

THE NARUTO ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

konshuu

Volume XLVIII, Issue III

NARUTO UZUMAKI
Naruto

Art by David Chang



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

BORUTO



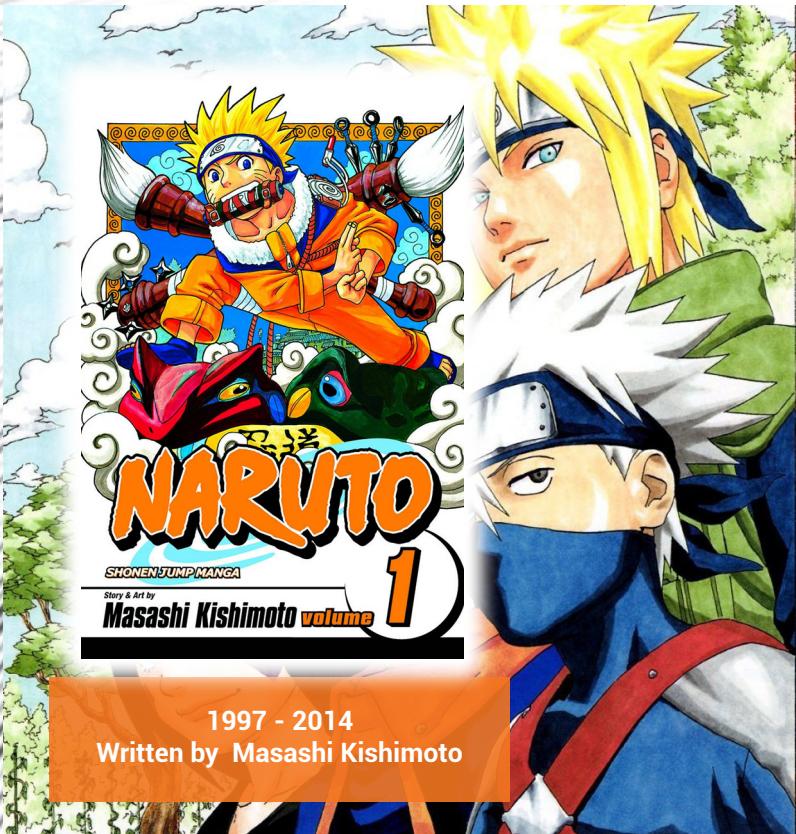
Welcome back to *Naruto*. This time, the kids are all grown up and married! You'll see the new generation of ninjas and how they compare to their past predecessors. *Boruto*, for example, is a spoiled brat who has a strained relationship with his absent and busy father, *Naruto*. Just how much has the world of Konoha changed?

Creator/Supervisor **Masashi Kishimoto** Art by **Mikio Ikemoto** Script by **Ukyo Kodachi**

Spring 2017, Pierrot
Directed by Noriyuki Abe

MANGA RECOMMENDATION

NARUTO



One day, the village of Konoha was attacked by a giant beast: the Nine-Tailed Fox. Sacrificing his life, Minato Namikaze sacrificed himself to seal the demon in his new-born son, *Naruto*. Thus begins the tale of an ostracized boy who would eventually aspire to become the strongest shinobi in the village: a title known as the *Hokage*.



THE FOOD OF NARUTO



ANDREW WING

4TH YEAR, MEDIA STUDIES

STAFF WRITER

It's your main man, Wingdrops here

Naruto is a classic shonen anime with plenty of action & adventure. One element of the show that can be overlooked is the food. In this article, I'm going to take a close look at the food that our lovable ninjas eat.

First are Choji Akimichi's potato chips. You can often catch Choji snacking on some chips throughout his appearances in *Naruto*. One could argue that these chips are actually Choji's source of power, because as an Akimichi, he converts the calories he consumes into chakra during battle. In Japan, there are potato chip flavors that you don't often see in the west, including salt & seaweed, honey butter, chili, and meat flavors.



Looking at Choji's chips in particular, it's apparent that Choji enjoys a wide variety of flavors. In episode 64 of the anime, you can see some of his flavors. There's meat flavor, hot chili flavor, seafood flavor, and pork flavor, just to name a few. These are some top tier flavors that Choji has selected - seafood flavored chips being one of my personal favorites. This on top of the fact that Choji is always shoveling chips into his face, and that you can audibly hear a crisp crunch every time he eats them, makes me give Choji's chips three stars out of five. Tasty, crunchy, and practical.

Next is Yakiniku. Yakiniku translates to "grilled meat", and refers to a style of restaurant where you cook the meat at your table yourself. It's similar to Korean Barbecue, a key difference being

the grill: Yakiniku grills are charcoal and feature a lattice pattern for criss-cross shape grill marks. In *Naruto*, Asuma Sarutobi's team would have Yakiniku for special occasions, like after the chunin exams.

Looking at the Yakiniku itself, it definitely looks solid. The meat is thinly sliced, and there's a good amount of veggies and sides as well. The meat, when cooked, display scrumptious, criss-crossing grill marks to die for. The characters often fight over the last piece of meat, each wanting to savor as much meat as they can. Interestingly, there isn't any dipping sauce at the restaurant. You gotta have sauce with your barbecue. Nevertheless, the Yakiniku from *Naruto* is getting a four star rating out of five from me.

Last is the most iconic dish in *Naruto*: ramen. Ramen is a Japanese noodle soup with toppings. The toppings, broth, and noodles can all differ depending on the region of Japan you get it from. It's the favorite dish of Naruto himself, and you can see him eating it right from the get go starting from episode 1. In the show, there's a small ramen stand that Naruto goes to, where he eats with his mentors and friends.



The ramen in *Naruto* looks delicious. There are so many toppings on it - including dried seaweed, bamboo shoots, and chopped green onion, all atop a generous portion of noodles and broth. There's even Naruto's namesake naruto, which is a seafood product with a pink swirl in the middle. One thing that stands out is the portion. There's a whole soft-boiled egg, while many restaurants only give you half. A generous row of pork chashu lines the top of the bowl - eight pieces in this picture, which is much more than a restaurant would normally give you. The large portion combined with the myriad of toppings makes me give the ramen five stars out of five. Steamy, slurpable, and delicious. Easily better than Ippudo :)

RIVALRIES



ANDREW OEUNG

4TH YEAR, EECs

Wants to go to Round1

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Warning: Mild Spoilers for *My Hero Academia* and *Naruto*

My friend was horrified during Bakugo's capture in *Boku no Hero Academia*. In the third season of *Boku no Hero Academia*, Bakugo is kidnapped by villains during summer training and is held captive by the likes of Shigaraki Tomura.

"He's going to end up like Sasuke!" he lamented.
Umm, what? And where did you get that idea?

Naruto and *Boku no Hero Academia* have a lot of similarities, but the rivalry between Naruto and Sasuke and the rivalry between Midoriya and Bakugo are markedly different. Still, it seems like a lot of people misconstrue the dynamic in *Boku no Hero Academia*.



Naruto and Sasuke's rivalry was a central plot point in *Naruto*. It was primarily driven by two conflicting desires: friendship and revenge. But after centering this issue in the forefront in the Sasuke Retrieval arc, it becomes an afterthought in *Naruto Shippuden*. Naruto and Sasuke almost never interact with each other, and they both grow independently from their own experiences. Naruto's selfless goal of protecting the village contrasts greatly with Sasuke's selfish pursuit of power and vengeance. At this point, their rivalry begins to lose meaning.

How can they compete against one another when they hardly interact with each other? By definition, a rivalry involves competition for the same objective or for a notion of superiority. In *Naruto Shippuden*, Sasuke and Naruto do not have the same goals in mind. Later on, Sasuke wants to become Hokage as well, but I honestly feel that his reasoning is a bit farfetched and forced. Some of the shoehorned plot points regarding Naruto and Sasuke largely contribute to a tenuous and shaky rivalry between the two ninjas. However, with a bit of context, it's easy to explain why: the author, Masashi Kishimoto, never intended to have a rival for Naruto. Sasuke was only created because of his editor!

What about Midoriya and Bakugo? Both of them have the same, concrete goal. They both want to surpass All Might and become the world's greatest hero. Midoriya perceives heroism as saving others at all costs, while Bakugo sees heroism as pure strength and power. Even when Bakugo is captured by villains, Bakugo's pride and conviction in his dream to become the number one hero allow him to easily reject them, unlike Sasuke. Sasuke sided with Orochimaru because it coincided with his goals; but Bakugo has nothing to gain by siding with Shigaraki. How could he become the number one hero as a villain?

Naruto and *Boku no Hero Academia* share similarities in protagonists and worlds, but overall these two rivalries do not feel the same. Hopefully, audiences will stop likening Midoriya and Bakugo to Naruto and Sasuke. I mean, it's not like we see Midoriya using the Rasengan and Bakugo using the Chidori!



ZERO-TO-HERO PAYOFF IN NARUTO



SHAMIN CHOWDHURY
3RD YEAR, PHYSICS AND MATH

STAFF WRITER

Andrew, I'll work on getting better with the time I have.

Warning: Spoilers about chunin exams and Naruto vs Neji

"Zero-to-hero" is my favorite genre at the moment. When I find a character who goes through challenges, especially ones that not a lot of people go through, and works hard to try and overcome them, it really inspires me and makes me feel like I could do the same. If you're really elitist or something like that, you might think ideas like these are too "simple." But it's "simple" ideas like these that so many people want to realize in their own lives, and that's what makes zero-to-hero so effective. Here, I'm bringing up a classic payoff scene of this concept found in *Naruto*: Naruto versus Neji. When I say "payoff scene," what I mean is that this scene had a good deal of build up going up to it that makes the audience want something, and this is the scene that delivers on that.

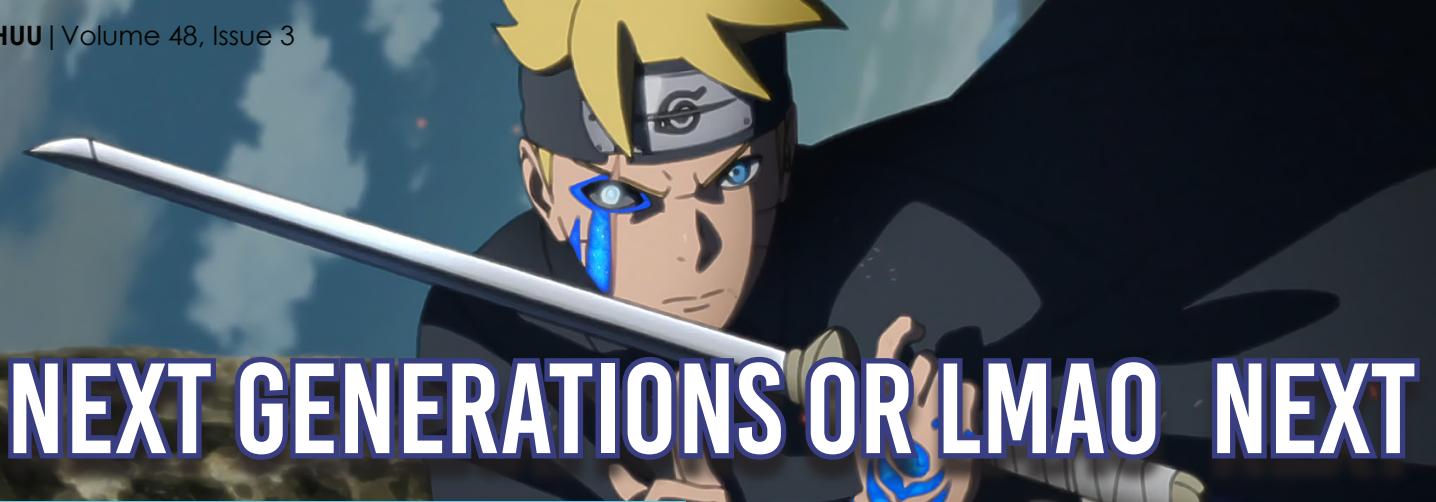
Before this scene, back in the chunin exam preliminaries, Hinata and Neji fought, and Hinata lost. Hinata gave her all in that fight, inspired by Naruto who always gives his all. Seeing Hinata lose despite this and hearing how much Neji told her there was no way she could overcome being a failure, Naruto made an oath on Hinata's spilt blood that he would definitely win. Going into the fight between Naruto and Neji, we have strongly conflicting philosophies. Neji is under the notion that everyone has some sort of predetermined destiny that

they cannot change. For him, it's having been born in a Hyuga clan branch family that's left to the mercy of the main family. Naruto, who was always treated like some unwanted monster by others as a child, believes that in becoming Hokage, he'll become someone people will recognize and admire. In other words, Naruto believes he can work hard and change the circumstances he's in.

Going into this fight, no one thinks Naruto will win. People think he's just some genin with no impressive talent unlike Sasuke or Neji. With this kind of setup, we as an audience, who have been with Naruto in his journey thus far, know Naruto has worked so hard after having been through so much, so we really want to see him win. We want Naruto to show that "failures" can improve with hard work. That someone like Naruto can become Hokage. That destinies are not fixed and can be changed.

You see, I feel like Kishimoto uses Neji to embody the kind of ideas that make a lot of people pessimistic about being able to succeed in life. So when Naruto brought out his Nine-Tails chakra, clashed with Neji, and punched him from out of the ground when people thought he lost and his nails bled from the effort of digging up through the ground, I was satisfied. Someone everyone thought was just a nobody gave that pessimistic Neji a piece of his mind and won the fight. This is where the payoff is, and scenes like this are exactly why I enjoy this genre so much.





NEXT GENERATIONS OR LMAO NEXT



ANDY LO
3RD YEAR, ECONOMICS

LAYOUT EDITOR

An empire long divided shall unite

Warning: Spoilers for *Boruto* and *Naruto*

Boruto is a contradiction that vexes me to this day. As a diehard *Naruto* fan, I stuck through the filler of *Shippuden* without complaint. Yet, I found myself taking a negative stance towards *Boruto: Next Generations*, one that the slice of life features of the latest iteration couldn't explain. After deliberating over dozens of videos of the new series, I figured out what was bothering me: it was the fact that our favorite characters Naruto, Sasuke, and Sakura have taken a back seat in this newest iteration of the franchise. Making sure to treat it like any other new shounen, I rewatched the series and will now convey my less biased thoughts.

1: Understandably slow pacing

The pacing at times felt laborious, but it was necessary in order to create the kind of world we've come to expect from the *Naruto* franchise. The show must cater to both new and old audiences by introducing a new cast and then expanding on the old cast and world for old viewers. Put this way, the intro actually seems to have done a lot in few short episodes, but as die-hard fans of the series, we take it for granted.



2: Epic and costly fights

The fight scenes that the series is known for are just as good as they ever were, if not better. They are well thought out, flashy,

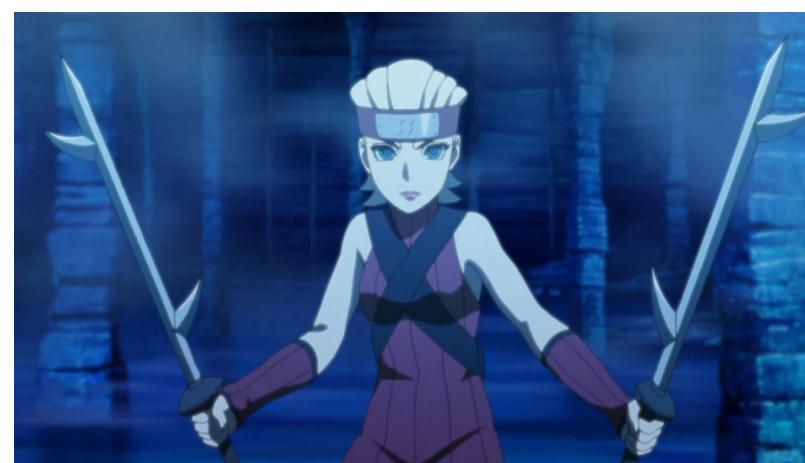
and filled with all kinds of new jutsu (interspersed with classics like Rasengan and Chidori). Plus, I'm sure these fights still take up all the budget.

3: References to *Naruto*

The original comes into play every once and awhile as stated previously in said characters, world, and jutsu. The jutsu that are invented are either created because of past events in *Naruto* (Kakashi invents Purple Lightning because he lost his Sharingan) or are nice natural progressions of existing jutsu.

4: Technological/scientific advancement

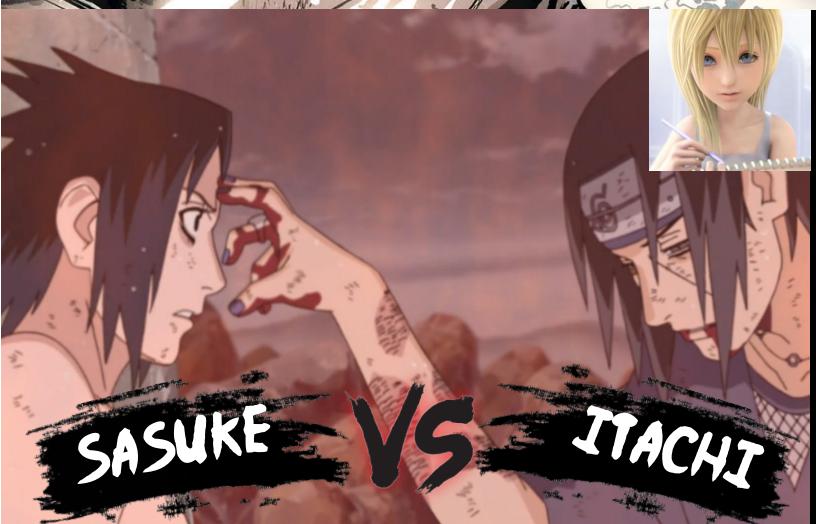
The first episode of *Naruto* was weird. The clash between the cup ramen and the ninja stars felt weird, and watching the world of *Boruto* industrialize solves a lot of these lingering feelings. Additionally, these changes aren't simply cover ups for the world that was established in the first episode. The fights are often related to science or technology in one way or another. In one of Sarada's first fights, she uses her understanding of electrolysis (the splitting of H₂O into H₂ and O₂) to win the fight.



5: A new, but needed young cast

As much as I hate to admit, it would be worse if we got a new story with the old cast of characters. It simply wouldn't work no matter how much we all want it to. The old series ended with closure, where would a prospective reboot find any points of interest and conflict? The old characters are already basically gods, not to mention all friends for crying out loud! Anyway, the new series is decently good and I recommend any old fans to give it a try.

STAFF PICKS FAVORITE FIGHTS



SASUKE VS ITACHI



SASORI VS KANKURO



TSUNADE VS OROCHIMARU VS JIRAIYA



SASUKE VS NARUTO



NEJI VS NARUTO



JIRAIYA VS PAIN



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TSUNADE SENJU
Naruto

Art by Deborah Lim

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