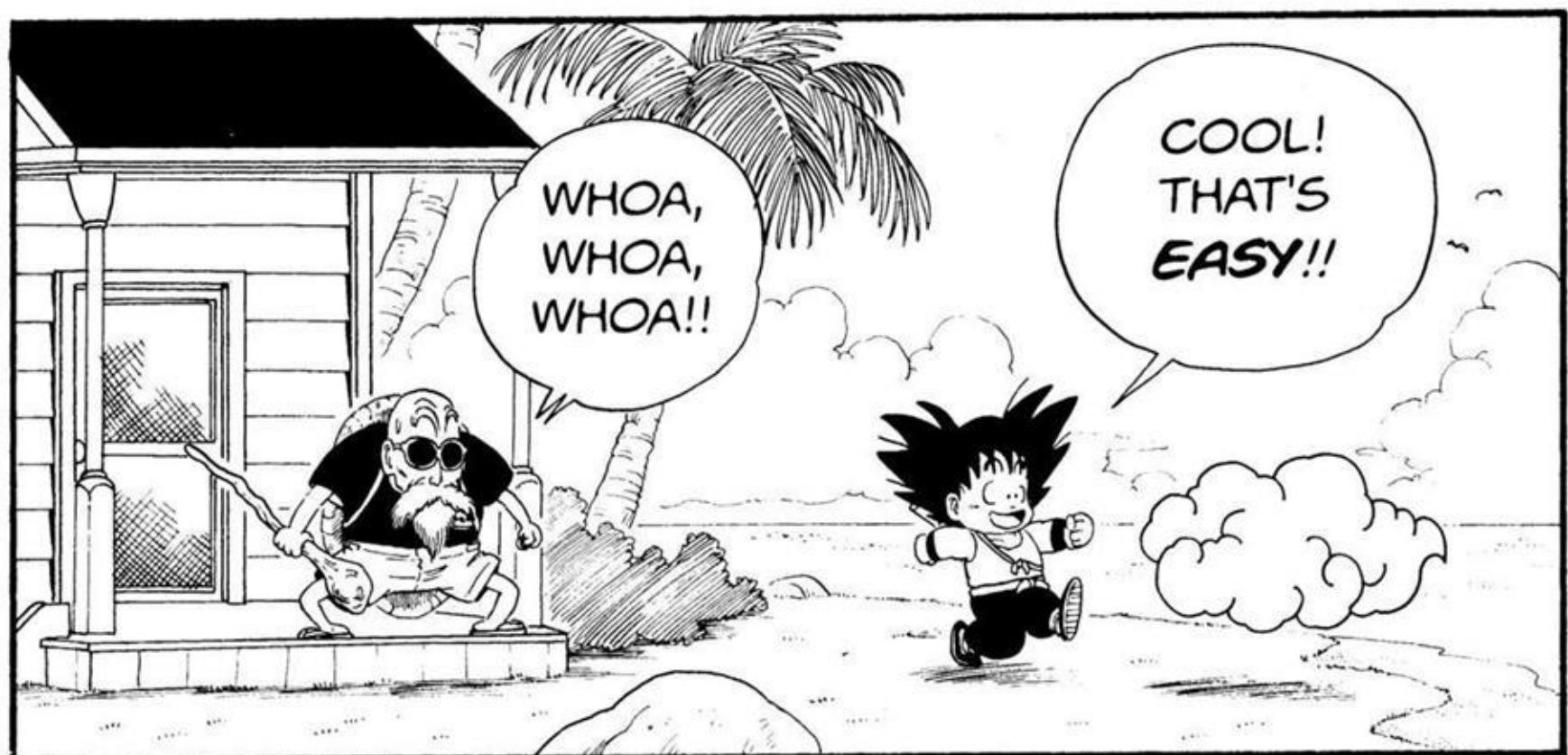
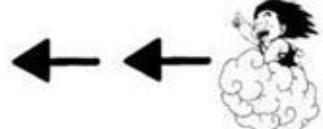


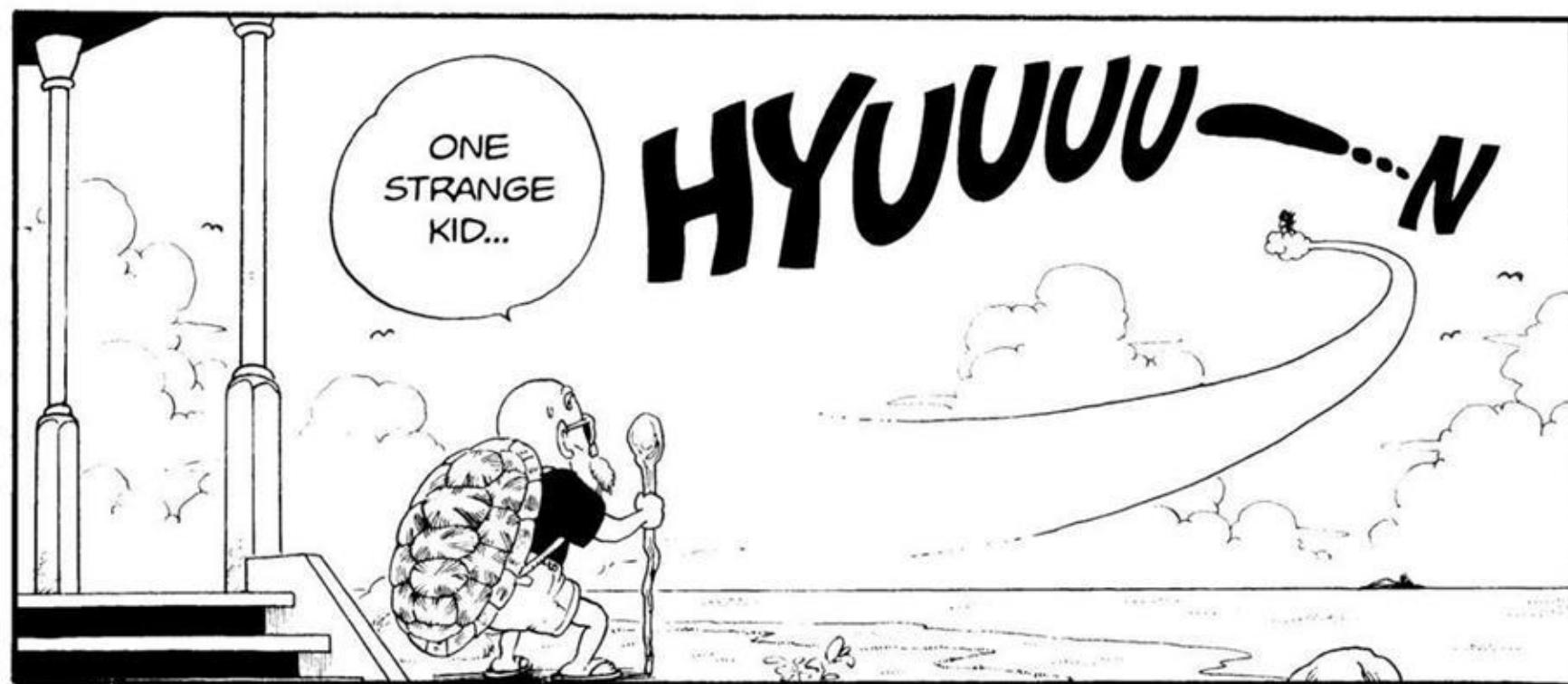
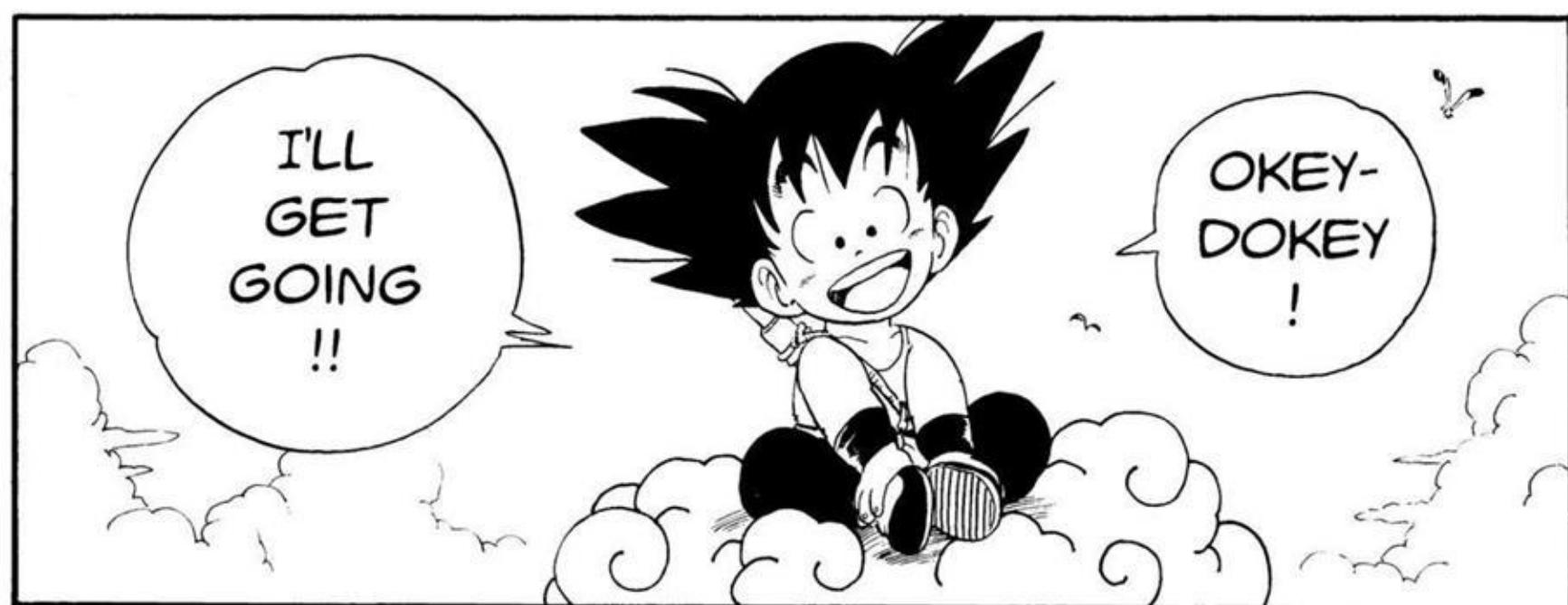
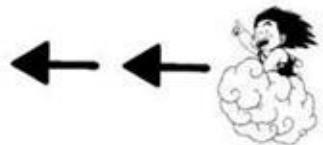


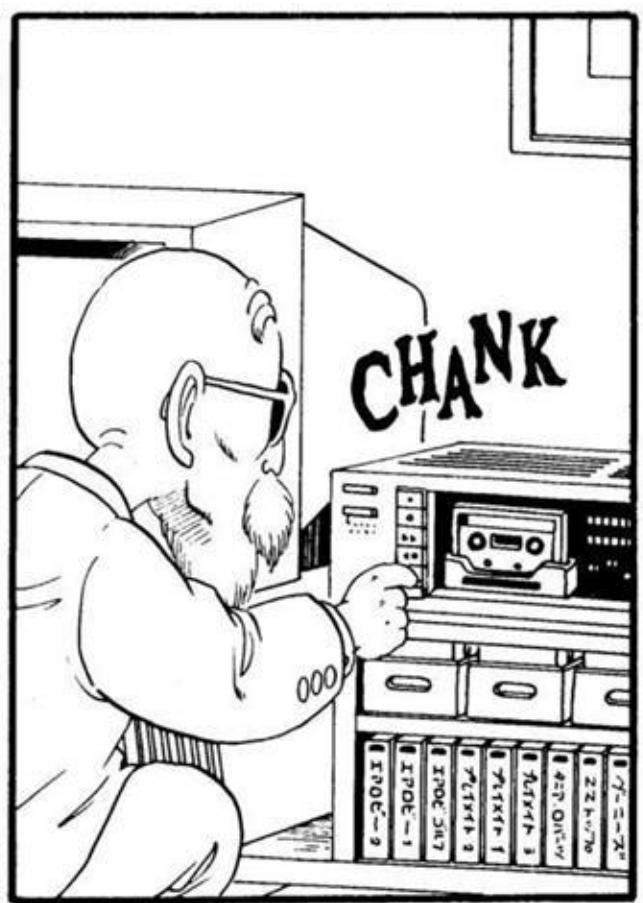
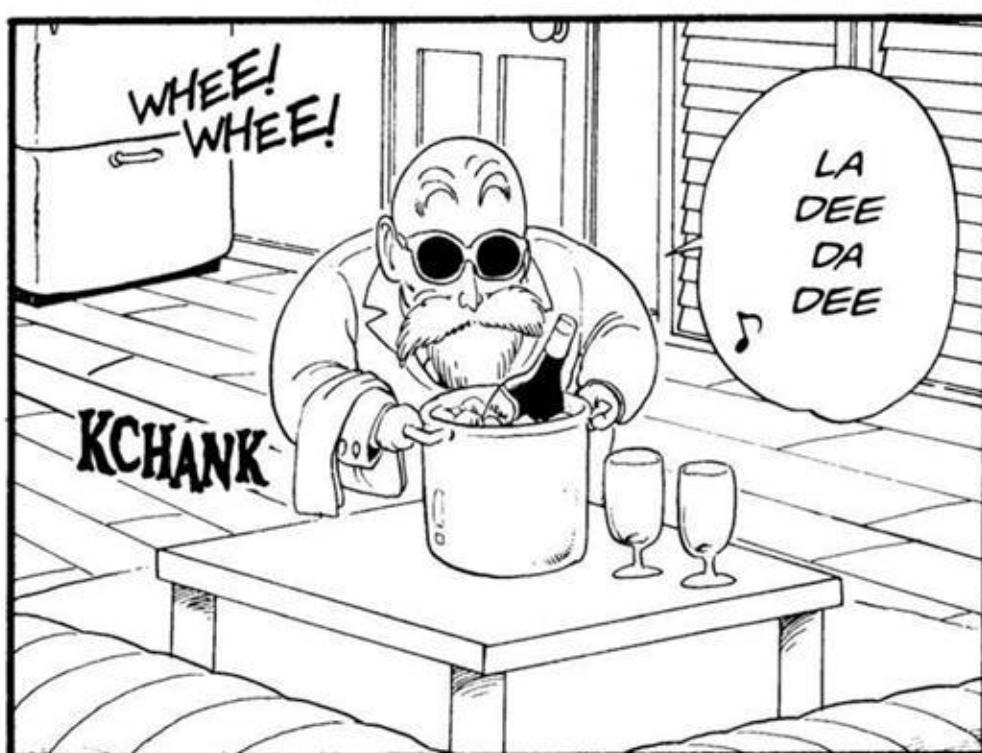
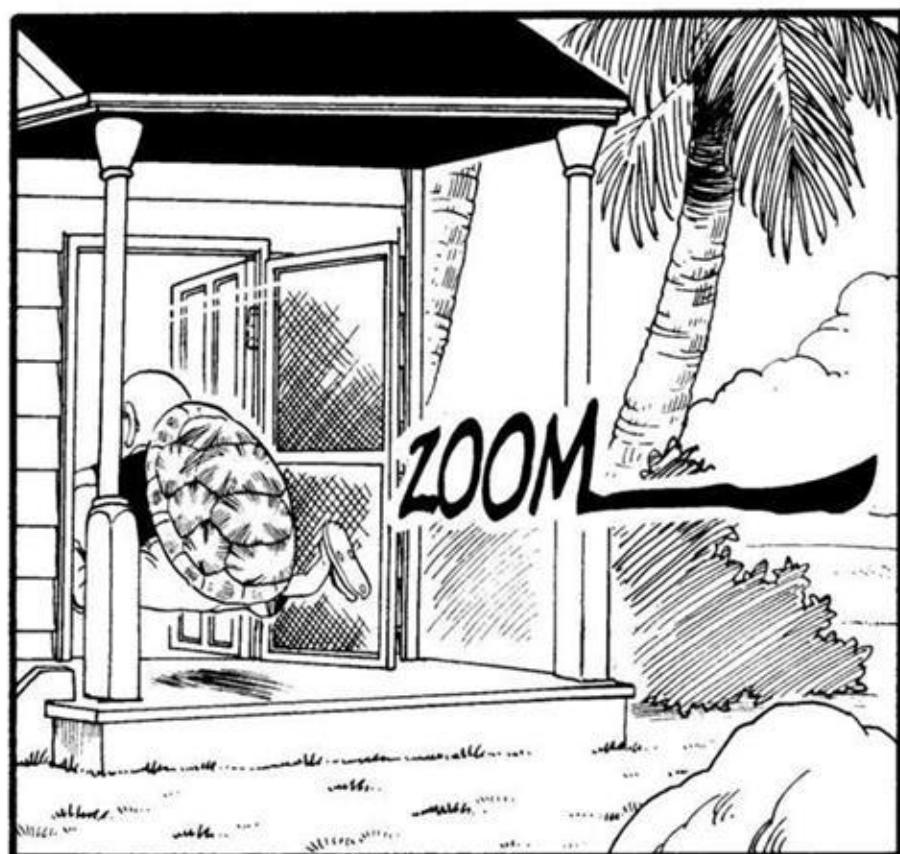
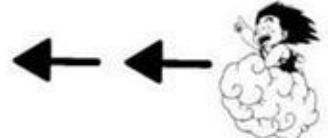


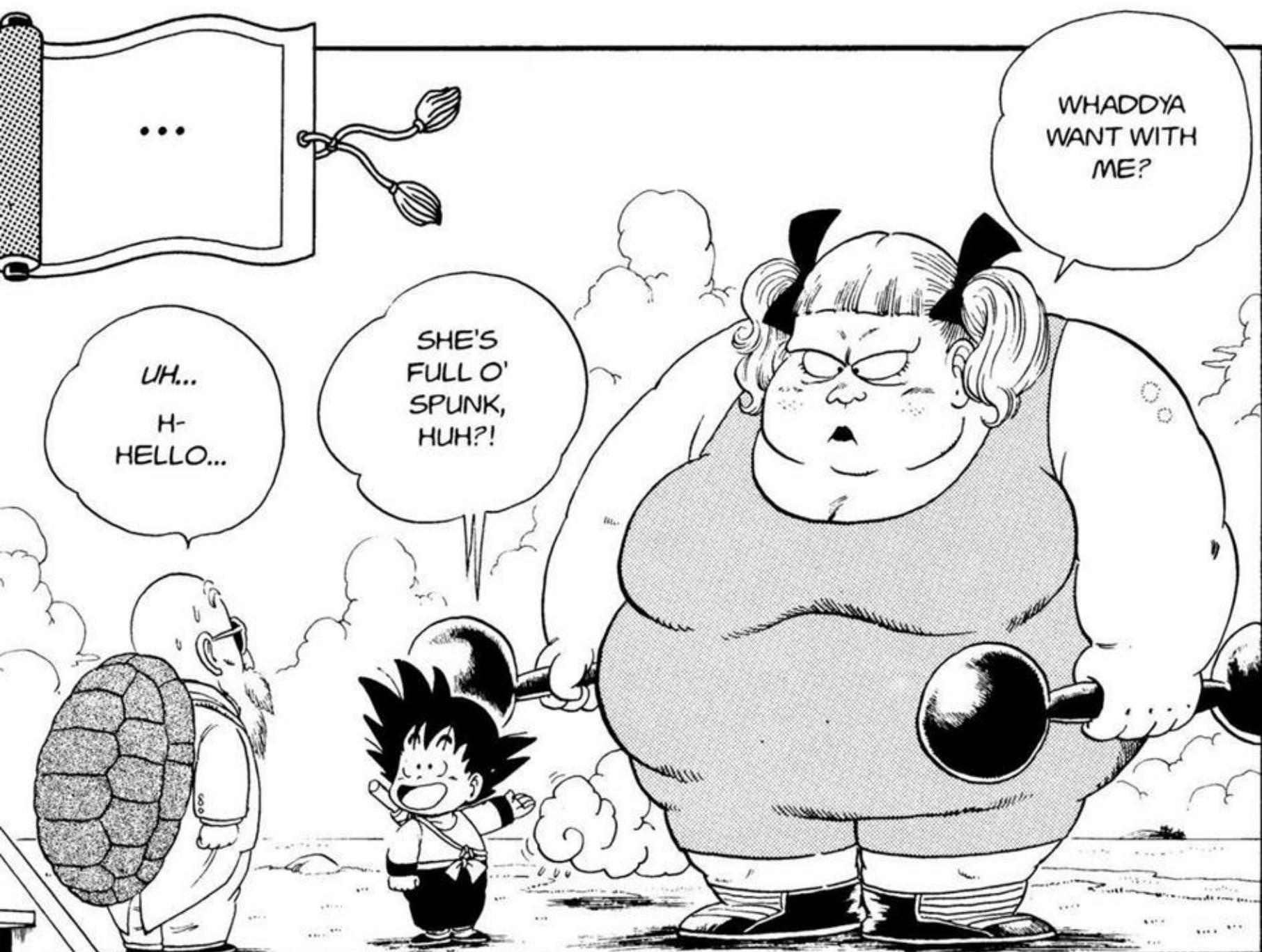
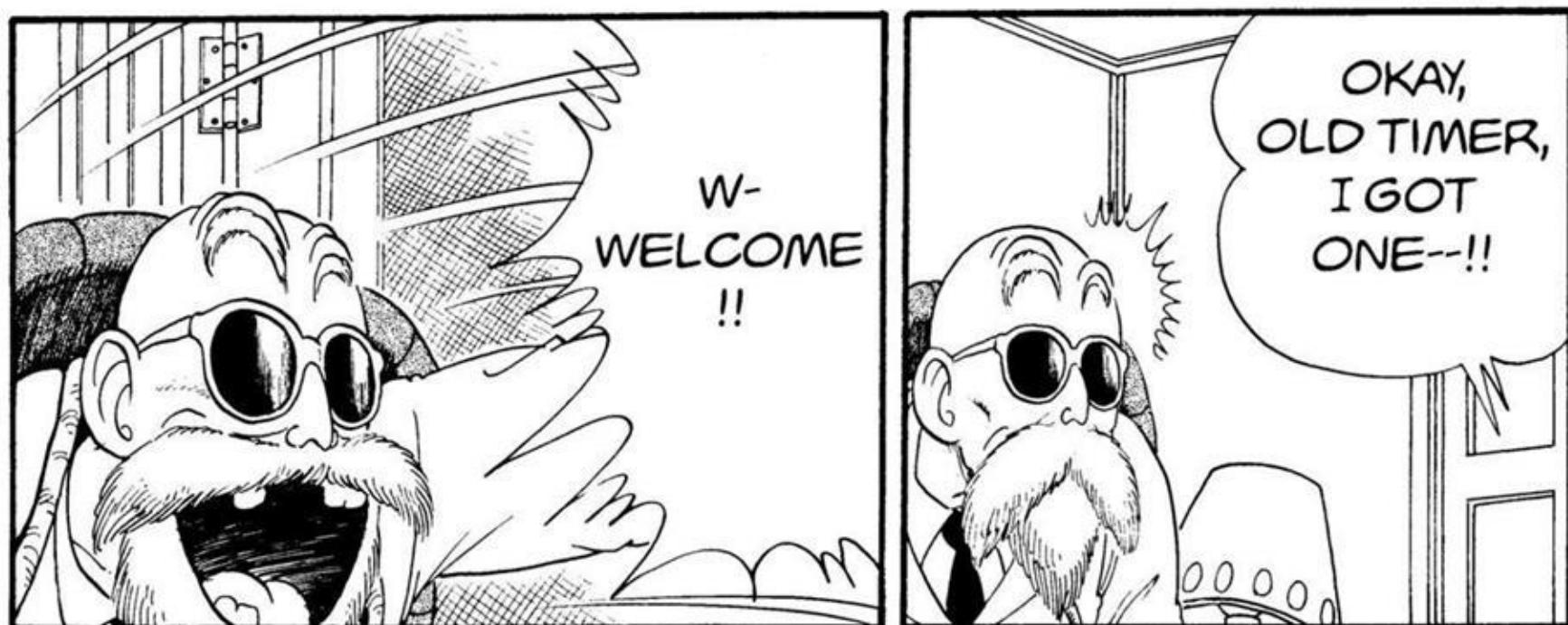












NEXT: Cue Ball, Corner Pocket

DRAGON BALL

Akira Toriyama's "ASK ME ANYTHING" Corner!



That's right! These are actual questions asked by Japanese readers and answered by Akira Toriyama in the original **Dragon Ball** Vols. 1-6! (Sorry, Toriyama is too busy to do these sessions nowadays.)

Q. Hi. You always make excellent manga and I get a good laugh out of them. Your characters have wonderful personalities; if I'm feeling down, they always make me feel better. Please keep making such great characters! (Especially the cute girls.)

Yuji Chiba
Saitama Prefecture

A. Well, thank you very much. I'm pleased to hear your comments. I'll keep working hard on my manga.

Q. Hello Akira Toriyama-sensei. I'm a third-year middle school student [equivalent of an American high school freshman—Ed.]. Every week I read **Dragon Ball** in **Weekly Shonen Jump** [the Japanese manga magazine where **Dragon Ball** was first printed—Ed.], because your drawings are great and your jokes are always funny. I think that's why you've got so many readers. Goku is nice and always cool, and Kame-Sen'nin is always a pervert. I'm always telling everyone at school to buy **Weekly Shonen Jump**. Please take care of your health and keep up the funny gags.

Kazuhiko Sato
Miyagi Prefecture

A. Thanks for your support. By the way,

when you tell people to buy my manga, please recommend **Shonen Jump**.

Q. Hello. My friend Dai-chan and I were walking past this house and a big dog and a little dog started chasing after us. I felt like crying, and we both ran. I was scared, I can't forget about what happened. Have you ever experienced anything like this?

Hidemori Okano
Ibaraki Prefecture

A. When I was young, I too was chased by a dog. But dogs seem to like chasing things that run away from them, so next time you see one, it may be better if you walk calmly past it. If you make friends with dogs, they can be really loveable. (I know this letter has nothing to do with **Dragon Ball**.)

Q. I hope you are doing well. Every week I buy **Jump** to read **Dragon Ball**. I especially like Kame-Sen'nin. Please have him play a bigger role in the series. Bye.

Taisuke Fujiwara
Saitama Prefecture

A. Hmm...Kame-Sen'nin, it seems you have a fan.

Kame-Sen'nin: Of course! There's nobody better when it comes to martial arts! So, Taisuke Fujiwara, eh?...Hey, wait a minute! That's a guy's name! I'd rather have female fans. Girls, send me fan mail!

Q. Hello. I'm writing you for the first time
CONTINUED ON PAGE 191

because I have a favor to ask. When is the first **Dragon Ball** graphic novel going to come out? Please let me know!

Kaoru Okino
Hiroshima Prefecture

A. It's out! The one you're reading right now is Vol. 2.

Q. Hello *sensei*. Please allow me to ask you some questions:

- (1) How long does it take for you to create one chapter of **Dragon Ball**?
- (2) Do you draw the backgrounds yourself?
- (3) How many assistants do you have?
- (4) Does your assistant live at your house?

Hajime Higaki
Mie Prefecture

A. (1) It takes me about five days to think of the story and draw it all. I draw one chapter a week. (2) I draw the backgrounds if it's the first time they show up, otherwise it's mostly my assistant that draws them. If there's a lot of scenery to draw then I'll also draw some of it. (3) I have one assistant named Matsuyama. If things get really busy his wife also helps out. (4) He commutes. He doesn't have to draw every day. Having him come two days a week is sufficient.

Q. I really like **Dragon Ball**. I store my graphic novels in plastic bags and always wash my hands before reading them. That's how much I like **Dragon Ball**. Please keep up the good work and come out with the next volume soon. Thank you.

Kazuo Takahashi
Tokyo

A. You're a good boy! A very good boy! Yes, you're good...but that sure sounds like a hassle...

Q. Hello Toriyama-sensei. Are you hand-

some?

Eriko Hirano
Hyogo Prefecture

A. Yes!!!

Q. Shen Long, mighty dragon god! Please answer my wish and allow my letter to be printed in Toriyama's "Ask Me Anything" Corner.

Isami Gunbara
Kagoshima Prefecture

A. It has been printed. The power of the Dragon Balls is incredible, isn't it? (By the way, this won't work for anyone else who tries this.)

Q. Hello Toriyama-sensei. I always enjoy reading **Dragon Ball**. By the way, when will Vol. 19 of **Dr. Slump** come out? I'm looking forward to reading it.

Kenichi Yatsuka
Shizuoka Prefecture

A. Uh...**Dr. Slump** ended with Vol. 18. No matter how long you wait, even if you become an old man, Vol. 19 won't be coming out...

Q. I have all the Jumps with **Dr. Slump** and **Dragon Ball**. I also have Vols. 1-4 of Masakazu Katsura's **Wingman**. I am a great fan of both you and Katsura-sensei. But if I had to choose, I think you are cooler and more contemporary.

Sakura Yoshino
Kanagawa Prefecture

A. You are a good girl! A very good girl! I'm sure you'll grow up to be a great woman.

Q. Hello *sensei*. I bought **Dragon Ball** Vol. 1. The drawings and the story are so cute that even a girl like me loves it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 192

Ikumi Akita
Gifu Prefecture

A. Thank you! I hope that more girls like you become fans.

Q. I have all of your comics. I read **Shonen Jump** every week. Here is my question for you: is Kame-Sen'nin based on Shibui ("Cool Old Guy") Kami-sama [not the same character as Kami-sama in **Dragon Ball**—Ed.] from **Dr. Slump** Vol. 17? They look just the same, except that Kame-Sen'nin has sunglasses.

Katsuya Miyoshi
Hyogo Prefecture

A. Wow, you're sharp! You are correct!! I just put sunglasses on Shibui Kami-sama. I really liked that old guy, so I wanted to use him in **Dragon Ball**.

Q. I have four questions for **Akira Toriyama-sensei**:

(1) Were you good at drawing manga even when you were in elementary school?

(2) You draw a lot of naughty stuff in your comics. Is this naughty of you?

(3) Do you own a video game console?

(4) Please continue to draw great manga.

Masahiro Kojima
Osaka Prefecture

A. (1) I was okay. (2) Yes! (3) I do own one, but it can distract me from working so I don't play that often. But when I do play, I'm really good at it! (4) Thank you for your words of encouragement.

Q. Ummm...I have a question. It doesn't have anything to do with **Dragon Ball**. When will Vol. 2 of **Toriyama Akira Marusaku Gekijō** ("Akira Toriyama's Insert-Adjective-Here Theatre") come out? You didn't forget about it, did you?

Takuya Miyamoto
Osaka Prefecture

A. Unfortunately, I am about 45 pages short of completing Vol. 2 of the Theatre book. As of now there are no plans to release it. I think it may come out after I finish the 45 pages. [Unfortunately **Toriyama Akira Marusaku Gekijō** is only available in Japan—Ed.]

Q. **Toriyama-sensei**, hello. Goodbye.

Satoshi Sasaki
Hiroshima Prefecture

A. Thank you.

Q. I really love **Dragon Ball**. I especially like Yamcha (go Yamcha, go!). I hope you continue to create more and more manga. I will be a fan of **Dragon Ball** until I die.

Mika Noma
Ehime Prefecture

A. Please support my work until you die! A lot of people give up halfway...

Q. I loan out my **Dragon Ball** comics for 100 yen for three days. Am I bad for doing this? (But everyone keeps borrowing them...)

Koji Asano
Aiichi Prefecture

A. Yes you're bad! You make money but I don't get anything!!

Q. I really like **Dragon Ball**. It's so much fun I can't stand it. I can't believe how happy I am that your manga exists.

Seiji Hayashi
Kyoto Prefecture

A. Hmm...if you like it that much, it makes me really happy as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 193

Q. Since Son Goku and Kuririn both trained with Kame-Sen'nin, please have "Goku vs. Kuririn" be the final match at the *Tenka'ichi Budôkai*!

Masayuki Katsumata • Osaka Prefecture

A. That's a very intriguing idea, but unfortunately it's too late for this tournament. The final match has already been set as Son Goku vs. Jackie Chun. But I think if there ever was a Goku vs. Kuririn match, Goku would win overwhelmingly.

Q. I always get a thrill reading Dragon Ball. I like Dragon Ball so much that my friends think I'm weird. I have almost all of the toys, I've bought all of the comics, and I record the TV show every week.

Yoko Yoshida
Shizuoka Prefecture

A. Wonderful! I hereby grant you a first *dan* black belt in Toriyama School Shorinji Kempo (Shaolin kung fu). You are my greatest student! Please continue to support my work.

Q. Just so you know, I really like Oolong tea and Pu'ar tea. By the way, on page 18 of volume 1, Son Goku says to Bulma, "I never saw another human before!" Wasn't Goku's "grandpa" (the guy who raised him) a human?

Yasuhiro Kubo
Nara Prefecture

A. W-Well...if you put it that way...yes. Oops...I made a mistake. Sorry, I apologize. You're also very smart to realize that I got the name "Pu'ar" from the name of the Chinese tea.

Q. Hello Toriyama-sensei. I have a question. If you had one whole day of uninterrupted free time, what would you do?

Naohiro Yonemoto
Tokushima Prefecture

A. Occasionally I do have a day of free time. [For Dragon Ball, Akira Toriyama drew an average of 15 pages every week for about 10 years—Ed.] I usually end up sleeping late and when I wake up I may go to the supermarket with my wife, or ride my bike, or see a movie, or work on a plastic model, or watch TV, or...I pretty much just putter away the day.

Q. Help! I'm running out of air! Please get some air and send it to me by *kame-hameha*. Bye.

Takeshi Mayumi
Mie Prefecture

A. Huh...? W-What are you talking about? I assume that you didn't write this letter while you were drowning... Uh... please continue to support my work.

Q. Okay, I've figured it out... Dragon Ball is based on the old Chinese legend *Saiyûki* ("Journey to the West"). Even the characters are the same: Bulma is Sanzô Hôshi, Oolong is Hakkai, Yamcha is Sagojo, and Shen Long is Sanzô Hôshi's horse. Even the order that they appear is the same. Am I wrong? I am a girl in my third year of middle school. [In Japan, junior high is always three years, and high school is always three years, so this is the same as being a 9th grader or a high school freshman—Ed.] I am afraid of the high school entrance exams!

Masae O'ouchi
Ibaraki Prefecture

A. It's true, in the beginning I set out to create a modern day version of *Saiyûki*. But soon it became difficult to remain true to the original, so I started ignoring it. So even though they have the same name, please consider my Son Goku and the monkey king Son Goku to be two different characters. However, I did get the Ox King story from *Saiyûki*. Good luck on your entrance exams!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 194

Q. At my house we have volumes 1-24 of the **Kinnikuman** ("Muscleman") manga and one **Kinnikuman** video.

Naoki Koyama
Okayama Prefecture

A. Umm... I'm sorry, Naoki. **Kinnikuman** is drawn by a person named Yudetamago... If you'd like, please take a look at **Dragon Ball**. Ha ha...ha...

Q. Hello. I really like **Dragon Ball**. I really like you too. I have a question for you. **Dr. Slump** lasted for 18 volumes. How long will **Dragon Ball** continue for?

Eiji Harada
Okayama Prefecture

A. Hmm... maybe for ten volumes or so. I think I'd like to make it short and sweet. But then again, there are lots of things I want to include in the story so I don't really know.

Q. This is the first time I've written to a manga artist. Do you think that the technique I thought up is good for **Dragon Ball**? [see below]

Tsuyoshi Maezawa
Hokkaido Prefecture

A. Wow! This technique is most certainly impressive. I may be able to use it in the manga. Thank you for your assistance!



Waterfall of Flames Technique

Q. I always look at your manga and use them as a reference to draw my own manga. I really respect you. I have all of your manga including

Dr. Slump, **Dragon Ball**, **Hetappi Manga Kenkyujō** ("Lousy Manga Laboratory"), and **Toriyama Akira Marusaku Gekijō**. I keep them to use as reference material. In particular, **Hetappi Manga Kenkyujō** greatly influenced the way I draw manga.

Takeya Nakamura
Okinawa Prefecture

A. Thank you. You've complimented me so much I'm a bit embarrassed. Please keep up the hard work on drawing your own manga.

Q. I love **Dragon Ball**. I really like Bulma. Please continue to draw your great manga.

Mami Sato
Ibaraki Prefecture

A. Surprisingly, there are a great number of girls that say they like Bulma. Perhaps it's because her personality is a bit like a boy's. Personally, I don't really like harsh, selfish girls like Bulma.

Q. I was really happy to see Kuririn appear in the manga. (Although he hasn't made an appearance in a while.) Kuririn looks exactly like my daughter who is about to turn one year old.

Akina Deura (my daughter)
Shizuoka Prefecture

A. Thank you. So, your daughter looks exactly like Kuririn... I don't know how to respond to that. But I'm sure your daughter is very cute. By the way, does she have a nose?

Q. On the spines of the **Dragon Ball** graphic novels, so far you've drawn a Dragon Ball with one star for every volume of the series. What will you do if the series goes over seven volumes?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 195

Tatsuhira Koike
Saitama Prefecture

A. You're right! The spines with the drawings of the dragon and the Dragon Balls will end after the seventh volume. I am wondering myself what to do from the eighth volume on.

Q. I like Pu'ar. I told my brother that Pu'ar is a cat and he told me that Pu'ar is a mouse. Who is right?

Nobukatsu Sekigawa
Kanagawa Prefecture

A. Actually, Pu'ar is neither a cat nor a mouse, but I draw him a little bit like a cat.

Q. Over New Year's break, I made a stamp using your characters [see below]. Nine months from now, I am planning on using the dragon from Dragon Ball to make my New Year's greeting cards.

Kimio Nagasaki
Shizuoka Prefecture

A. This is a great stamp! I imagine it took quite a lot of work. I am really impressed. I look forward to seeing your dragon cards, please send me one when you're finished.



The Dragon Ball New Year's Stamp

Q. The caricature that you draw of yourself in the comics looks like a dirty old

man, so I thought that you probably looked like a dirty old man yourself. But I saw your photograph in *Shonen Jump* and you looked very handsome.

Yasuhiro Ando
Aichi Prefecture

A. Ha ha ha! You think so? You're right! I do look good! You're a great guy! Unfortunately, I just can't get too excited about a guy complimenting me like this...

Q. What are those six marks on Kuririn's face? Is it a scar? Please tell me.

Yasuto Tamagawa
Osaka Prefecture

A. Ah! You noticed it! The marks on Kuririn's forehead are incense burns. Sometimes you see these scars on Chinese monks in the movies. I thought I should add them because Kuririn's face is so plain.

Q. Often in the last page of your comic in *Shonen Jump* [the "free talk" page, where the artist answers letters from readers and talks about upcoming projects—Ed.], you write about how you have pet birds. I would like to become a manga artist, and I also love animals. I would love to draw manga and have a lot of pets.

Koki Yasuda
Osaka Prefecture

A. I think it's a great thing to be an animal lover, although if you are going to have pets you should be responsible for them. In my household we have a bird, a cat, and a dog. Actually, if I could, I would love to also have a goat and a chicken.

*Akira Toriyama's "Ask Me Anything!"
Corner will return in a later volume of the
Dragon Ball graphic novels! •*