





岸本斉史

Greetings. With everyone's support, my first comic has been published. I'm ecstatic. Speaking of ecstatic, the first time I won an award for one of my manga, I was so happy I was flying high. But this time is 10 times better than that. I don't know how to say it, but this is the happiest moment of my life. But I guess I'm happiest knowing that this comic will be read and enjoyed. Yup, that's it!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000



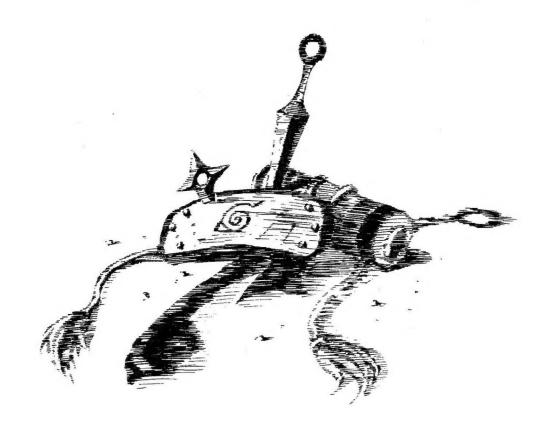
Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version 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.







VOL. 1 THE TESTS OF THE NINJA



STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO



NARUTO

VOL. 1 THE TESTS OF THE NINJA

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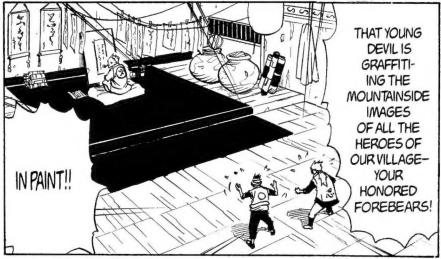






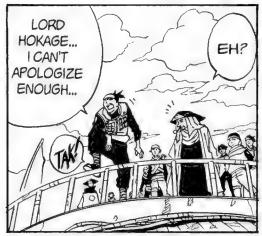


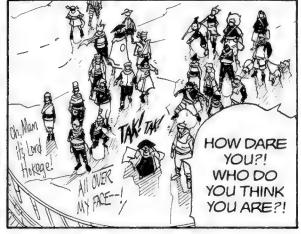










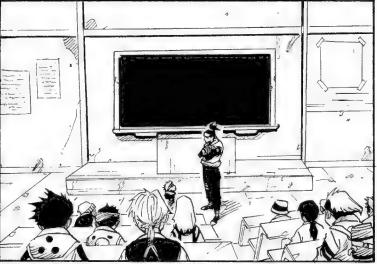
































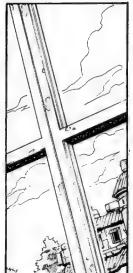




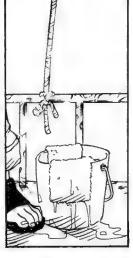


















SO?
IT'S NOT
LIKE
THERE'S
ANYONE
WAITING
AT HOME
FOR ME.



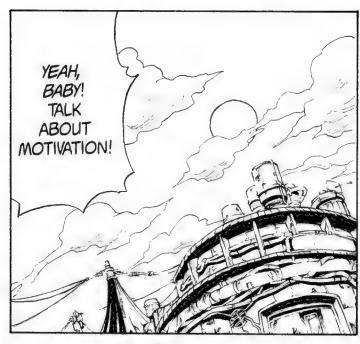












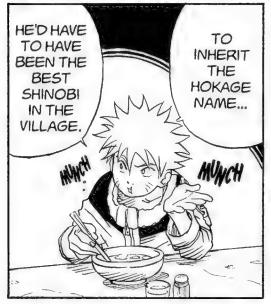














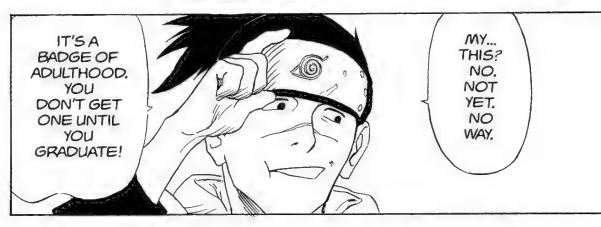


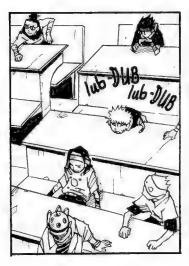




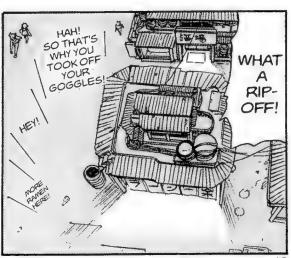






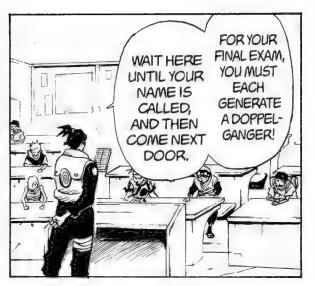


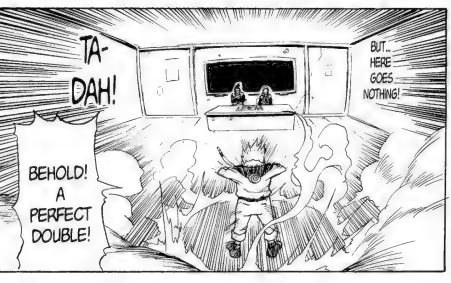






















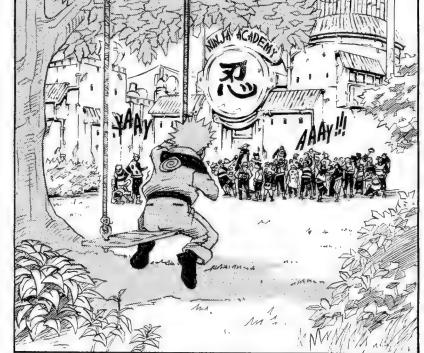
















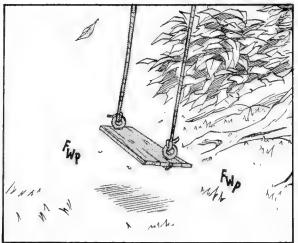


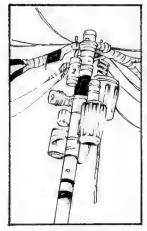
















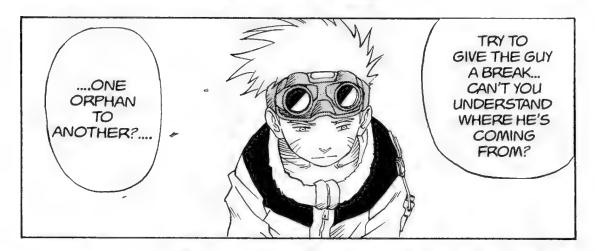


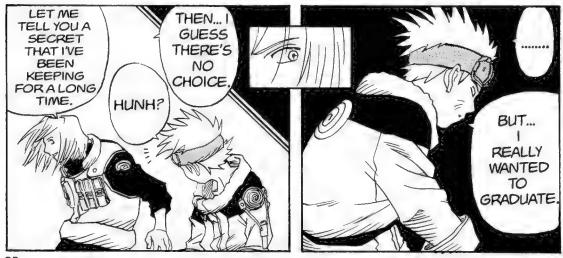




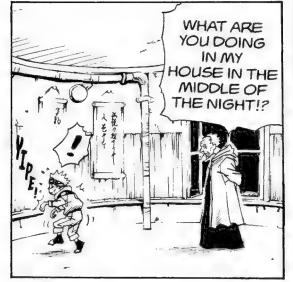


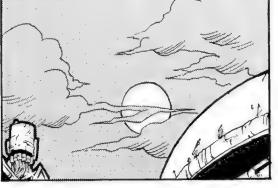










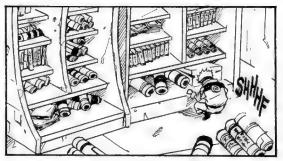










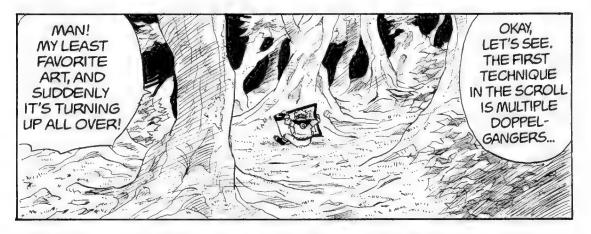


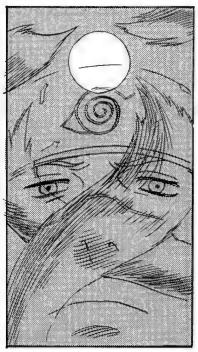












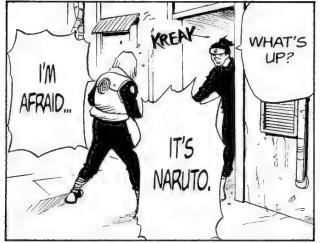








READ THIS WAY















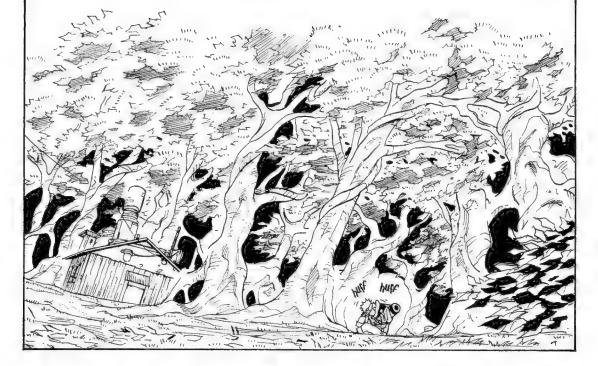


















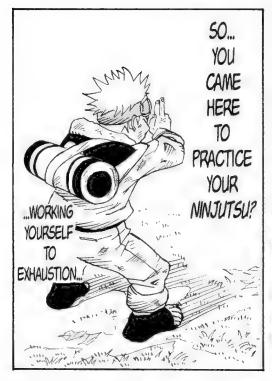












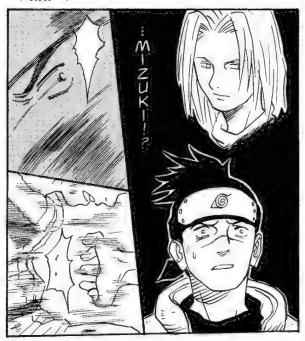










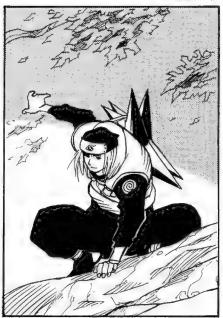










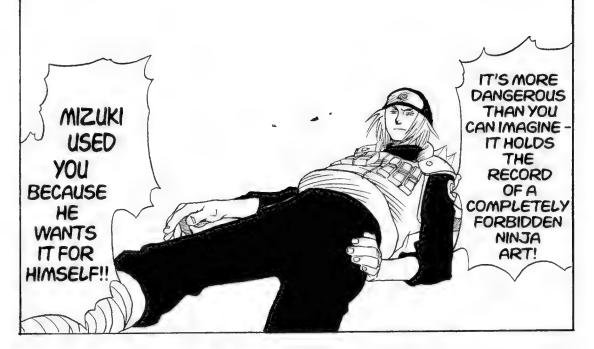








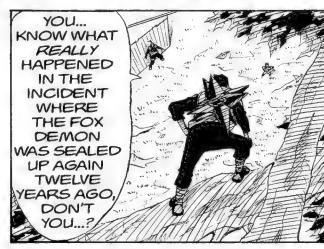












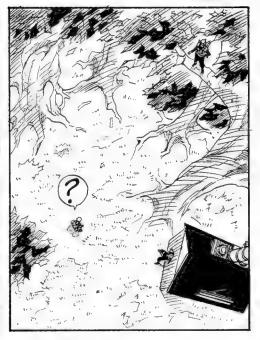








DECREE















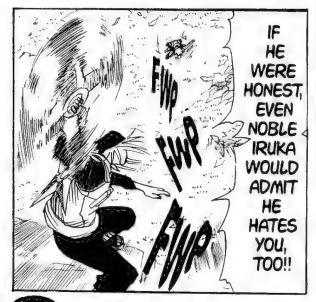










































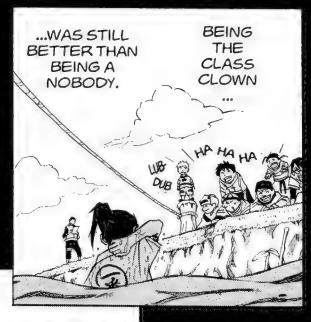




WITH MY PARENTS GONE... THERE WAS NO ONE TO PRAISE OR RESPECT ME.

... I WAS SO LONELY ...





















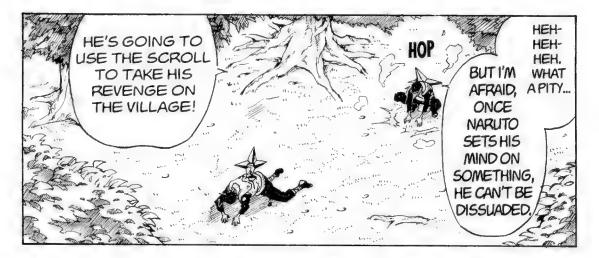




KREAD THIS WAY









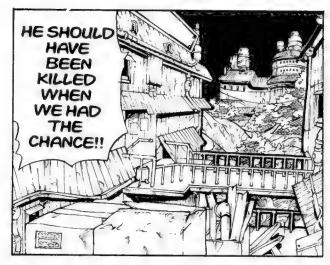












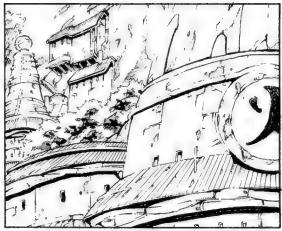










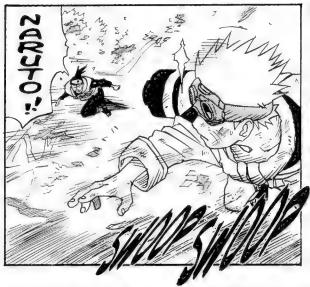








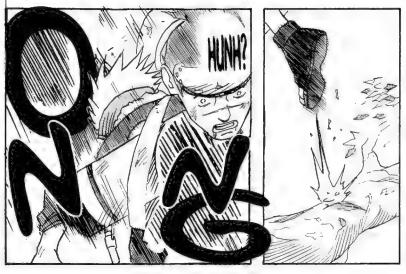




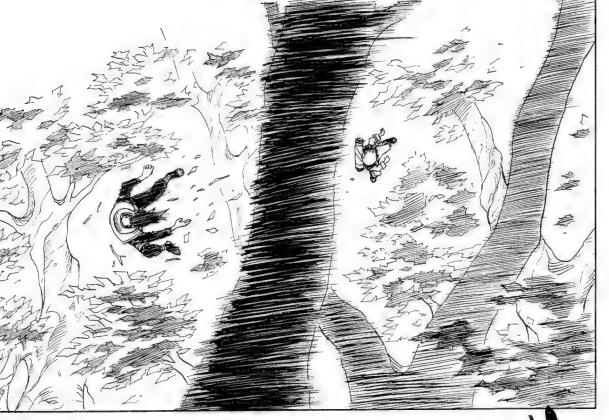
























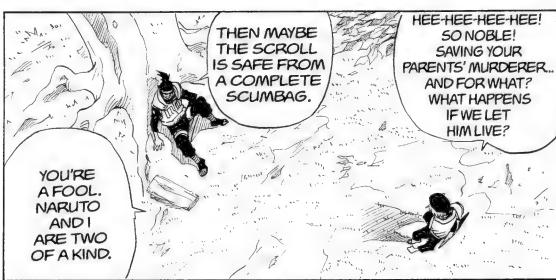
















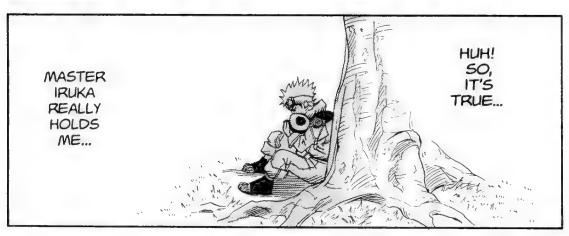






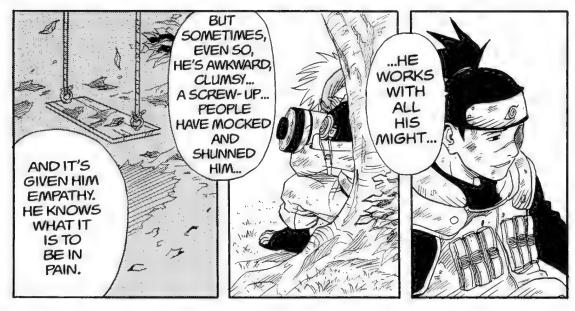




















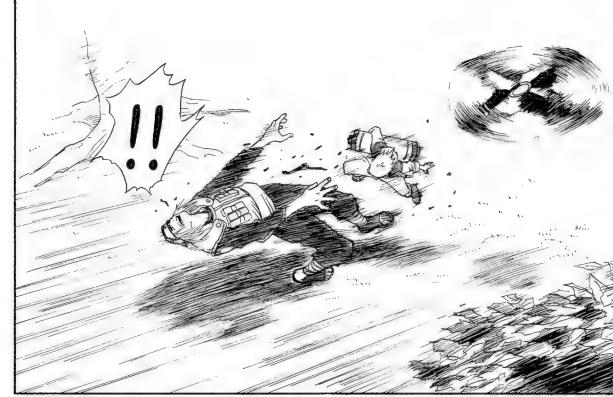


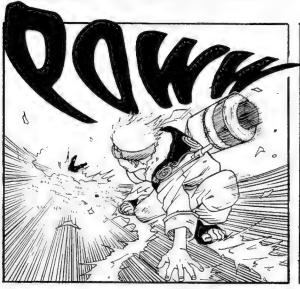
















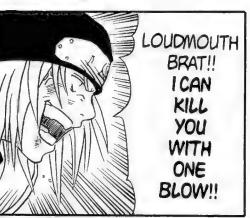




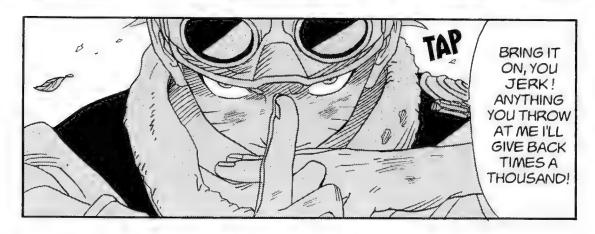


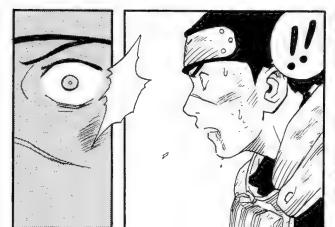






















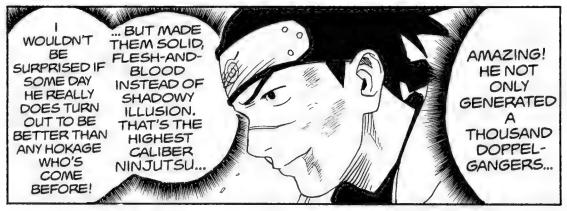




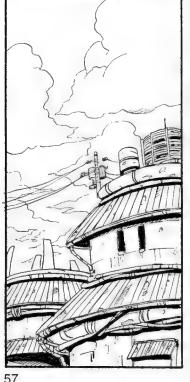


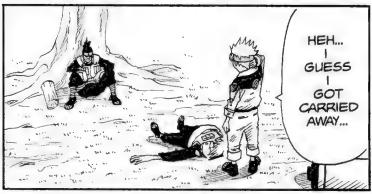










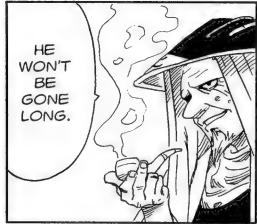






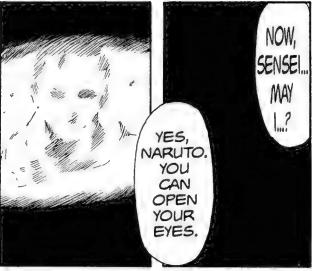




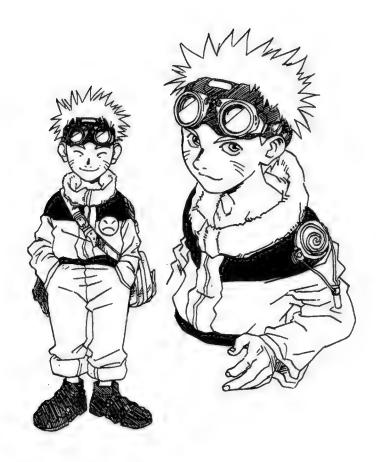












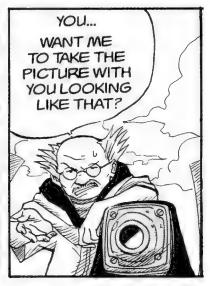
This is the very first sketch of Naruto that I drew. It was for a one-shot story in the Japanese *Weekly Shonen Jump*'s special seasonal edition, *Akamaru Jump*. Notice that he wears boots instead of *zori* (traditional Japanese sandals).

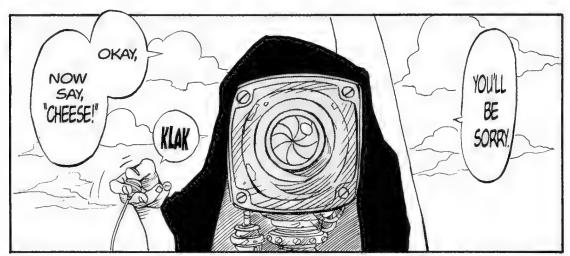
In the one-shot story, *Naruto* wasn't a ninja comic at all, but just about magic and sorcery. Even though the setup was completely different from the current storyline, it was the very first character-driven manga that I ever drew, and I liked the character so I decided to keep using him. But drawing the goggles each time was a pain! That's why I came up with the idea for the ninja *hitai-ate* (headband).





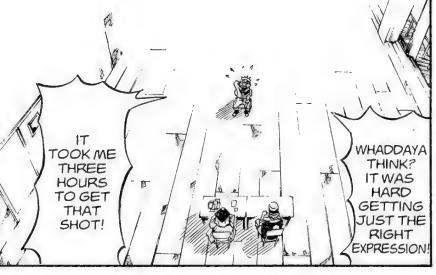










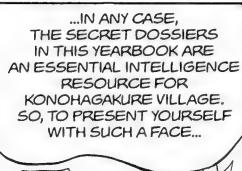


















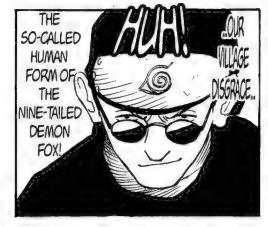
























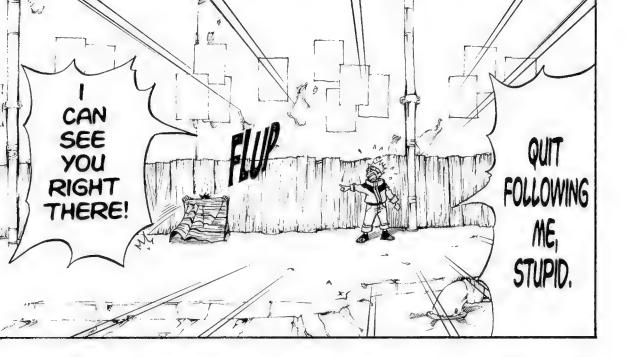














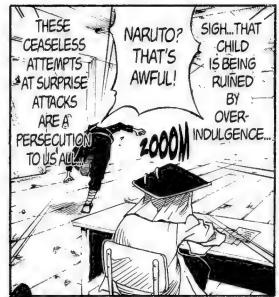






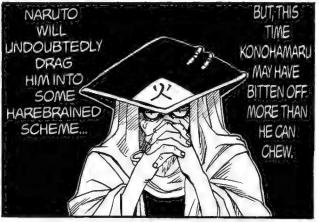










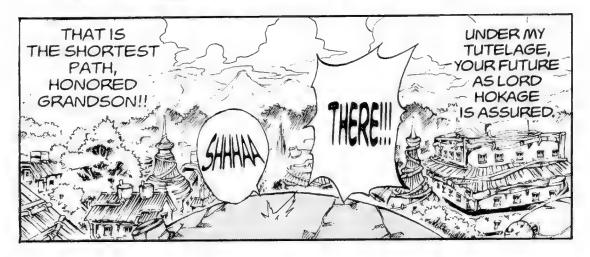










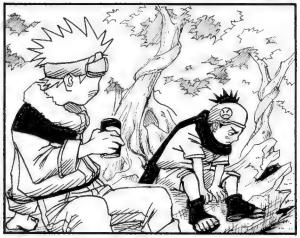
























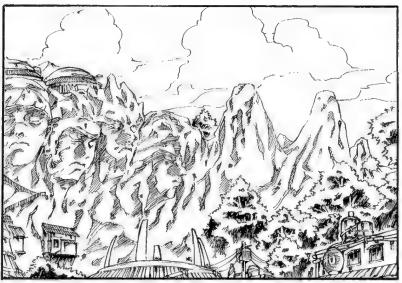






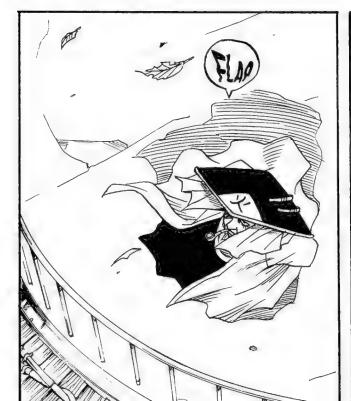












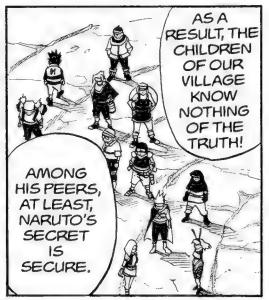
YESTERDAY I TREATED
HIM TO A STERN
LECTURE OVER A
BOWL OF RAMEN.
HE'S BEEN ON
CLOUD NINE SINCE HE
PASSED THE TEST.
HE INTENDS TO BECOME
A FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI
AND EARN THE RESPECT
OF EVERYONE IN TOWN.









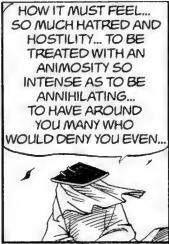
















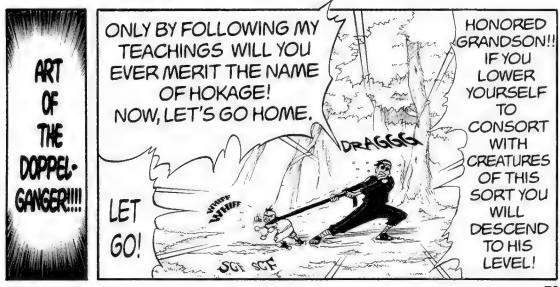










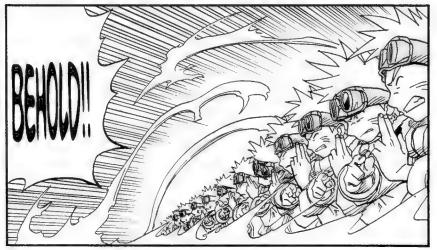






























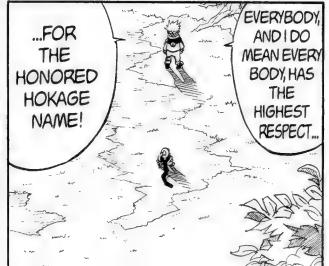












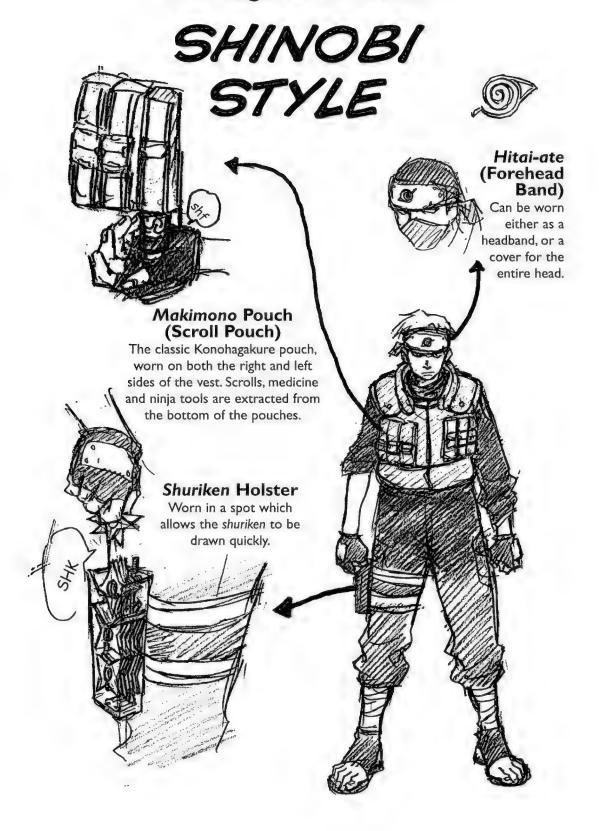








Konohagakure Basics:



#number 3: Enter Sasuke!

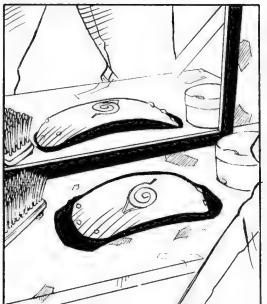




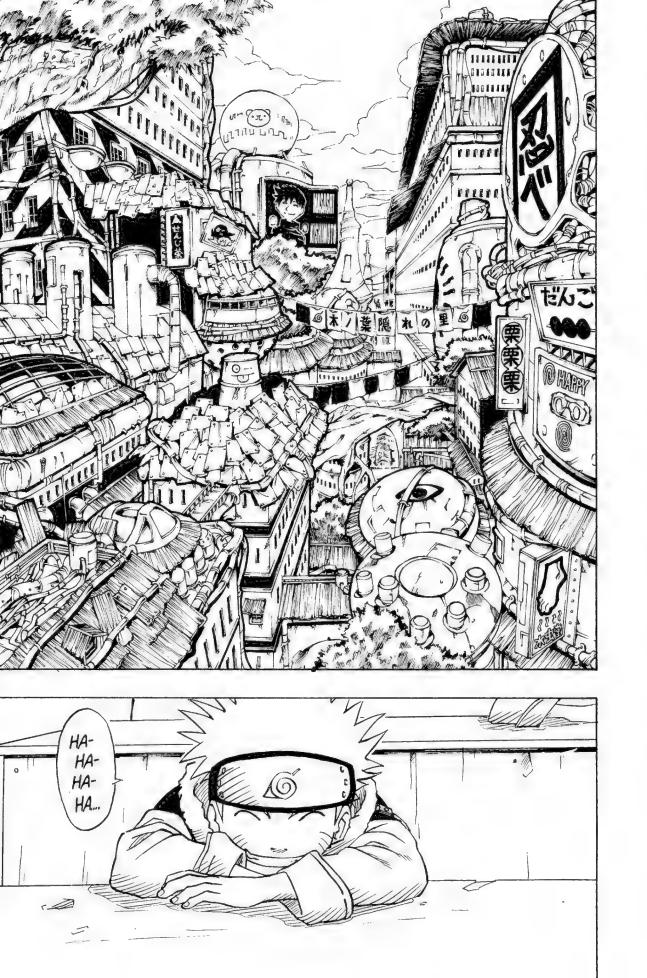






























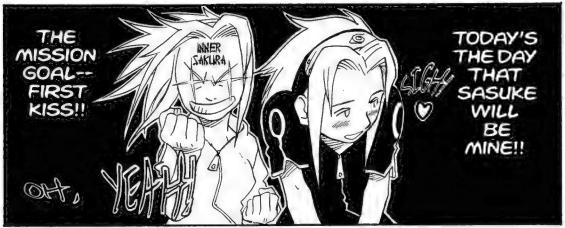


UCHIHA SASUKE! THINKS HE'S SO COOL. I HATE THAT GUY!



































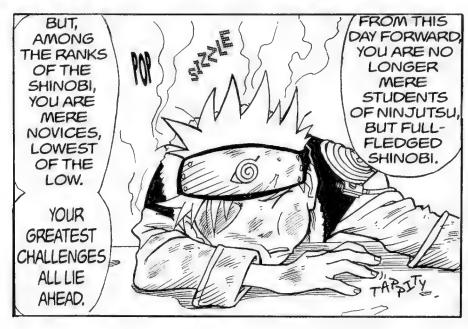




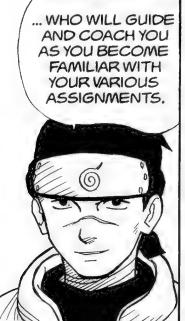


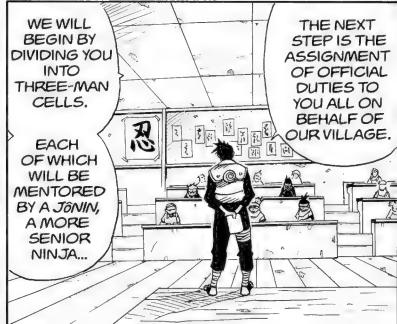










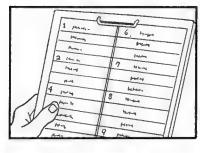


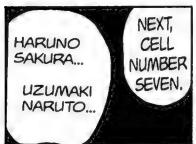


SO LONG AS I'M
PARTNERED WITH
SAKURA...
I'LL TAKE ANYBODY
ELSE...
EXCEPT SASUKE!!







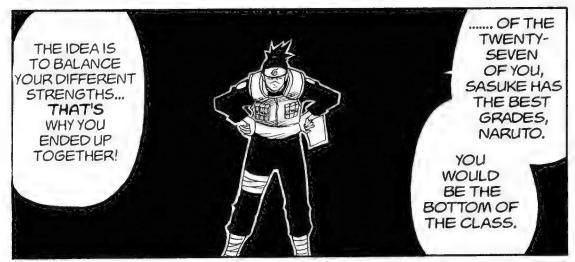












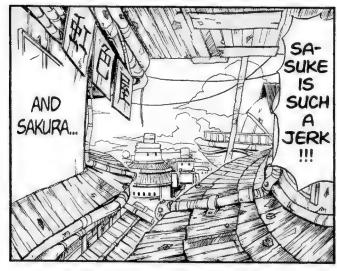












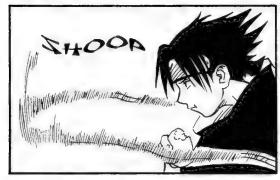










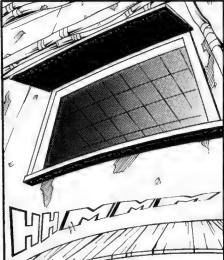












































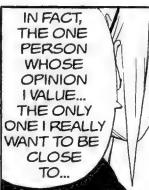












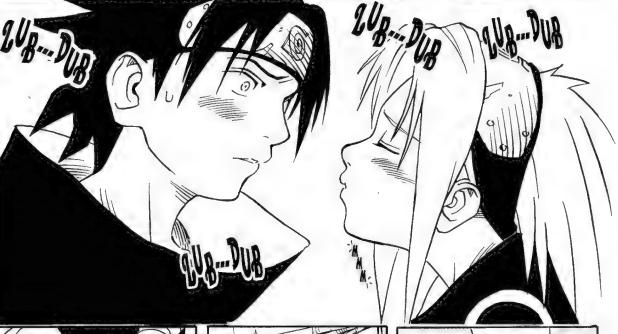
NARUTO
DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
ME AT ALL!......
I CAN'T STAND
TO HAVE HIM
ANYWHERE
NEAR ME!



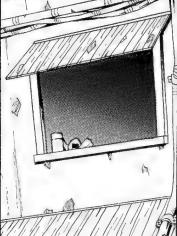


























K THIS K









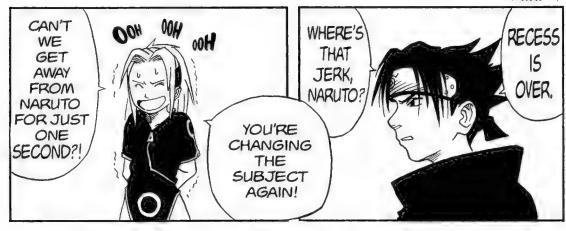






















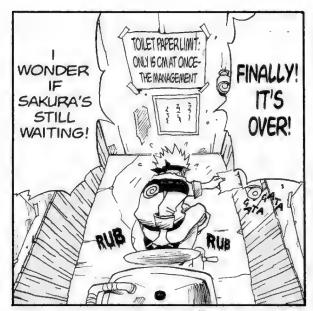
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO

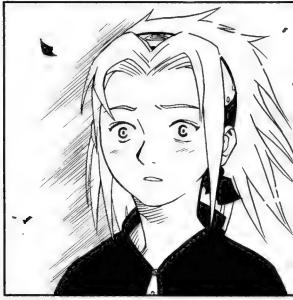
ANSWER TO ANYONE.





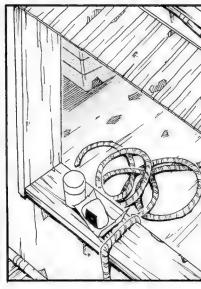




















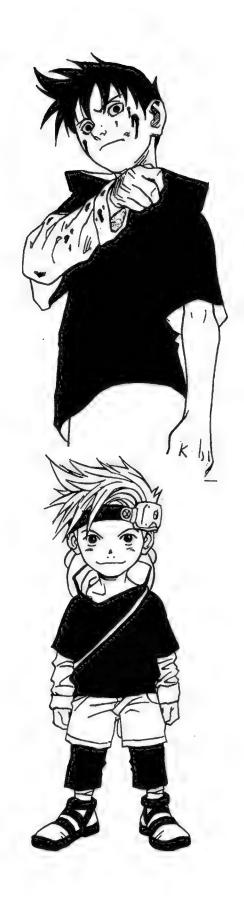






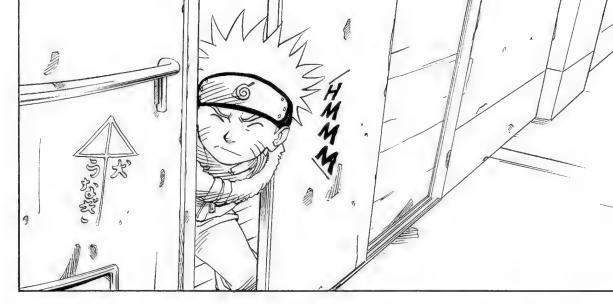
The picture on the right is from Karakuri ("mechanism"), the first story I submitted to Weekly Shonen Jump. Karakuri won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists, which allowed me to get picked up by my current editor and helped me begin my journey down the road of a manga artist. It's a manga that brings back a lot of memories for me. But, man, the hero sure does have intensely terrifying eyes.

The picture on the right is another one from the first manga I published in Weekly Shonen Jump...that's right, Karakuri! But when the reader polls came in, its popularity was rock bottom! Still, this manga also brings back a lot of memories for me.



#number 4: Hatake Kakashill







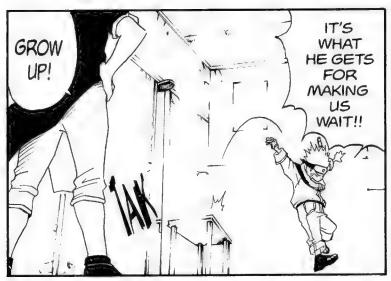


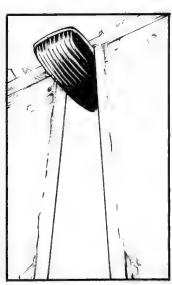




















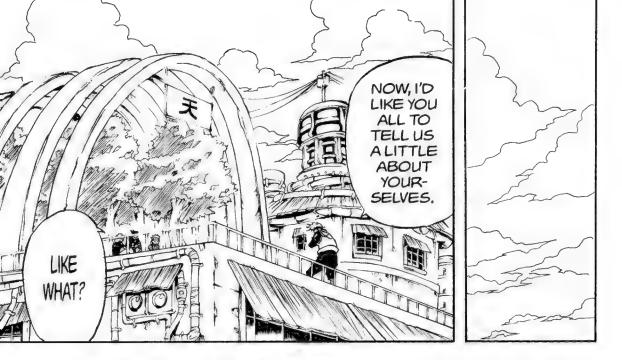




























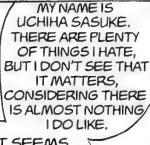












IT SEEMS
POINTLESS
TO TALK ABOUT
"DREAMS"...
THAT'S JUST
A WORD...



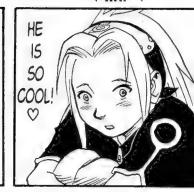














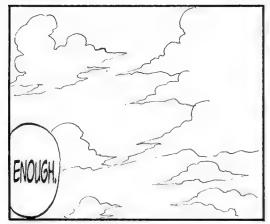












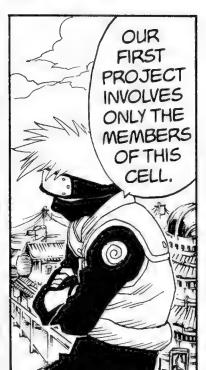






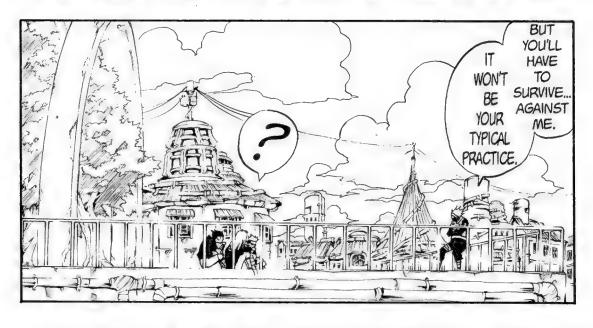














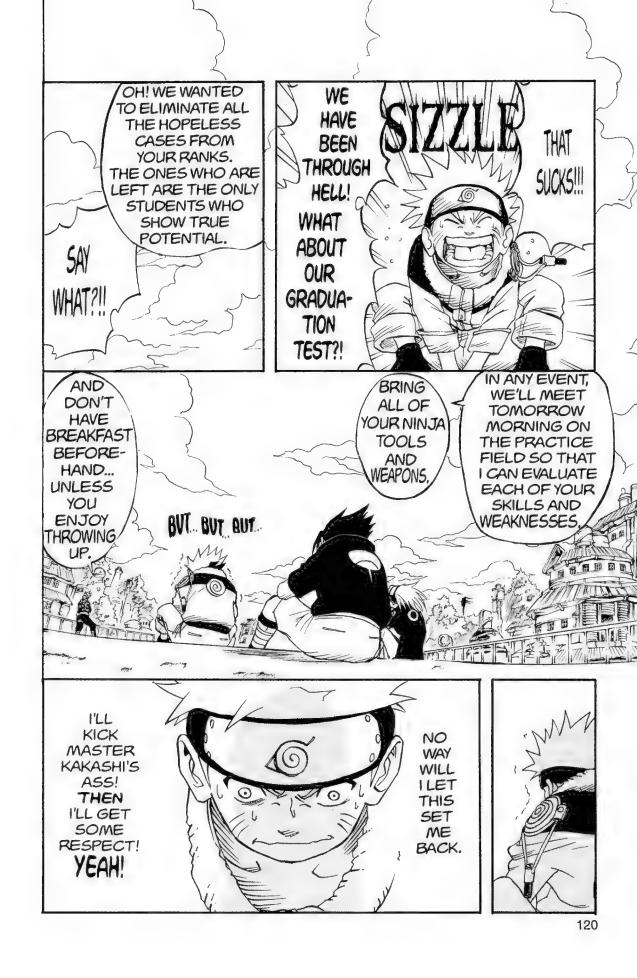




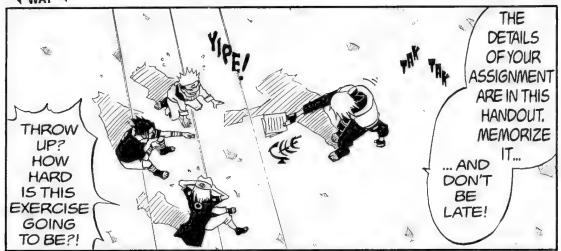






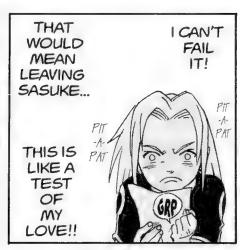








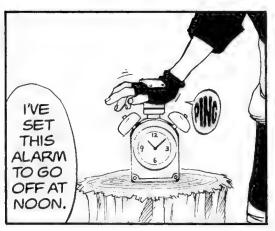


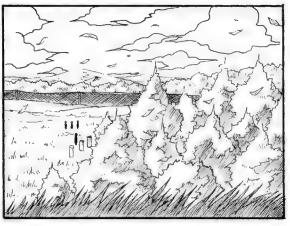


















SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED US TO GO WITHOUT BREAKFAST!

AAWWWW.!















ONLY

THE

WEAK SPEAK

LOUDLY.





























THE MAKING OF NARUTO!!!



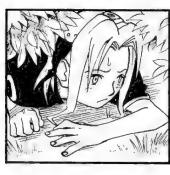
The Kakashi That Might Have Been

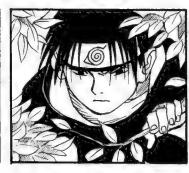
The Rejected Outline for the Second Chapter

My original plan for Kakashi's first appearance was to have him show up in the second chapter of **Naruto** (see **page #6 I**). He was meant to be a cool, affected, upper-level ninja who ended sentences (in the original Japanese) with the very polite "de gozaru" verb form. This was going to be before Sakura and Sasuke had been introduced. Kakashi would suddenly appear on the scene as Naruto's teacher. This idea was discarded after a discussion with my editor at **Weekly Shonen Jump**. As an outgrowth of things we discussed together, I was able to flesh out Kakashi, Sasuke, and Sakura into the characters they are today.

































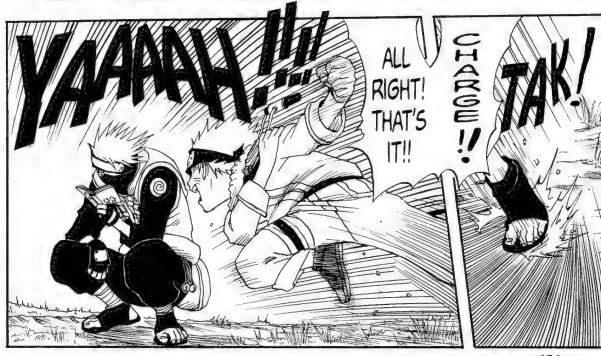




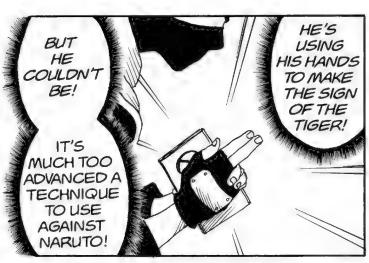




























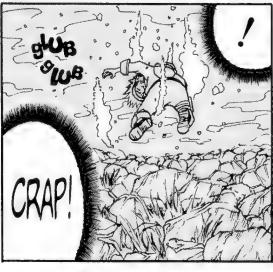








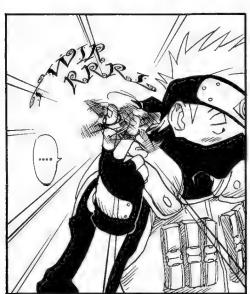












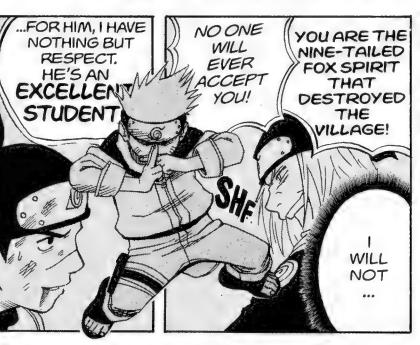
























K THIS K





















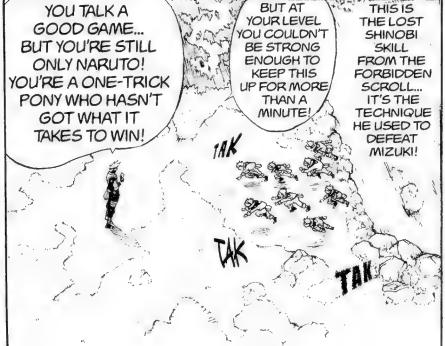






























AN ANECDOTE by Masashi Kishimoto

Coming from the country, I grew up surrounded by the beauties of nature, trees, plants, and open ground. So moving to Tokyo was quite a shock. There was hardly a plant or a natural setting to be found. I had to do something to create the country atmosphere and keep myself from feeling homesick. Something that would soothe me enough that I could concentrate on creating good manga. So I decided to buy a houseplant for my desk.

Kishimoto: "From now on, you're my partner!" I even gave my plant a name: *Ukki-kun*, as in "Mr. Ukki." **Kishimoto:** "Well, Ukki, you look very shiny and green today!"

Ukki: "....."

Kishimoto: "It was a good day for photosynthesis, huh?"

Ukki: "......"

Kishimoto: "Today I'm going to give you an excellent fertilizer for vigorous growth!"

We were a super-team.

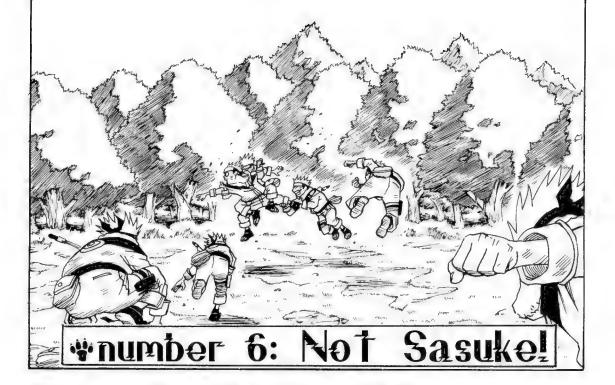
Assistant A: "What is this, Mr. Kishimoto? How did your plant get all dried out?"

Kishimoto: "What are you saying?! I gave Ukki the best care!"

Assistant A: "You mean this? This fertilizer is concentrated, so you need to dilute it a lot. Oh no! You mean you didn't dilute it?!"

Sigh...









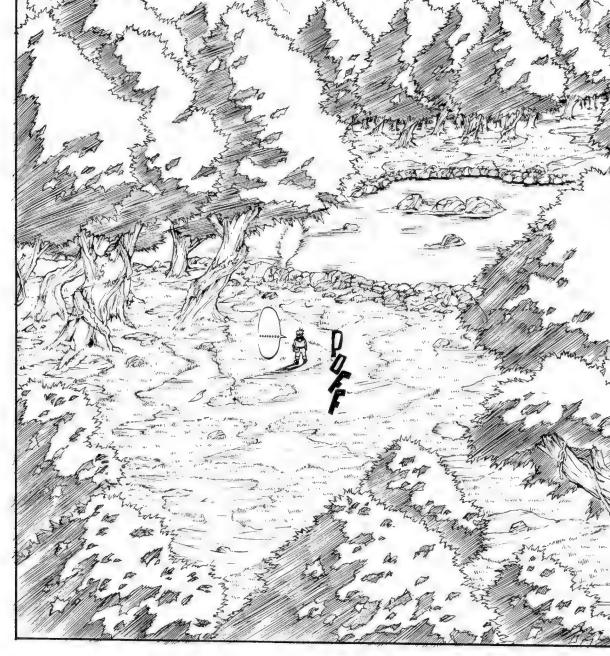




wnumber 6: Not Sasuke!





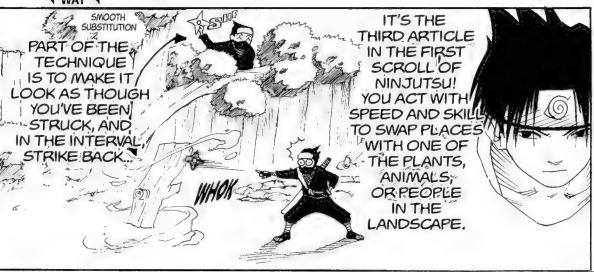


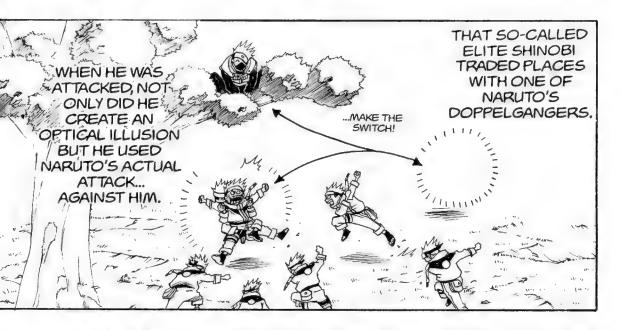














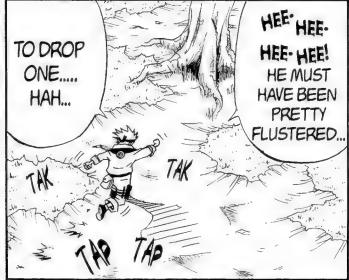


















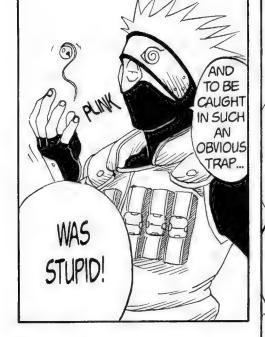
















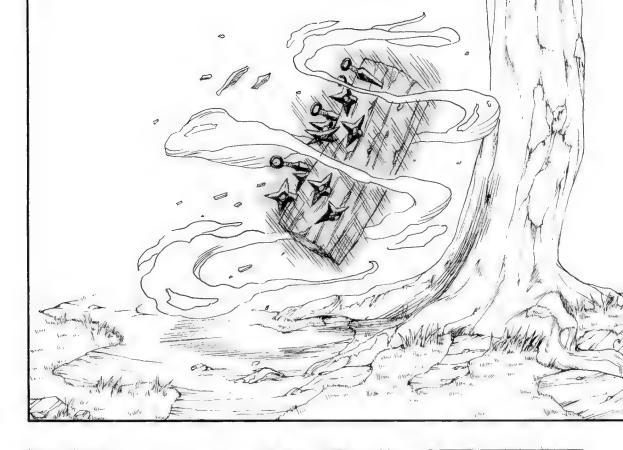






























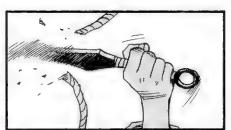








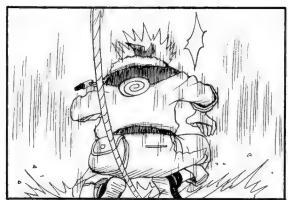








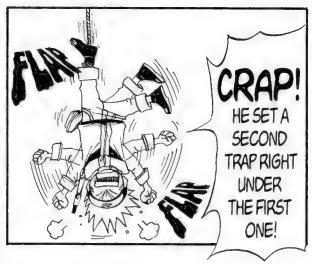




































YEEAAAAAAH!!!! YEEAAAAAAH!!!!







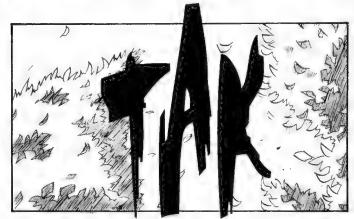












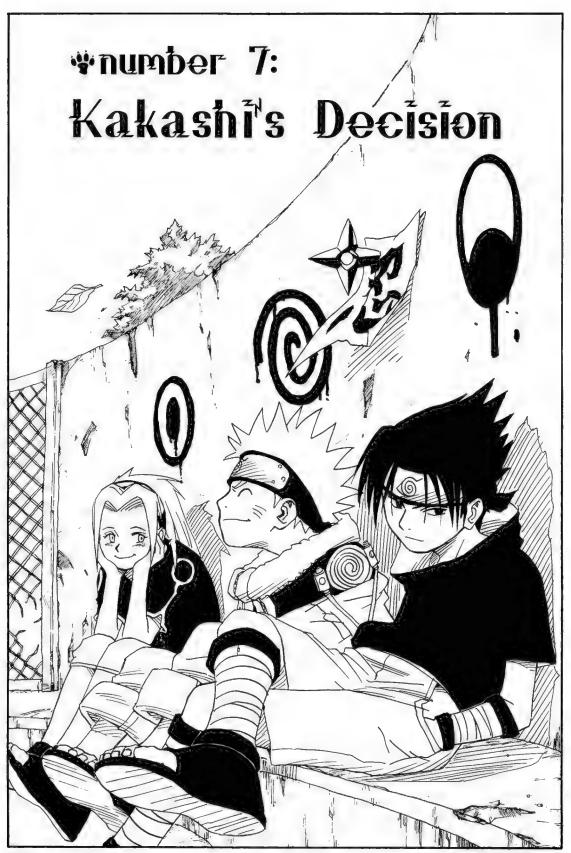




NARUTO STAFF



Kishimoto and his assistants work together to create **Naruto** for the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine...20 pages a week!























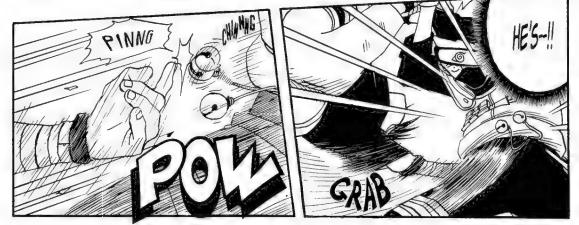














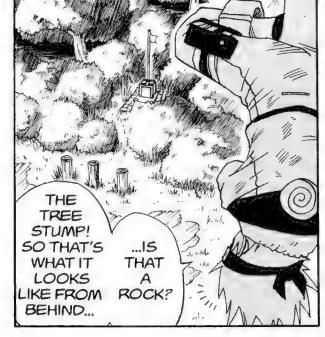










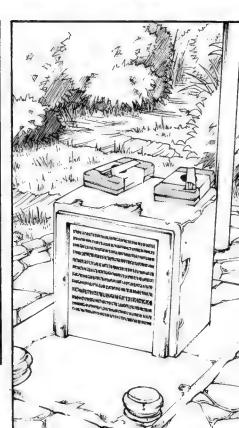


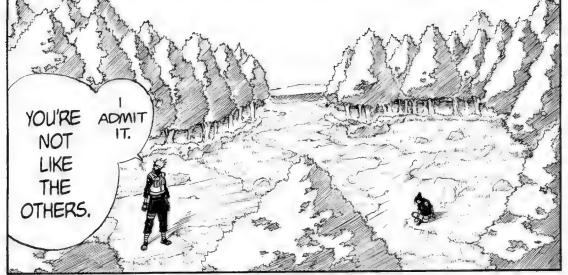












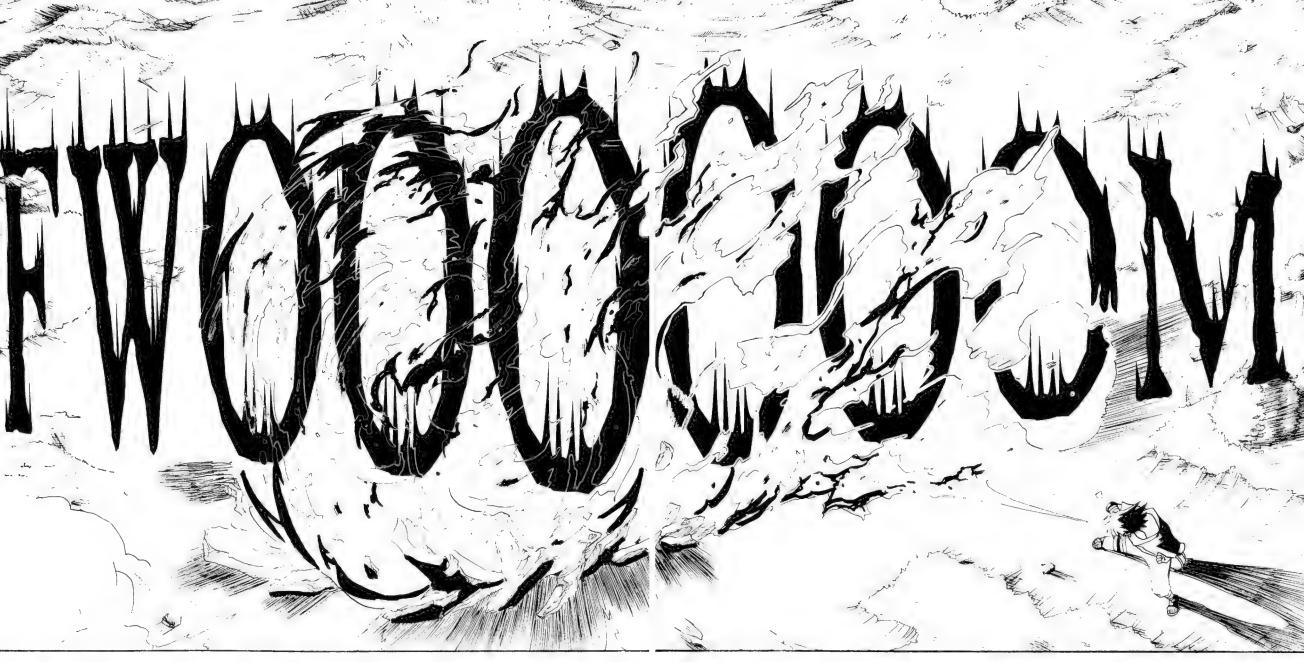


























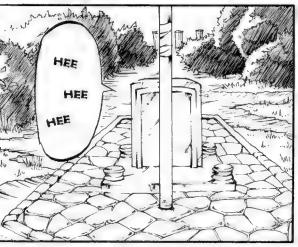




























































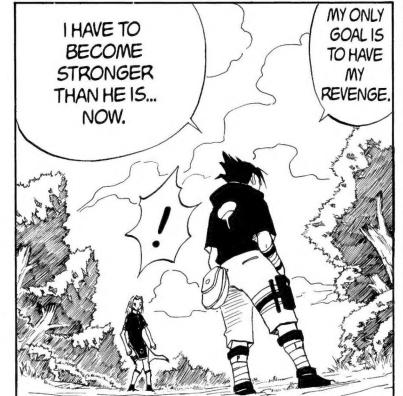




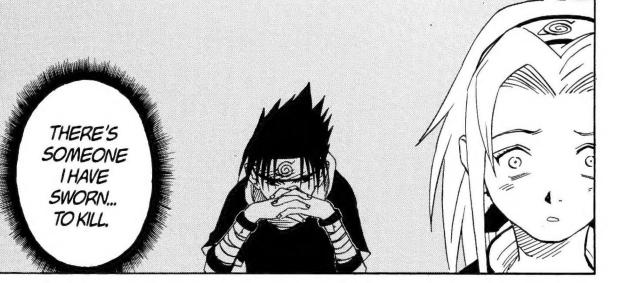


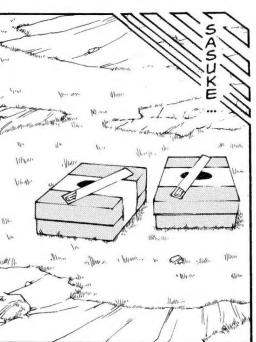












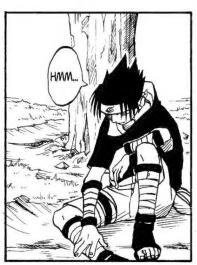


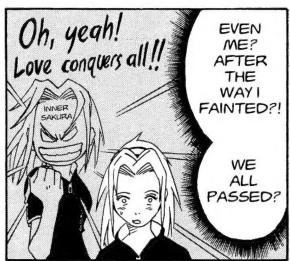




















TO BE CONTINUED ...