

vol.50 #09
Rivals

KONZEN

Silver, Green, and Hugh
Pokémon

art by Kate Bushmareva

“What Type of Anime Rival Are You?” Quiz

Directions: Start at the “start here” signal and follow the numbers next to your answers.

When Konshuu has decided your CAA-assigned rivalry type, instead of a number there will be a letter next to the name.

Follow that letter to the right hand column of images and see the type of person you are in a one-on-one fight!

start here

0 Is there a specific person that comes to mind when you think about the type of person you hate?

1. Yes 2. No

1 Are you more self-loathing or do you have self-confidence?

- C. Loathing 2. Confidence

2 Do you get along sometimes with the people you fight with, and sometimes even enjoy fighting?

3. Yes 4. No

3 Did you admit to the previous question willingly or had to regretfully agree?

5. Willingly A. Regretfully

4 Are people you hate/dislike aware of it and get back at you?

6. Yes E. No

5 Is there anyone in your life that you argue with a lot, but always make up with no hard feelings after?

- B. Yes 6. No

6 What's a relaxing way to spend time for you?

7. Learning something new, reading, browsing the web, or napping.

A. Going out to eat or spending time with good friends.

8. Both seem solid / can't decide.

7 Do you have a lot of friends?

B. Yes!

D. Some, a few close ones.

F. Not many or none.

8 How emotional are you?

A. Very much so.

D. Not very.

F. Only about specific things.



Asuka Langley Soryu & Ikari Shinji
Evangelion

Love/Hate Rival

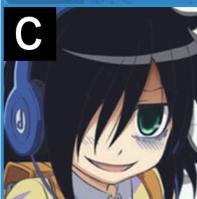
The types of fights you get into seem to have some buried sexual tension or repressed feelings. The more you scream at them, the more you care - and the more people ship it.



Hattori Heiji &
Kudo Shinichi
Detective Conan

Friendly Rival

Think sports anime. You're the type to have a relationship where you pump each other up through competition! And at the end of the day, nothing beats getting food or a drink together.



Tomoko Kuroki
Watamote

Self Rival

Your biggest rival is yourself. That's it. Please take steps to stop f*cking up your own life and get some therapy or help.



Yagami Light & L
Death Note

Intellectual Rival

You play 4D mental chess with someone out there. Every single move they make, you can predict, but they predict your reaction first. Everyone else can't keep up with what you're both planning.



Speed-o'-Sound
Sonic & Saitama
One Punch Man

Rival?

It's one-sided. You're out to get this person, beat them at their game, or whatever, but the other doesn't really care. They might not even know you exist...



Kogami Shinya &
Makishima Shogo
Psycho Pass

Destined Rival

You're fated to battle a specific someone no matter what. Has bits of all the other types, but is unique since the other is irreplaceable by anyone else. It's just not the same without either person.

AN ALL TOO REALISTIC RIVAL


JET SITU
STAFF WRITER
1ST YEAR, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

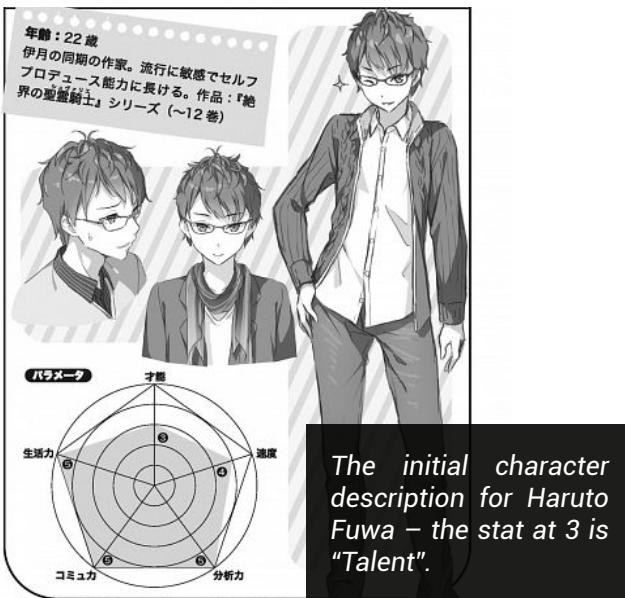
Imosae is by far my favorite series - but, if you choose to watch it, watch it to the end, or you won't get the true impact of it.

This has strong spoilers for *Imouto Sae Ireba Ii*

"Whatever a person wants the most, they'll always find it belonging to someone close to them – and despite how much that person desires what they lack, the other possessing it will often see it all as but worthless. Someone actually possessing what they want in life is nothing short of miraculous. But the rarity of such miracles is the bountiful well from which most forms of tragedy and comedy are born."

Imouto Sae Ireba Ii is a story about light novel writers navigating young adult life, with its quirks and its struggles. The above words comprise one of its opening lines, and though it's short, it's a perfectly spoken summary of the entire series. The context of those lines is important too – they appear after two segments featuring Haruto Fuwa, a main character, and focus heavily on the topic of desire – in Fuwa's case, his desire for true talent.

It's said that Fuwa's only obstacle to his desire was not being the protagonist. Instead, he's the rival of the protagonist, Itsuki Hashima.



It all begins at the new writer's contest. While Itsuki's passion earned him an evaluation of "unrefined content that carries unfathomable impact, and something only [he] could've written," Fuwa's evaluation consisted of "versed in current trends, easily publishable, and sell decently." This sets up a dynamic

that lasts the entire series – Fuwa is a commercial hit because of his marketing, whereas Itsuki writes with pure passion, from his heart.

And Fuwa absolutely hates that he doesn't have the talent to do the same.

For Fuwa, the opening words ring too true. He's the hot guy, he's the rich guy, he's the popular guy, but none of it matters because he knows he's not the better writer. But rather than resign, Fuwa takes every single opportunity afforded to get ahead. He takes on an anime adaptation, he churns out more novels, and he takes on interviews to try to bring out his persona.

But as he knows too well himself, it's just never going to be enough, as a newer generation of writers bring in an even higher level of talent. Appearing to have it all, and to himself having none, Fuwa shields his true thoughts, burying the pain.

And the pain only intensifies. His anime, a production mess, ends up a failure. He falls in love with Miyako, who comforts him in the aftermath of his anime, but she's fallen in love with Itsuki instead.



The moment of confession – complemented with Belgian wine and a bucket of mussels.

Personally, Haruto Fuwa is the rival I have the most sympathy for, because he's so realistically crafted. He has goals, he's ambitious, he works hard, and you just can't help but feel bad for him when everything goes to shit. But there's a silver lining.

A later passage states:

"You want to turn to people just like yourself, lost in the face of such weighty, inscrutable matters, and live in their lives for a while. It gives you a fresh outlook on life."

We turn to Fuwa, hitting rock bottom. And though we may face different issues, we're just like him. But Fuwa doesn't let his setbacks hinder him; instead, he continues to write.

And though it seems like real life may be a tragedy of its own, Fuwa gives us the chance to step back, to look at ourselves, to appreciate what we have, and importantly, to give us the motivation to step forward and continue the fight for our own desires.

THE SAD RIVALRY OF SPEED-O'-SOUND SONIC



RACHEL MIN

1ST YEAR, INTENDED COMPUTER SCIENCE

STAFF WRITER

What if Sonic was actually a viable rival

Spoilers

People who have watched *One Punch Man* might know Speed-o'-Sound Sonic as Saitama's rival. A rival who's vowed to beat him and become the strongest person he can be. At least that's what Sonic wants to be, but in reality, he's the unknown rival, a character fated to be a running joke, and to Saitama, an annoyance.

The unknown rival is possibly the most tragic character in literature. They're the type of character that desperately wants to be the rival of another character just to be shot down. Think of Lambo to Reborn from *Reborn!* or Guy to Kakashi from *Naruto*. At the same time, they're the excellent targets of schadenfreude. In other words, people think it's funny when they fail.

that decimated Puri Puri Prisoner, another S class hero.

So here's this guy, strong enough to challenge all sorts of heroes, and he happens to come upon Saitama, who's long-abandoned the logical boundaries of power and couldn't be bothered to have any sort of rival. And Sonic is all the more desperate to defeat Saitama. He pours all his power into training, and he even tries to become a monster by eating a monster cell (although his weird personality drives him to cook the monster cell, rendering it useless), but alas he remains the unknown rival. It's so sad it's funny.

On the other hand, there are plenty of characters Sonic could garner a healthy rival relationship with. For example, there's Genos. Since they're pretty evenly matched, they would become perfect motivators for each other to become stronger. Plus, Genos seems more interested in making a rival than Saitama, thereby giving Sonic more validation and elevating him out of the unknown rival status. If Sonic is going for someone who's stronger than him, then he could go for the S class hero Flashy Flash. They already have preexisting history as they graduated from the same school, and they both pride themselves in their speed. Since Flashy Flash isn't absurdly OP like Saitama, it would be realistic for Sonic to overtake him with hard work.

What is a rival? A rival is someone you're able to compete with, someone that can keep you on your toes as you keep them on theirs. But as an unknown rival, Sonic just isn't fulfilling a healthy rivalry. Sure, having Saitama as a rival would mean you'd never have to find a new one since you would never be able to beat him, and maybe that's what Sonic really wants. But in exchange, Sonic would forever have to be the unknown rival, a nuisance, a punchline, and a hilariously pitiable character.



The saddest part about Sonic is that he really isn't weak. In fact, from the perspective of the average Joe, he's pretty overpowered. He's able to go toe-to-toe with Genos, an S class hero, which would put Sonic amongst the strongest people in the OPM universe, people who take on enemies able to level cities. On top of that, the creator of OPM confirmed that during Sonic's fight with the pre-rain form of Deep Sea King, if Sonic had had a weapon, he would have beaten the Deep Sea King, the same Deep Sea King



THE TWIN STARS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE GALAXY

NICK WONOSAPUTRA

STAFF WRITER

1ST YEAR, INTENDED MCB NEUROBIOLOGY

Dvořák; Symphony No. 9 in E minor, "From New World"
- Allegro con fuoco



Airing between 1988 and 1997, the *Legend of the Galactic Heroes* is a political war drama whose reputation precedes it, as many have mocked and judged its “supposed” brilliance, but only a select few have viewed the original OVA in its entirety. The daunting nature of watching all 110 episodes of the series may be attributed to the density of the content present in the series, as there are hundreds of characters with a multitude of different motivations, goals, skill sets, and connections. With so many things happening simultaneously on and offscreen, it may be difficult to keep track of all this information during one’s first viewing of the series. It is in this dilemma that we find solace in the series’ dual protagonists: the Galactic Empire’s Rising Star, Reinhard von Lohengramm, and the Free Planets Alliance’s Miracle Magician, Yang Wenli.

“Humans don’t fight for principles and philosophy. They fight for the person who embodies their principles and philosophy. They don’t fight for revolutions, they fight for the revolutionary.”

—Dusty Attenborough (Episode 83)



Born on March 14th, 776 UC, Reinhard spent his childhood living with his poor aristocratic family in a suburban neighborhood where he would meet his life-long friend, Siegfried Kircheis. Those days of warmth and happiness soon came crashing down when Reinhard’s sister, Annerose, was taken to become an imperial consort to Kaiser Friedrich IV. This is when Reinhard swore to destroy the corrupt Goldenbaum Dynasty, and decided that the fastest way to gain

power was through the military. Valedictorian of his class, Reinhard preceded to rapidly climb through the ranks, and eventually became a full admiral, which is when the events of the original OVA ensue.

As for Yang Wenli, his childhood came to an equally abrupt halt with the death of his merchant father, and the subsequent realization that all of the works of art Yang’s father bought as investments were all fake, and therefore worthless. However, unlike Reinhard, Yang already had a goal in life: to become a historian. Yet, due to his nonexistent finances, Yang was forced to enroll into a military academy to study for free, and while he nearly flunked out, his prowess in strategy was so astounding that he was forced to change departments. Despite his best efforts to keep a low profile, his ingenuity could not go unnoticed, especially when he was dubbed the Hero of El Facil.

The difference between the two military leaders can be summarized by their reactions to their respective dilemmas. Reinhard was angered and filled with determination to rise to great power. This is why he believes in the autocratic system and employs a very rigid chain of command within his admiralty. It also explains his ruthless efficiency in enacting major social change throughout the empire by eliminating corruption, boosting the economy and allowing freedom of speech. Meanwhile, Yang’s passive personality and belief in the democratic system leads him to create a loose command structure within his admiralty, and is the reason why he is easily slowed down from making decisions as he awaits orders from the FPA’s elected council.

The contrast between the two leaders not only reinforces the major themes within the series, but also represents the story’s conflict as a whole, a beacon to return to when one gets lost in the sea of the phenomenally well-written supporting cast.



**Well, if it's not going to work,
I guess I'll drink and go to bed.**

RIVALS ARE A BEAUTIFUL THING

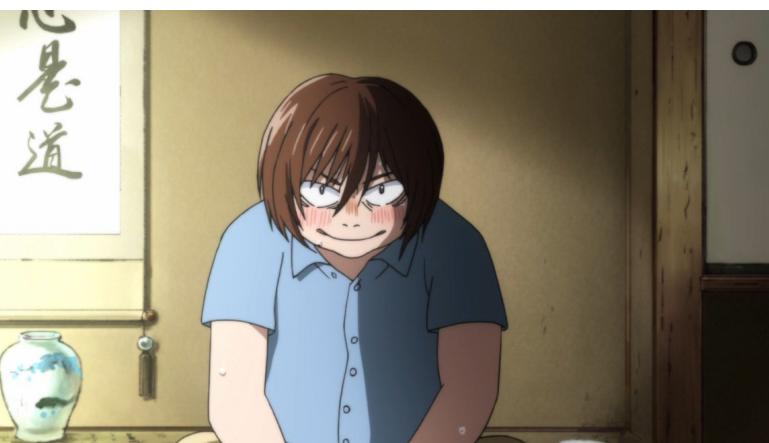
 **JONATHAN QIAN**
3RD YEAR, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

STAFF WRITER

Wow all I can write about is 3-gatsu now...

Rivals have been and continue to be one of the most common recurring tropes throughout anime, and for good reason. Rivals are one of the most versatile tropes out there and are used in many different ways to enhance a story or develop a main character. In this article, I wanted to explore one of my favorite rivalries: Rei and Nikaidou's rivalry in *3-gatsu no Lion*.

Rei and Nikaidou's rivalry in *3-gatsu no Lion* is a beautiful take on a main character-rival relationship. One of the main focuses of *3-gatsu*'s story is Rei's growth as a human and to a lesser extent, Rei's growth as a professional shogi player. Nikaidou pushes Rei forward in both departments. He is always encouraging Rei and trying to get him to be more social while pushing him to improve in shogi itself. On the surface, Nikaidou's actions make him seem like a overly-passionate idiot to Rei, but as viewers, we can clearly see how much Nikaidou values and cares for Rei, both as a friend and as someone who can push him to his limits in shogi. Rei may not realize it, but his existence as a fellow young shogi player striving to reach the peak of the professional shogi world helped Nikaidou push through the emotional stress that his poor health has caused him through his childhood years. Moments like this really drive home one of *3-gatsu*'s biggest themes: people can have a huge effect on others simply by existing and being themselves. Without Rei, Nikaidou wouldn't have had a reason to pursue shogi to fullest extent in the face of his poor health.



Nikaidou continues to play despite his illness hurting him.

Without Nikaidou, Rei wouldn't have been able to get as close to the Kawamotos and would have never joined a shogi society to improve.

While Rei and Nikaidou's rivalry has led to personal growth for both of them and shogi skill growth as a result of the personal growth, their rivalry is also a fantastic example of the word in its truest meaning, to me. When someone can push you to the absolute limits of your ability in something, and you can do the same to them, that is a rivalry in the truest sense of the word, especially when it comes to games. You communicate with each other through whatever game you compete over in the purest way, and your thoughts and feelings are reflected in the gameplay and you completely lose yourself in the game. Many of Rei's matches are illustrated as such, especially with Nikaidou. Each move on the board becomes a way of talking with the other person and a reflection of the mover's core personality. As the match goes on, each player sinks deeper and deeper into the match, both refusing to give up. *3-gatsu* even goes as far to compare playing against a true rival like swimming in an endless sea, always searching for the next move that will lead to victory.



Rei studying for his next match in the endless sea of shogi.

These hugely intense matches make the growth and progression of Rei's shogi skills feel much more natural and earned.

Rivalries in anime can contribute a wide variety of things to a series and drastically improve them. In *3-gatsu*'s case, Rei and Nikaidou's rivalry functions as a way to not only develop them as character but also as a way to explore the theme of how people can affect each other in significant ways by simply existing and being themselves.

STAFF PICKS: FAVORITE RIVALRY

Rito vs. Ren - *To Love Ru*



Neil Frydendal

Ren loved Lala who loved Rito who loved Haruna, so while Rito didn't initially want Lala's affections, he still won them. However, Ren certainly didn't go down without a fight, achieving all sorts of insane feats in an attempt to sway Lala's heart, but to no avail.

Gilgamesh vs. Enkidu - *Fate series*



Marc Castillo

The oldest recorded instance of the enemies to lovers, slowburn, angst AU. Period. You gotta pay respects to your ancestors you know? Gilkidu walked so SasuNaru could run.

Masamune vs. Yukimura - *Sengoku Basara*



Grace Li

You honestly can't go wrong with two overly expressive warlords fighting to constantly one up each other. They were literally created to contrast- one is hotblooded and naive while the other is calm and mature. Not the most creative, but it does what it does.

Okabe Rintarou vs. Kurisu Makise - *Steins;Gate*



Abeer Hossain

It might seem like an odd choice to pair this often ill-fated couple as rivals, but anyone who has watched the series or played the VN can tell you that their relationship is powered by their competitive natures and their need to constantly outdo one another. They are both tsunderes in this way and even their affection for each other turns into a game of who can love the other more while hiding it the best.

Lelouch vs. Suzaku - *Code Geass*



Nick Wonosaputra

From childhood friends to unknowing rivals to enemies shackled by blood-soaked chains, this duo's paradoxical relationship will go down in the annals of history as one which shook the earth to its core.

Ouma vs. Saibara - *Danganronpa V3*



Kokichi Oma

I stole your heart, so now I'm satisfied!
I don't need to steal your life anymore!

Kate Bushmareva

The contrast of Saibara's "truth" and Ouma's "lies" sets them up as the symbolic rival pair throughout the course of *Danganronpa V3*. Ouma's infatuation with his detective opponent creates one of the most interesting and dramatic rivalries, and simultaneously romances, in the series.

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KATSUKI BAKUGOU AND IZUKU MIDORIYA
My Hero Academia
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