

MANGA

NISHI SEMBOKU'S

KARIWANO



TSUNAHIKI MONOGATARI



NISHI SEMBOKU'S HIDDEN GEMS!

NISHI SEMBOKU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR 5 / PINE

自然がたくさんあっておかげでいいところですよ。

友達や家族、自然の物で遊んだり遊ばない場所が沢山あります。

自然がたくさんあっておかげでいいところですよ。

西山北は、自然が豊かで私は好きです。

緑が多くて、のびのびとしたところなのでいいところですよ。

おじいちゃんおばあちゃんや家族に田舎の場所が沢山あります。

山がきれいなのでよくここへ遊びに来たいです。

大佐沢公園は自然が豊かでとてもいいところですよ。

田舎がきれい。ほいで自然がたくさんあります。

緑を大切にしている大佐沢公園

大佐沢公園のきれいな水が大好きです。

西山北は緑が豊かで水がきれいです。

強首の自然が大好きです。

つな引きていきかになるところですよ。

緑が多いので、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

池がたくさんあって魚がいっぱい取れる所です。

緑が多い、ほいで、とてもいいところですよ。

水がきれいなので、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

人にやさしいので、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

水がきれいなのでいいところですよ。

大佐沢公園の日にたたくみんなど、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然がたくさんあって、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

しょうぼうさんという昔ながらの職業があるところですよ。

森や木がたくさんあって、とても空気がいいです。

夏は緑、秋は紅葉、冬は雪、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

しょうぼうさんは、昔の人がよくいます。

さんぽうさんの水は、とてもきれいでいいところですよ。

石川 理奈さん 父の像があります。

NISHI SEMBOKU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR 5 / BAMBOO

自然が豊かで、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

秋田杉や小杉、川がきれいなのでいいところですよ。

自然がたくさんあって、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然がたくさんあって、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

たくさん遊べる場所が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然の家が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

野菜や米が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然が豊かで、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然の家が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

強首の自然が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然が豊かで、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然の家が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

強首の自然が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

西山北は、森が豊かで、米がおいしいです。

自然の家が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

みんなが自然を大切にしている。

土川の人々は、全員がやさしいので、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然の家が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

かりお路に、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然がたくさんあって、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

自然の家が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

抱きかかると、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

北里寺の人は、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

水川が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

大仙市、とても人がやさしい

自然が豊かで、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

川が、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。

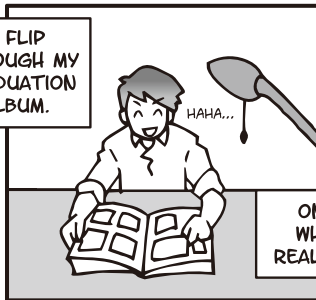
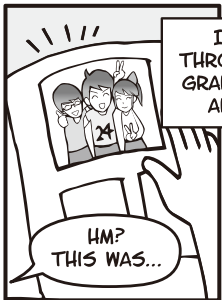
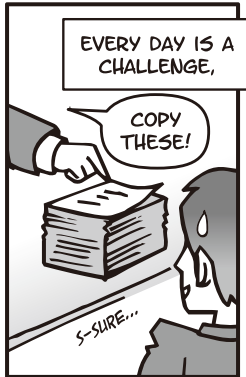
西山北に、自然が豊かでいいところですよ。



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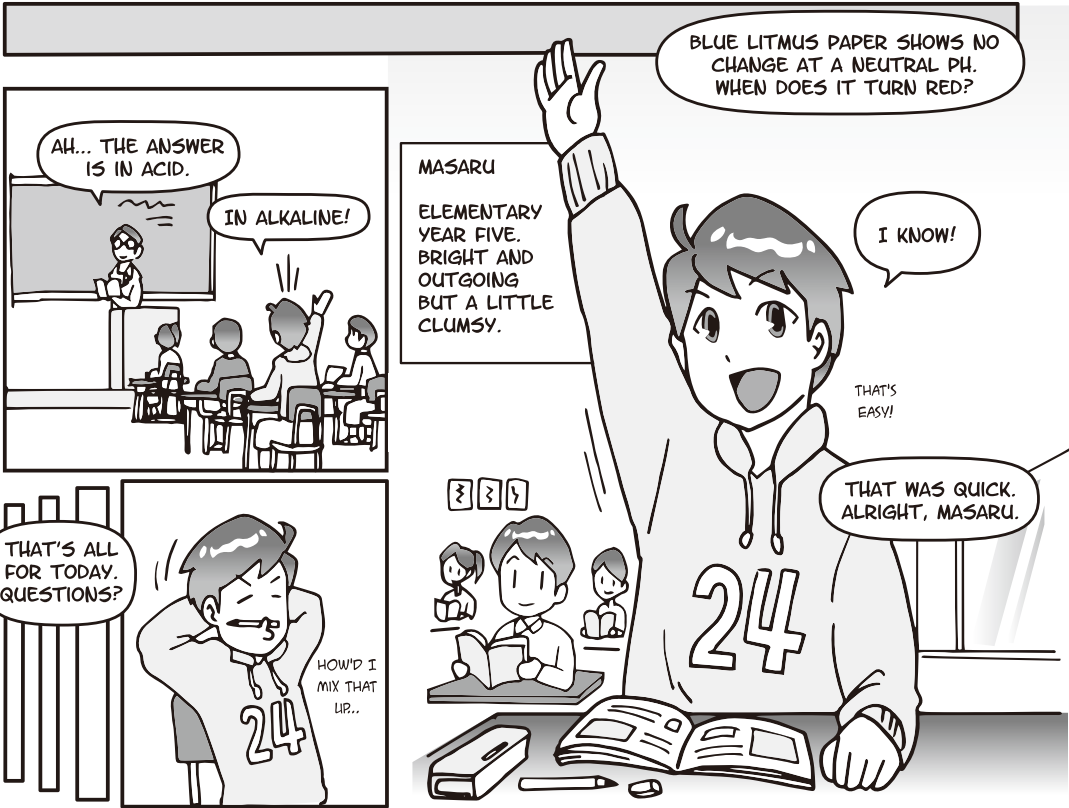


history

kariwano giant tug of war

It's said that the tradition of the kariwano giant tug of war dates back some 500 years to the muromachi period.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1602 SAMURAI DISTRICT ESTABLISHED IN KARIWANO WITH FUTSUKAMACHI AND ITSUKAMACHI ON THE PERIPHERY WHERE THE TUG OF WAR BEGAN.</p> <p>1656 YOKAMACHI DESTROYED IN A FIRE. THE UPPER FUTSUKAMACHI AND LOWER ITSUKAMACHI REMAIN.</p> <p>MEIJI SAMURAI ABOLISHED. TUG OF WAR MOVES FROM THE PERIPHERIES TO BECOME A MAIN EVENT OF KARIWANO.</p> <p>1957 SHIFT TOWARDS BECOMING A TOURIST EVENT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TSUNAHIKI SUPPORT COMMITTEE.</p> | <p>1973 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KARIWANO GIANT TUG OF WAR PRESERVATION SOCIETY, WORKING TOWARDS CONTINUING ON THE TRADITION OF JAPAN'S GREATEST TUG OF WAR.</p> <p>1983 DESIGNATED AS AN IMPORTANT INTANGIBLE FOLK CULTURAL PROPERTY OF AKITA PREFECTURE.</p> <p>1984 DESIGNATED AS A NATIONAL IMPORTANT INTANGIBLE FOLK CULTURAL PROPERTY.</p> <p>1998 DATE CHANGE FROM 15 JANUARY OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR TO THE NIGHT BEFORE NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY, 20 FEBRUARY.</p> |
|---|--|



AH... THE ANSWER IS IN ACID.

IN ALKALINE!

MASARU
ELEMENTARY YEAR FIVE. BRIGHT AND OUTGOING BUT A LITTLE CLUMSY.

BLUE LITMUS PAPER SHOWS NO CHANGE AT A NEUTRAL PH. WHEN DOES IT TURN RED?

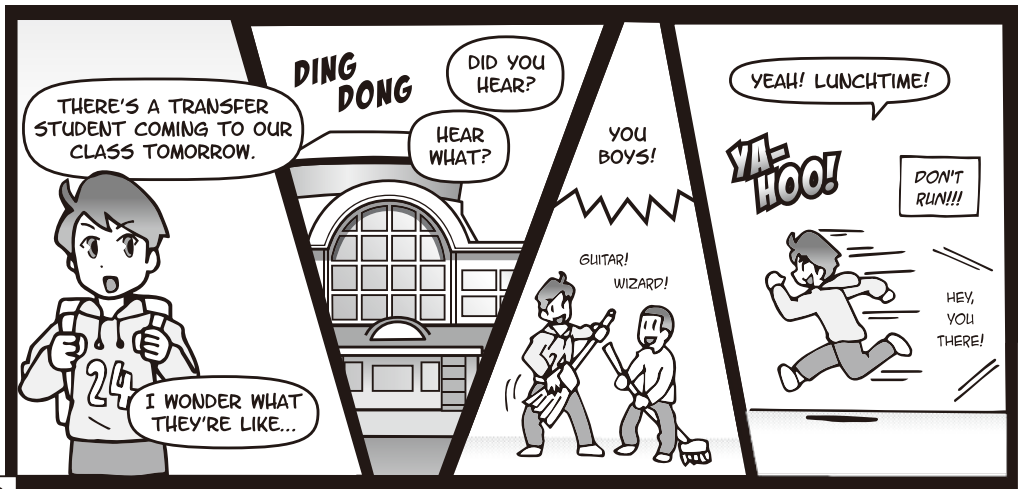
I KNOW!

THAT'S EASY!

THAT WAS QUICK. ALRIGHT, MASARU.

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY. QUESTIONS?

HOW'D I MIX THAT UP...



THERE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT COMING TO OUR CLASS TOMORROW.

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE LIKE...

DING DONG

DID YOU HEAR?

HEAR WHAT?

YOU BOYS!

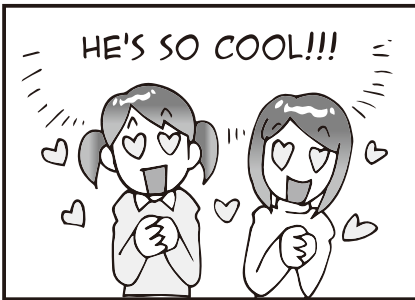
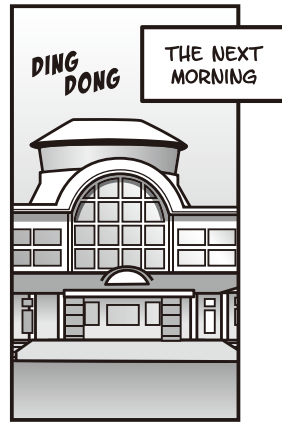
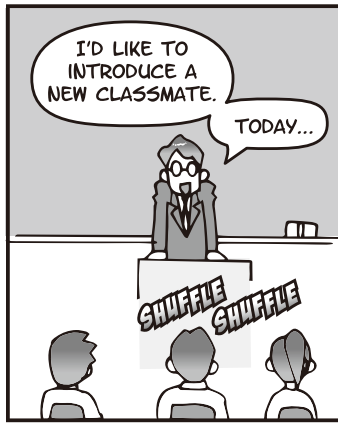
GUITAR! WIZARD!

YEAH! LUNCHTIME!

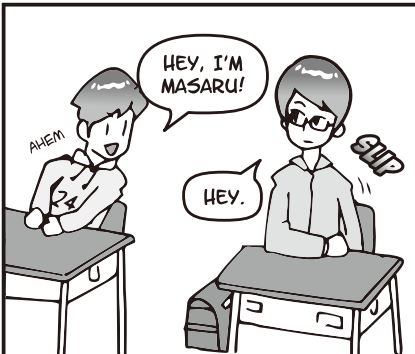
YA-HOO!

DON'T RUN!!!

HEY, YOU THERE!



I'M SHO. I TRANSFERRED HERE FROM TOKYO.



SHO
ELEMENTARY
YEAR FIVE.
PASSIVE AND QUIET.
MOVED FROM TOKYO
BECAUSE OF HIS
PARENTS' WORK.

TREASURES OF NISHI SEMBOKU

- BOUNTIFUL NATURE WITH MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND FORESTS
- DELICIOUS RICE, CROPS AND WILD VEGETABLES
- MANY FRIENDLY PEOPLE

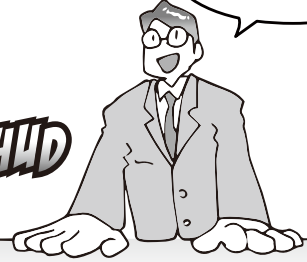
RECOMMENDED SPOTS

- OSAZAWA PARK
- SANBONSUGI SPRING
- BAKKO PINE
- KOWAKUBI ONSEN - SHOHOEN
- OSAWAGO'S OSHIZU MESHIZU

WHAT ARE SOME GOOD POINTS?

ALRIGHT. LET'S ALL TELL SHO A BIT ABOUT NISHI SEMBOKU.

THUD



I REALLY LIKE THE KARIWANO GIANT TUG OF WAR HELD EVERY FEBRUARY. FOR OVER 500 YEARS, THE TOWN HAS BEEN SPLIT INTO UPPER AND LOWER HALVES TO TAKE PART. THE TRADITION WAS PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS AND IT'S SAID THAT IF THE UPPER HALF WINS, THE PRICE OF RICE WILL RISE, WHERE A WIN FOR THE LOWER HALF BRINGS A LARGE HARVEST.

THANK YOU, MASARU. I WISH YOU SHARED THE SAME PASSION FOR CLEANING TIME...



CLAP CLAP

GREAT, THAT WAS QUITE A LIST.



SWISH

I'D LIKE A FEW MORE...

I HAVE SOMETHING!

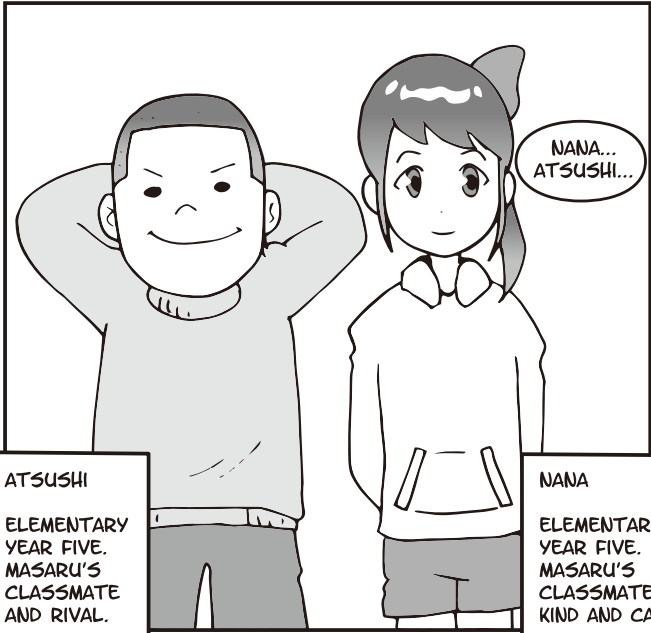
MASARU REALLY IS QUICK...



IT'S SAID THAT THE TRADITION BEGAN AS PART OF AN ANNUAL CEREMONY FOR THE DEITY WORSHIPPED BY THE NAGAYAMAS, KNOWN FOR BRINGING PROSPERITY TO LOCAL TRADE. NOW, THE KARIWANO GIANT TUG OF WAR IS NATIONALLY DESIGNATED AS AN IMPORTANT INTANGIBLE FOLK CULTURAL PROPERTY.

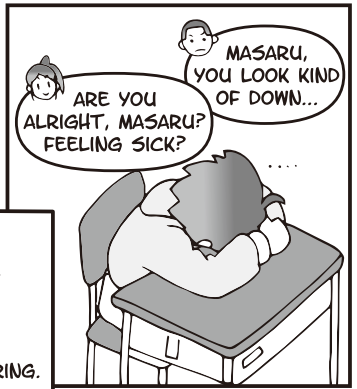
KARIWANO'S TUG OF WAR TRACES BACK TO THE LEADER OF THE 939 REBELLION, SAMURAI COMMANDER TAIRA NO MASAKADO. THE ORIGINS ARE LINKED TO DESCENDANTS OF MASAKADO, THE NAKAYAMA FAMILY, WHO MOVED TO KARIWANO FOLLOWING THE COMMANDER'S DEATH.





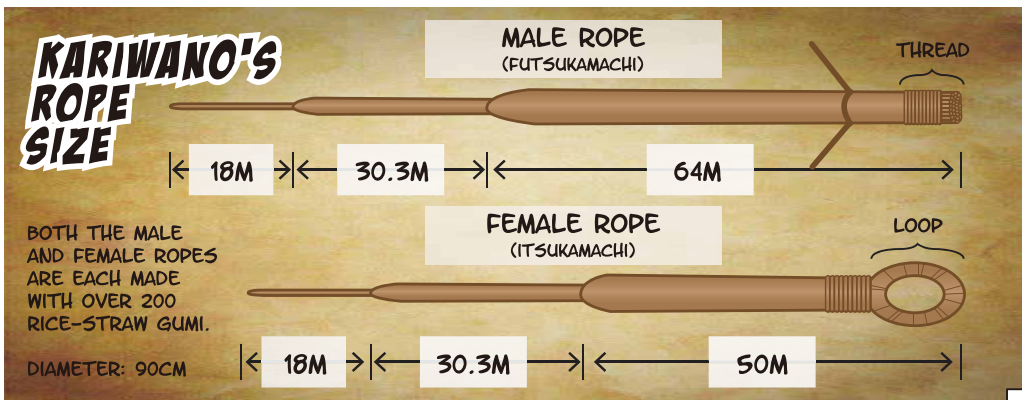
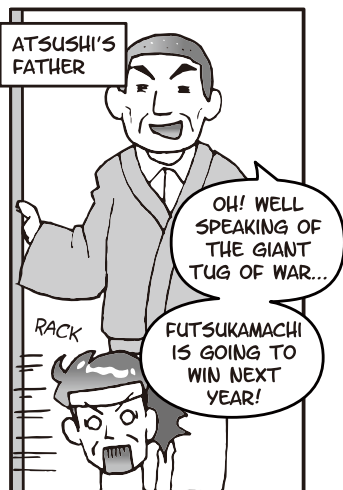
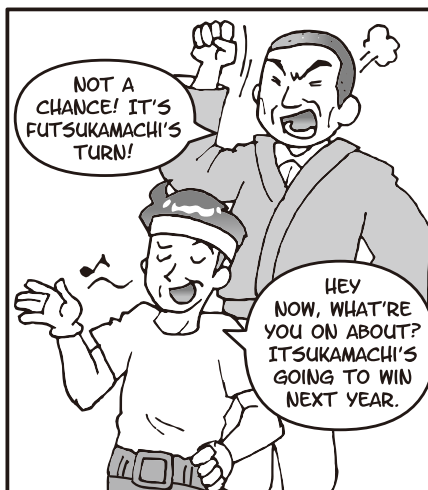
ATSUSHI
ELEMENTARY
YEAR FIVE.
MASARU'S
CLASSMATE
AND RIVAL.

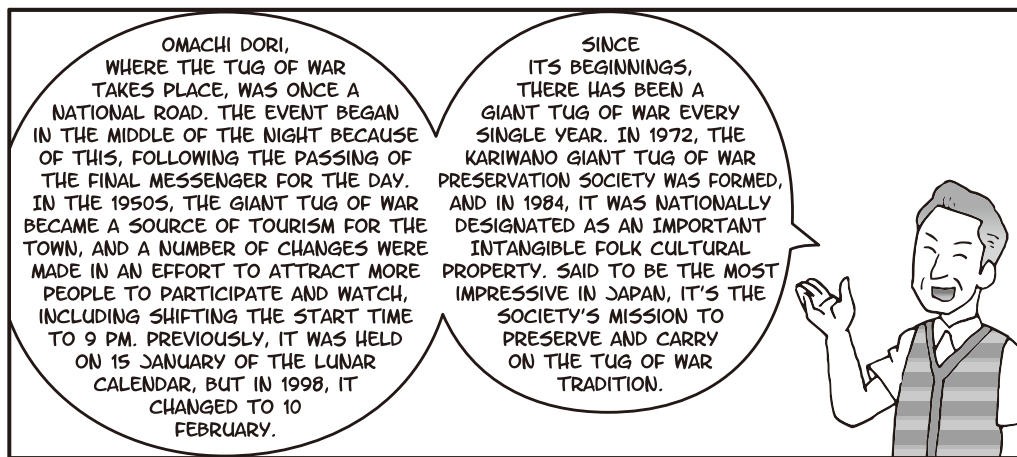
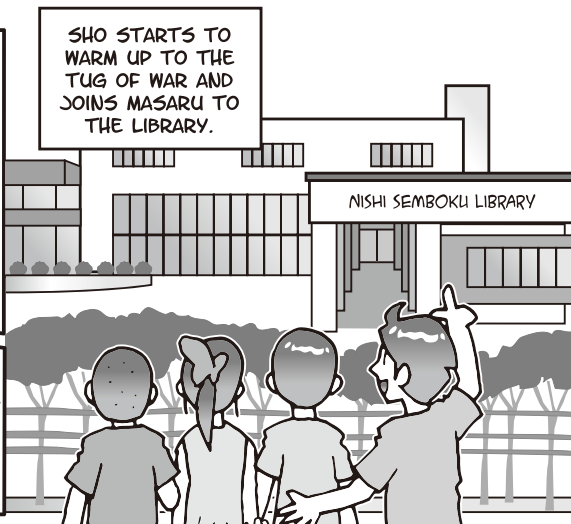
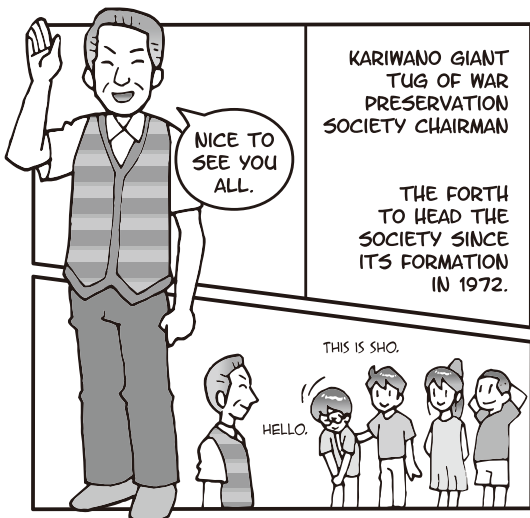
NANA
ELEMENTARY
YEAR FIVE.
MASARU'S
CLASSMATE.
KIND AND CARING.



IN THE OLD DAYS, THE ROLE OF TATEMOTO WAS PASSED DOWN FROM PARENT TO CHILD, BUT NOW THEY'RE SELECTED BY EXPERIENCE. AS A TATEMOTO, OUR MOST IMPORTANT TASK IS TO KNOT THE ROPES RIGHT BEFORE THE START, WORKING UNDER THE INSTRUCTION OF OUR MOST SKILFUL MEMBER. WHEN THE MALE ROPE THREADS THROUGH THE FEMALE, NOBODY IS ALLOWED TO CHEER OR RAISE THEIR LANTERNS, AND EVERYONE WAITS FOR THE START SIGNAL IN A TENSE SILENCE.

THE TUG OF WAR TAKES PLACE WITH THE TOWN SPLIT INTO THE UPPER FUTSUKAMACHI AND THE LOWER ITSUKAMACHI ON OMACHI DORI IN THE CENTRE OF KARIWANO. PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING CHARGE OF THE TUG OF WAR AND LEADING THE EVENT ARE KNOWN AS TATEMOTO, WITH OPPOSING TATEMOTO FROM BOTH FUTSUKAMACHI AND ITSUKAMACHI MANAGING FRONTS ON EITHER SIDE.







HAHA, HE'S A LOCAL FARMER. HE'S BEEN AT THIS A WHILE SO KNOWS HIS STUFF.

WELL, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE ROPE THEN!



OH, MASARU. COME TO HAVE A LOOK?

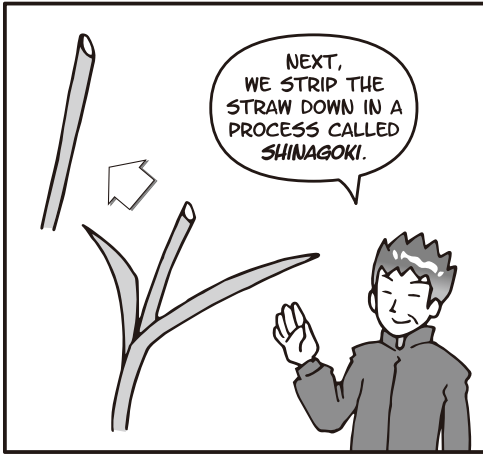
YEAH!



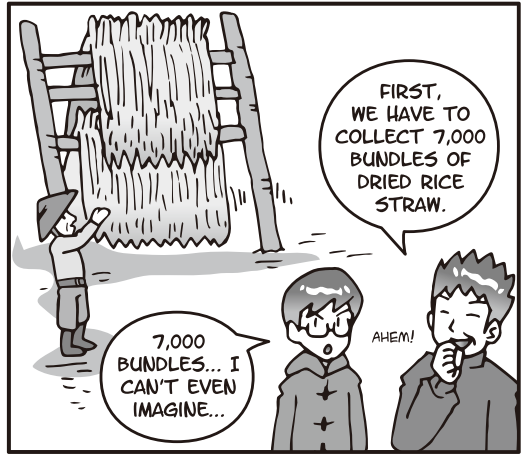
MID-JANUARY

MASARU AND FRIENDS CAN'T WAIT FOR THE TUG OF WAR AND DECIDE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE ROPE-MAKING PROCESS.

LET'S GO!



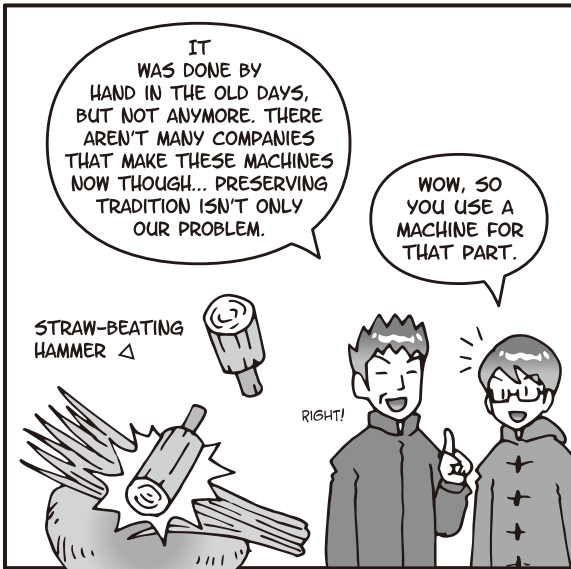
NEXT, WE STRIP THE STRAW DOWN IN A PROCESS CALLED SHINAGOKI.



FIRST, WE HAVE TO COLLECT 7,000 BUNDLES OF DRIED RICE STRAW.

7,000 BUNDLES... I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE...

AHEM!

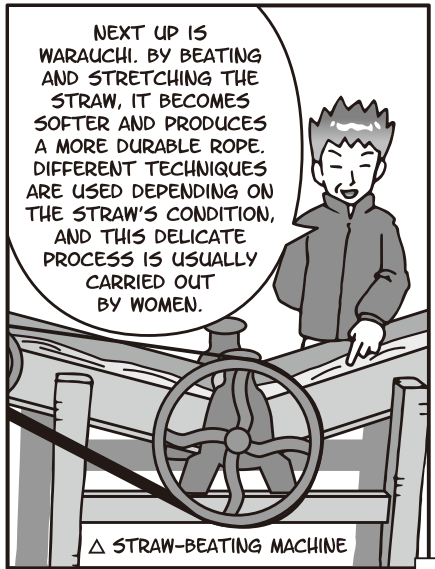


IT WAS DONE BY HAND IN THE OLD DAYS, BUT NOT ANYMORE. THERE AREN'T MANY COMPANIES THAT MAKE THESE MACHINES NOW THOUGH... PRESERVING TRADITION ISN'T ONLY OUR PROBLEM.

WOW, SO YOU USE A MACHINE FOR THAT PART.

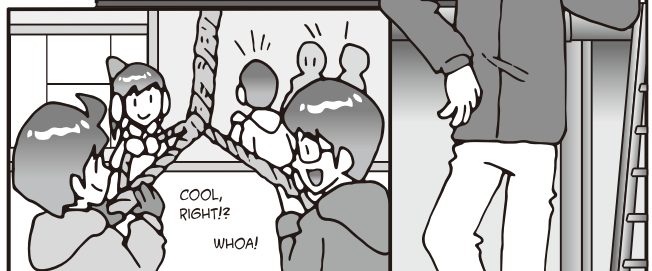
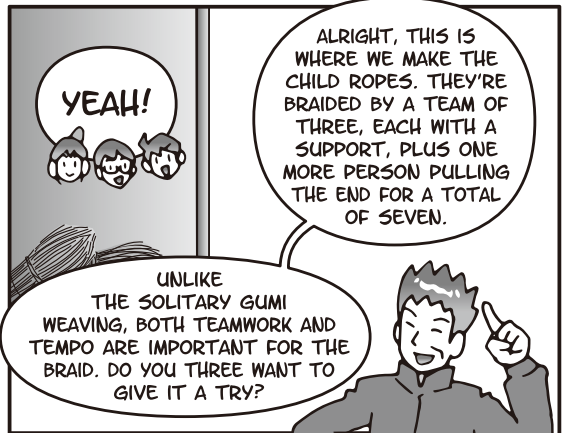
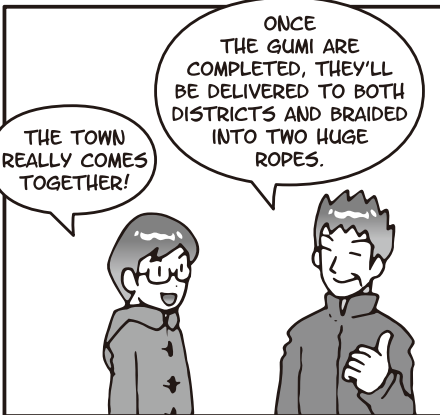
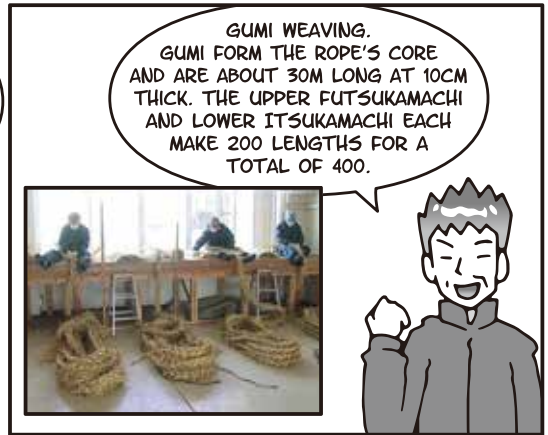
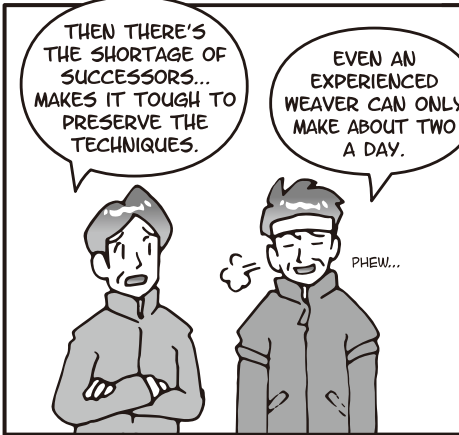
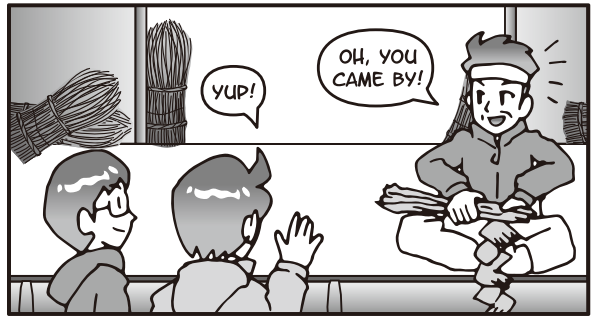
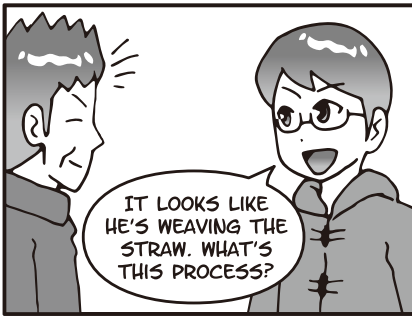
RIGHT!

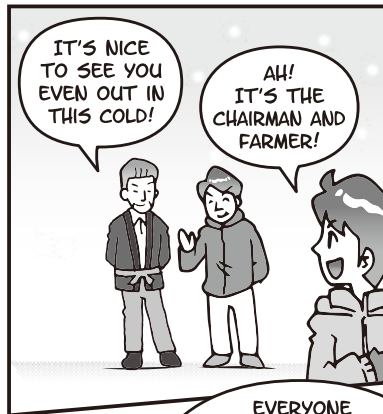
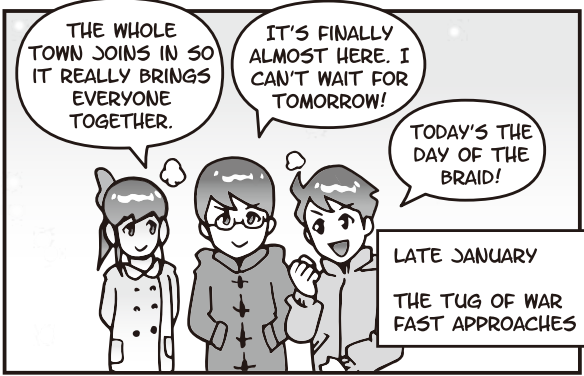
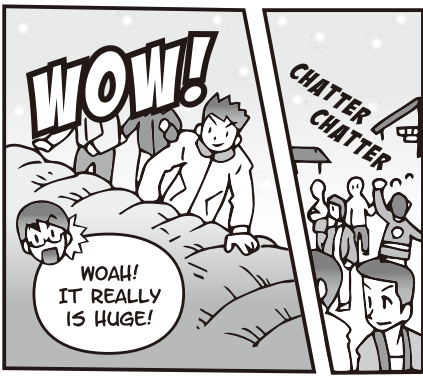
STRAW-BEATING HAMMER △

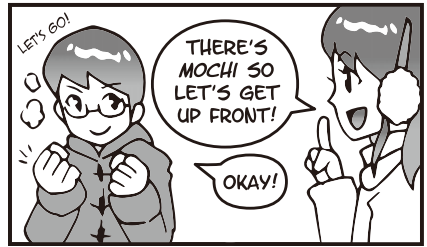
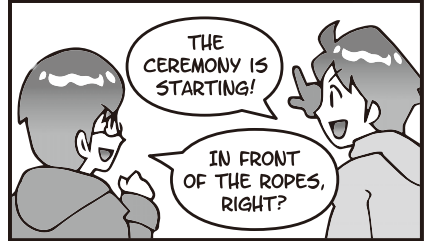
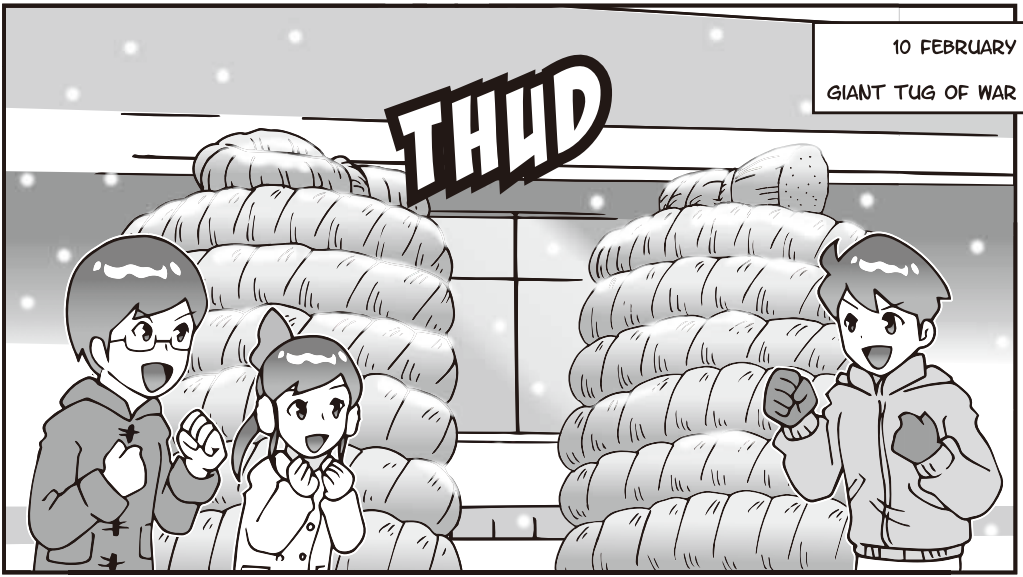


NEXT UP IS WARAUCHI. BY BEATING AND STRETCHING THE STRAW, IT BECOMES SOFTER AND PRODUCES A MORE DURABLE ROPE. DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES ARE USED DEPENDING ON THE STRAW'S CONDITION, AND THIS DELICATE PROCESS IS USUALLY CARRIED OUT BY WOMEN.

△ STRAW-BEATING MACHINE







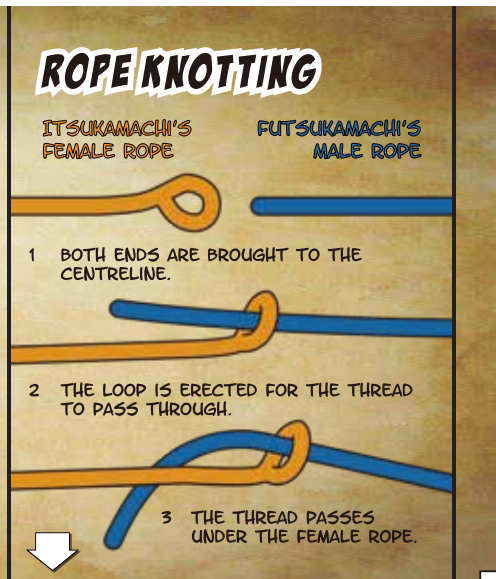
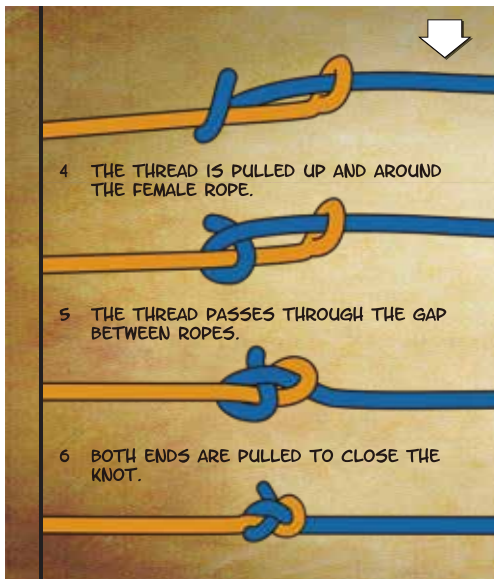
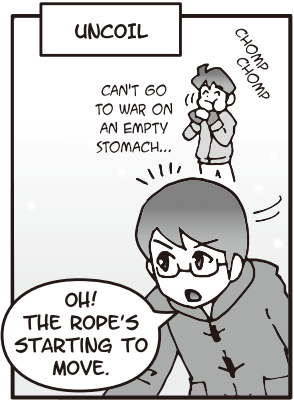
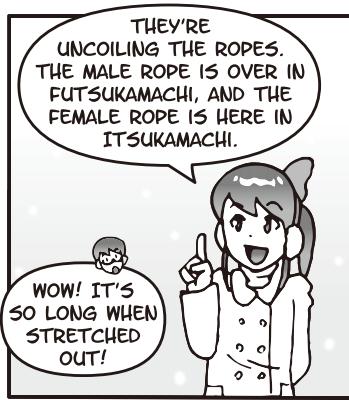
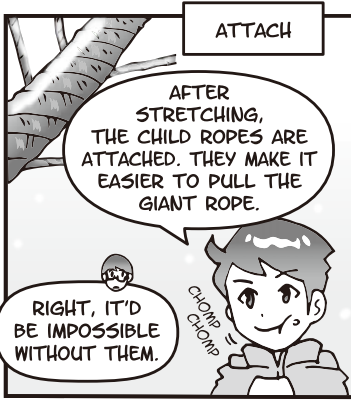
GIANT ROPE

ITSUKAMACHI'S
FEMALE ROPE

BRAIDED WITH THREE CENTRAL ROPES, EACH FORMED FROM 17 EVENLY BOUND GUMI. A LOOP AT THE END, KNOWN AS THE SABAGUCHI, IS FORMED AROUND A WOODEN FRAME TO STRENGTHEN THE BASE. THE FINAL LENGTH STRETCHES 50M.

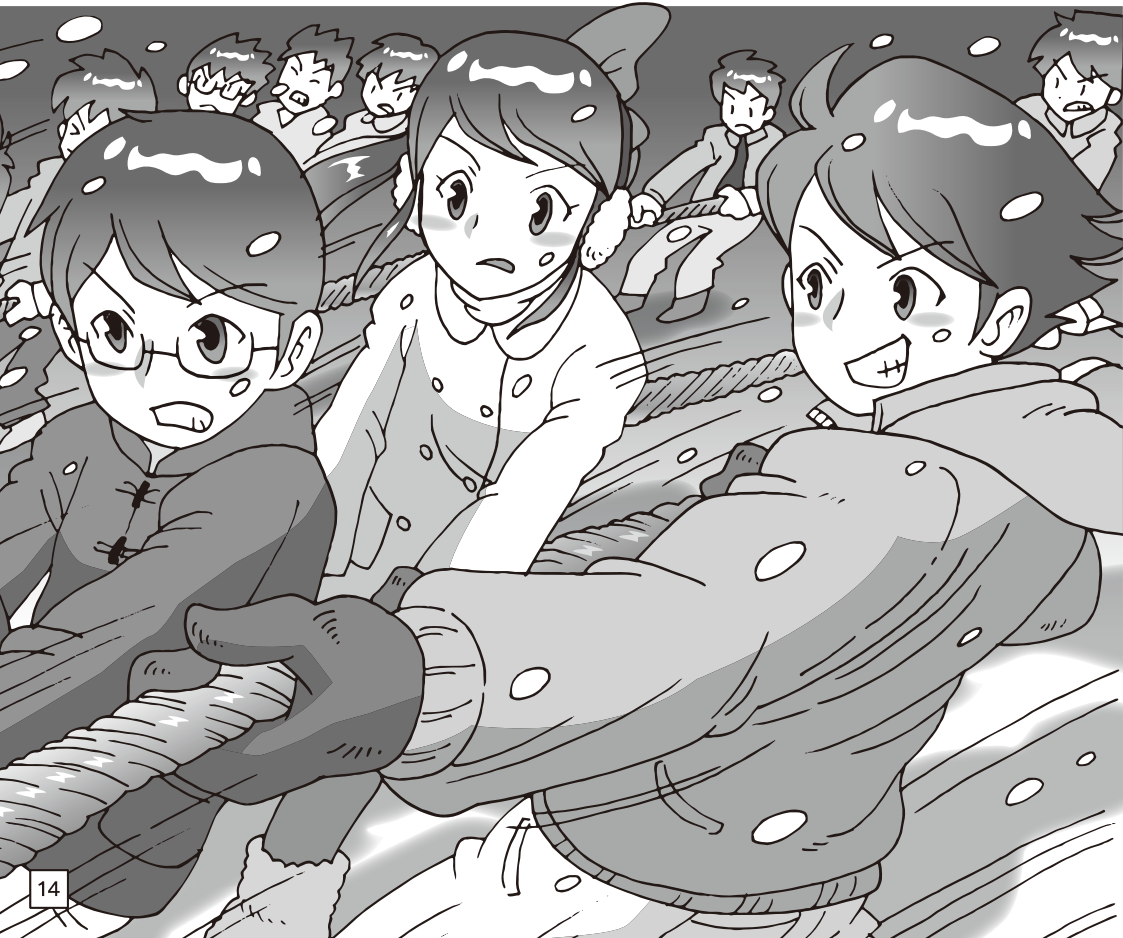
FUTSUKAMACHI'S
MALE ROPE

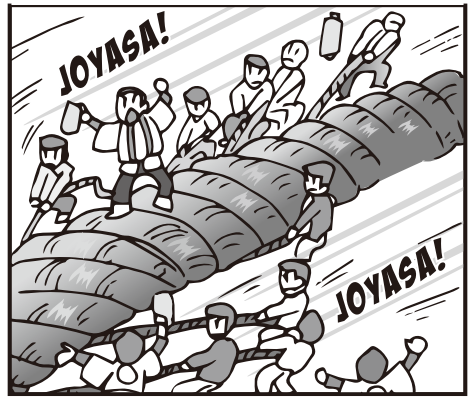
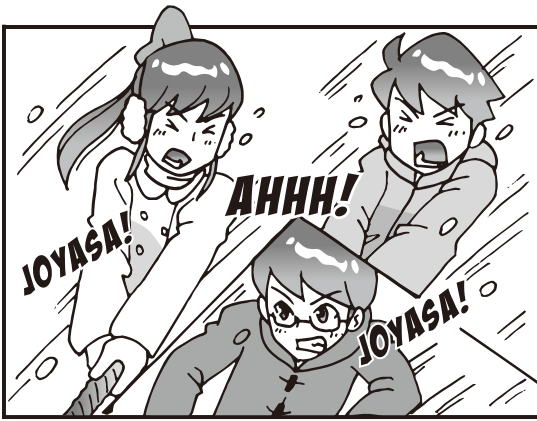
BRAIDED WITH THREE CENTRAL ROPES, EACH FORMED FROM 33 EVENLY BOUND GUMI. A THREAD AT THE END, KNOWN AS THE KEN, IS WRAPPED IN FRESH RICE STRAW AND TRIMMED CLEAN. THE FINAL LENGTH STRETCHES 64M.





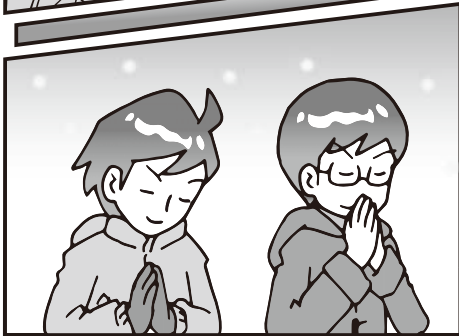
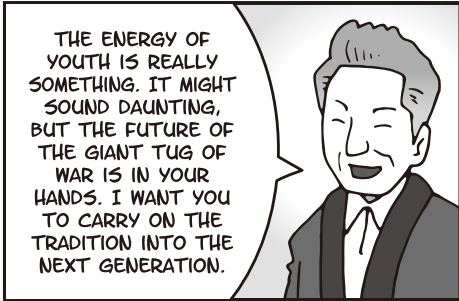
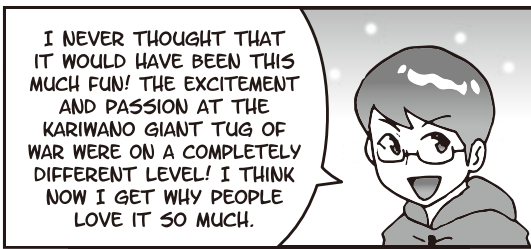
READY

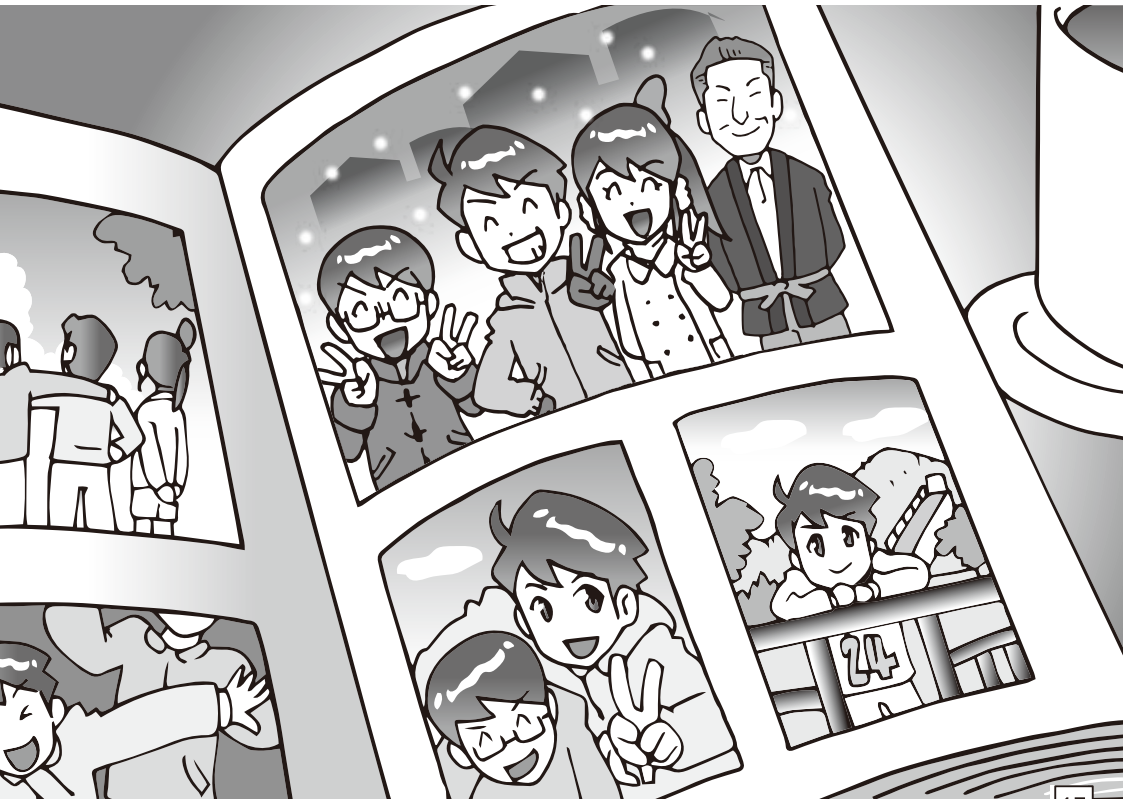
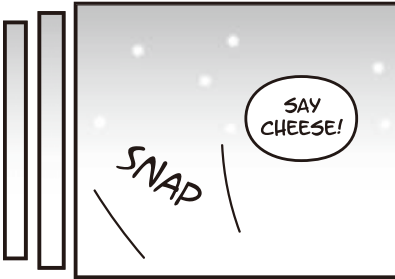
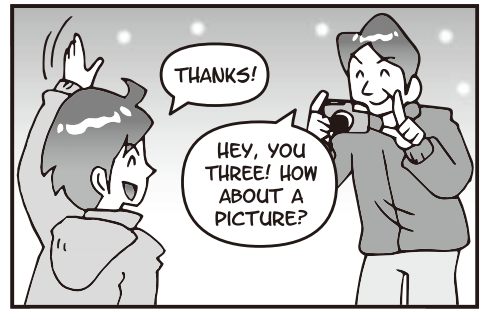
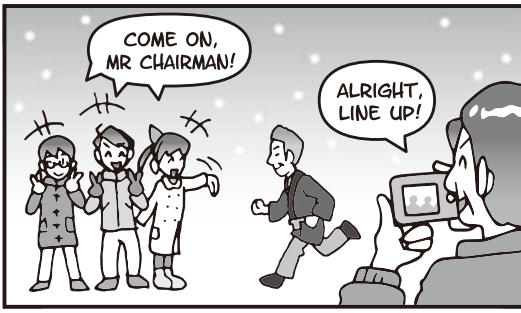




WOOHOO!









HM...
DIDN'T SHO
SAY HE GOT A JOB
IN TOKYO THIS YEAR?
MAYBE I SHOULD
GIVE HIM A CALL.

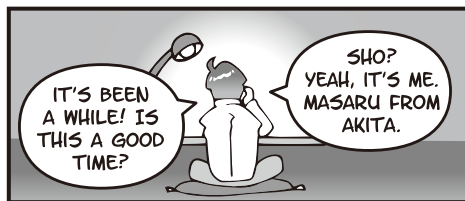


HAHA!
THOSE WERE THE
DAYS. SHO TOOK A
WHILE TO TO WARM UP
TO ME BUT LOOKING
BACK SURE IS
NOSTALGIC...



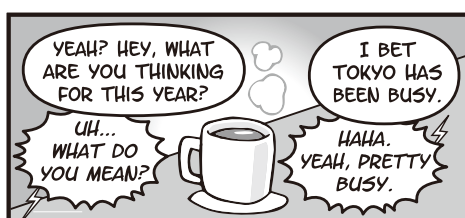
OH!

AH, SORRY.
THE KARIWANO
GIANT TUG OF WAR.
YOU THINK YOU
CAN COME?



IT'S BEEN
A WHILE! IS
THIS A GOOD
TIME?

SHO?
YEAH, IT'S ME.
MASARU FROM
AKITA.

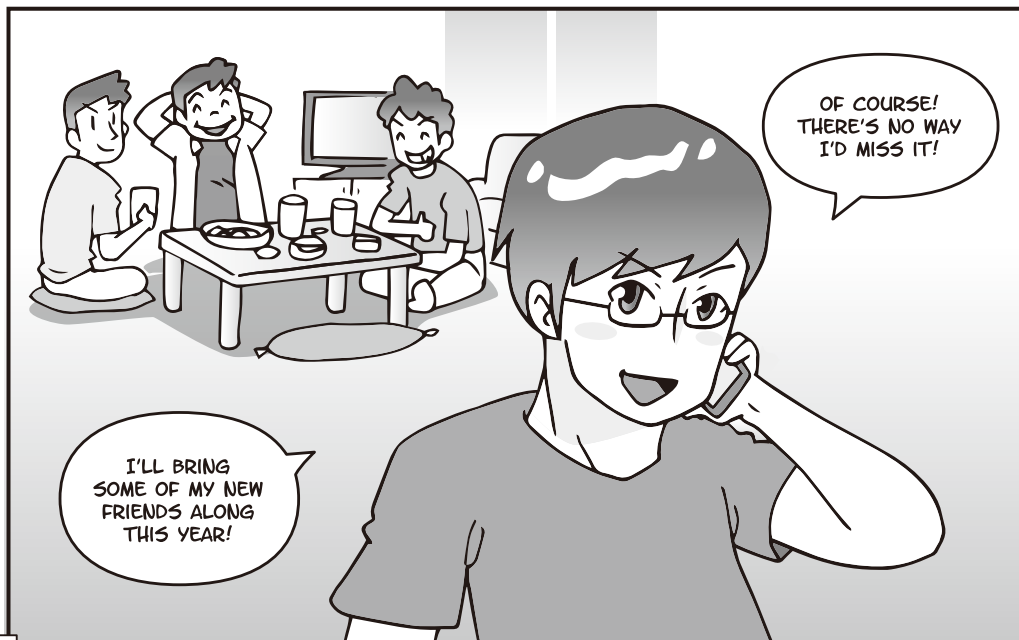


YEAH? HEY, WHAT
ARE YOU THINKING
FOR THIS YEAR?

I BET
TOKYO HAS
BEEN BUSY.

UH...
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

HAHA.
YEAH, PRETTY
BUSY.



OF COURSE!
THERE'S NO WAY
I'D MISS IT!

I'LL BRING
SOME OF MY NEW
FRIENDS ALONG
THIS YEAR!