

Manga Study Guide

Our Future

International Environmental Cooperation & Business
Kitakyushu Style



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Dreams Bloom in Surabaya

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-Main Characters-



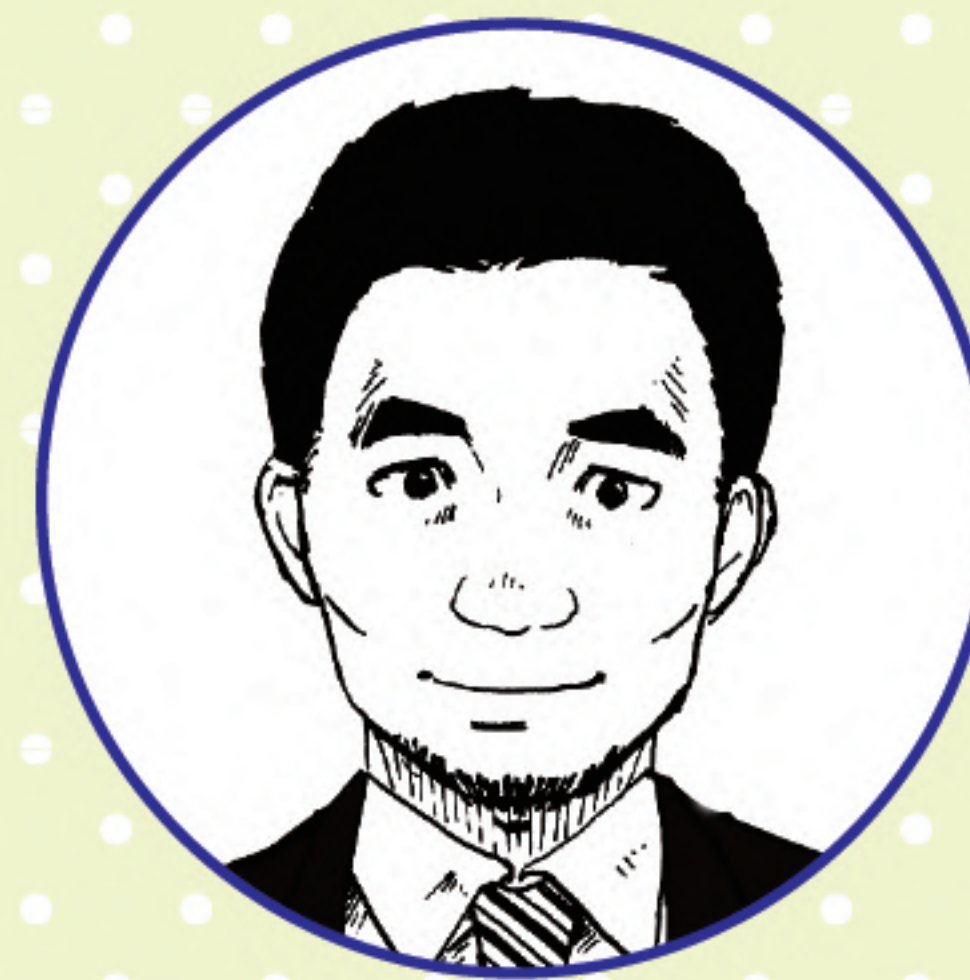
Abi

6-year-old child
living in Surabaya



Anton

Abi's father
True leader



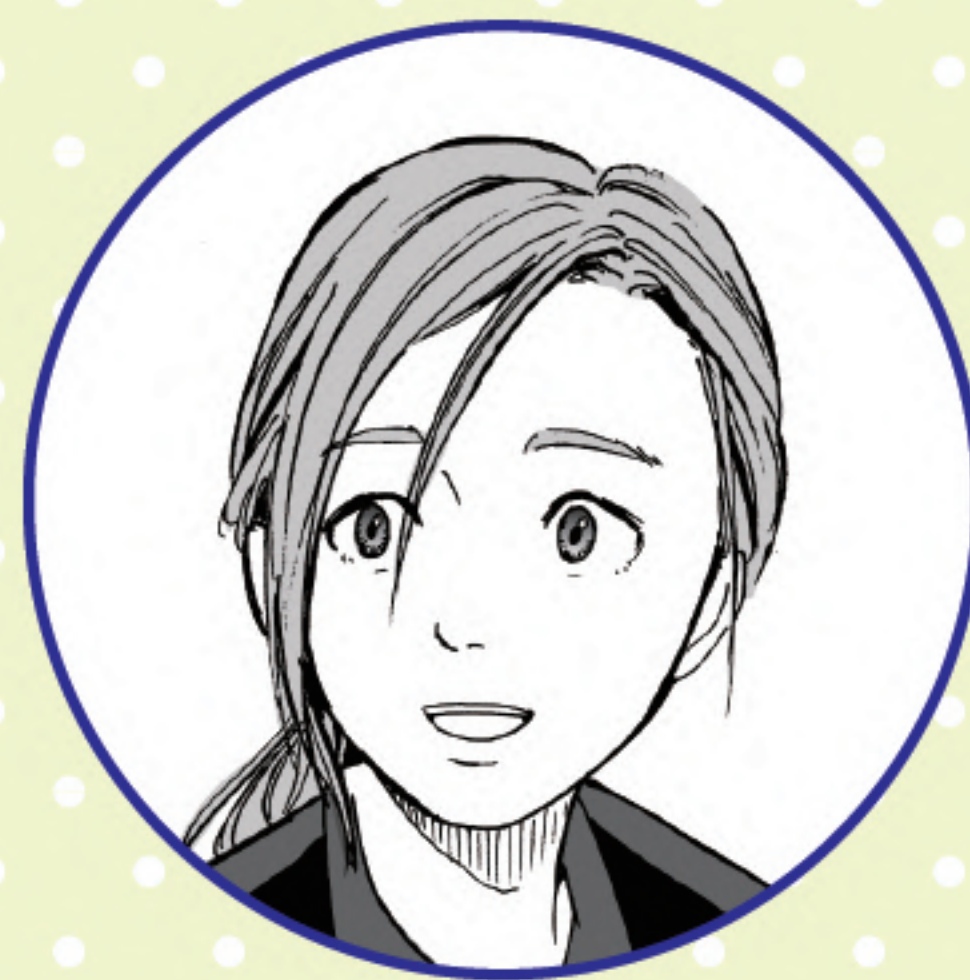
Tanaka

Staff, Kitakyushu City



Nishihara

President, Nishihara Shoji



Shiho

Staff, Nishihara Shoji



Fajar

Staff, Surabaya City

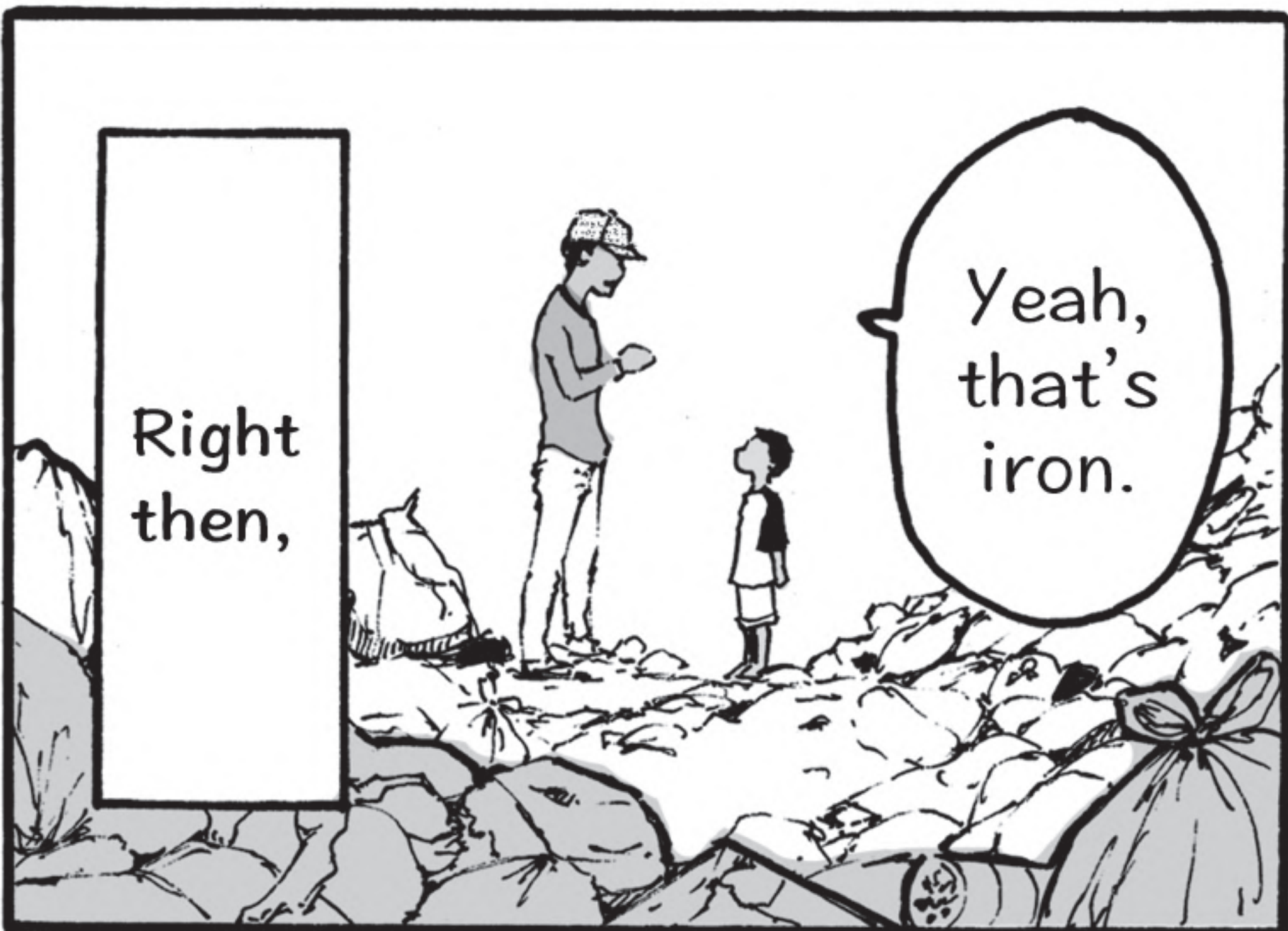
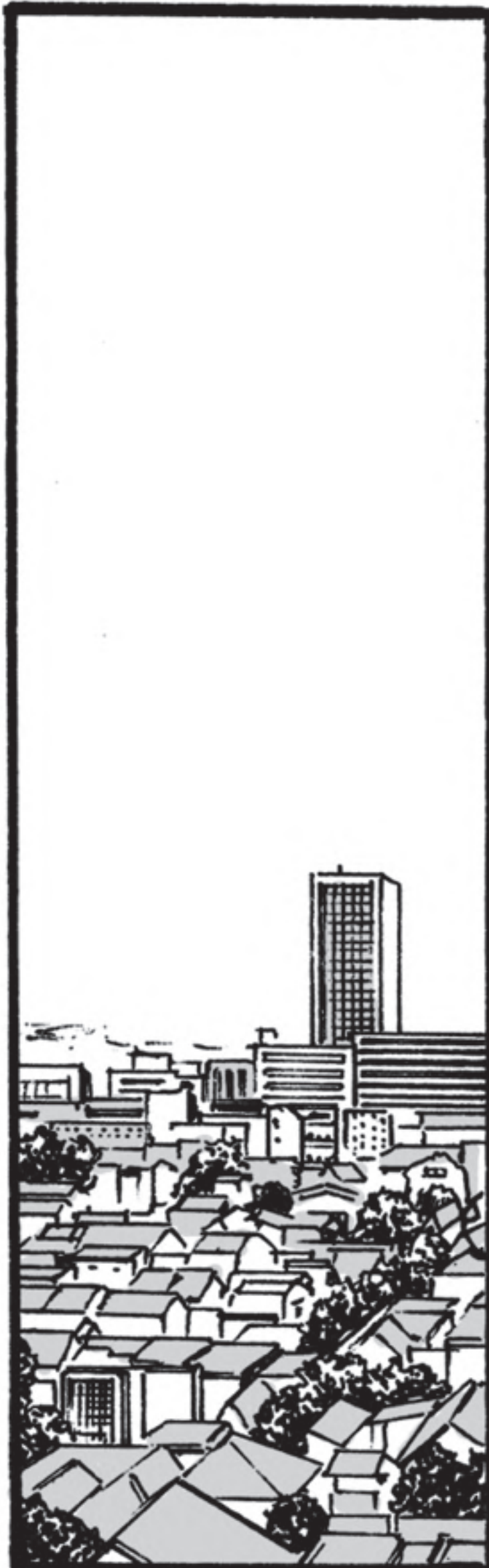
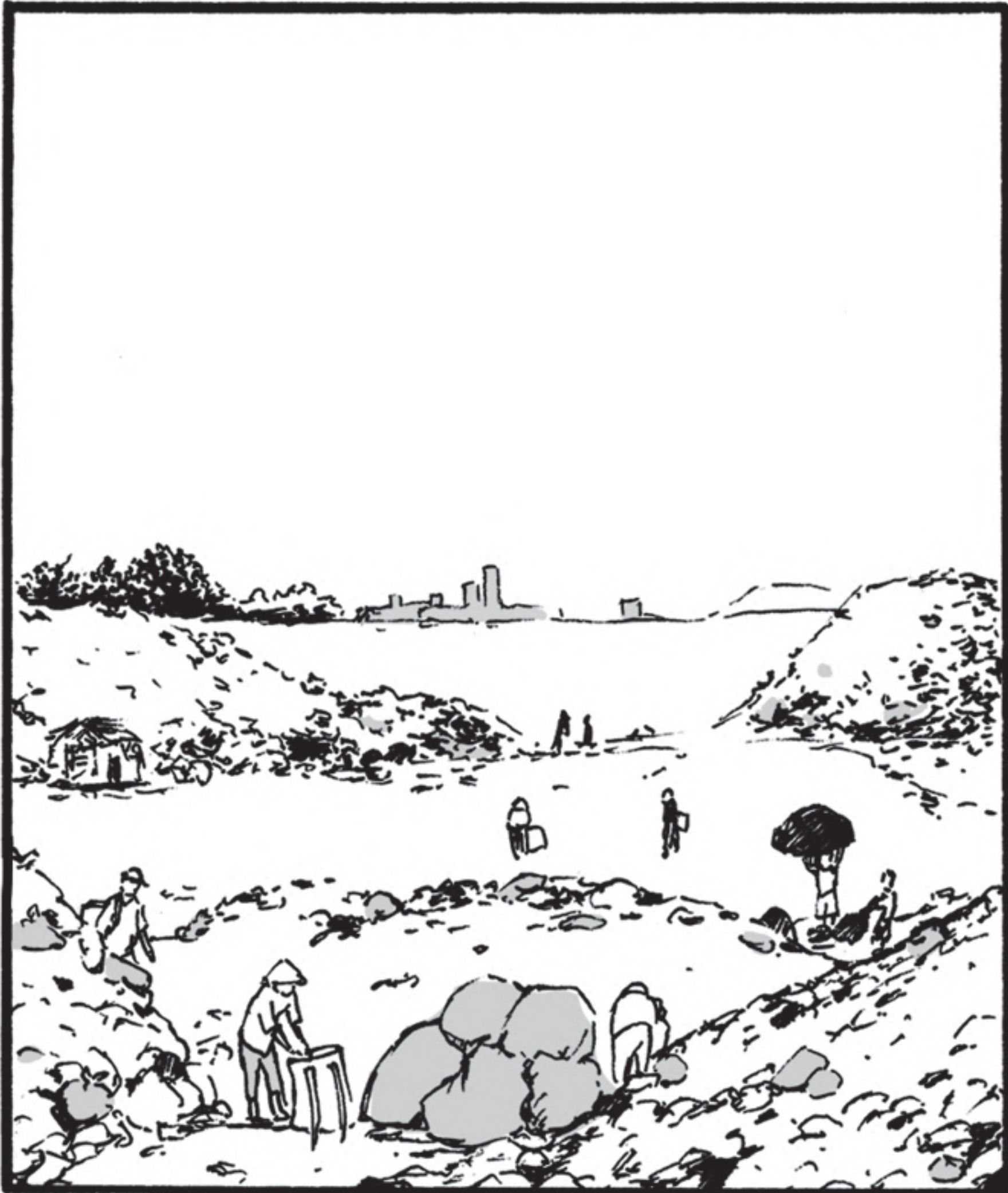
Manga Artist Profile

Nom de plume **Nonomori** Birthplace Fukuoka, Japan

"Kitakyushu's Appeal" (Published by the Junior Chamber International Kitakyushu, 2016)
"A Manga Study Guide to the SDGs" (Published by Kitakyushu City, 2019)
Night Boat (Young Magazine's 470th Monthly Newcomer Manga Award Winner, 2019)
Nonomori is also an illustrator and portrait artist.

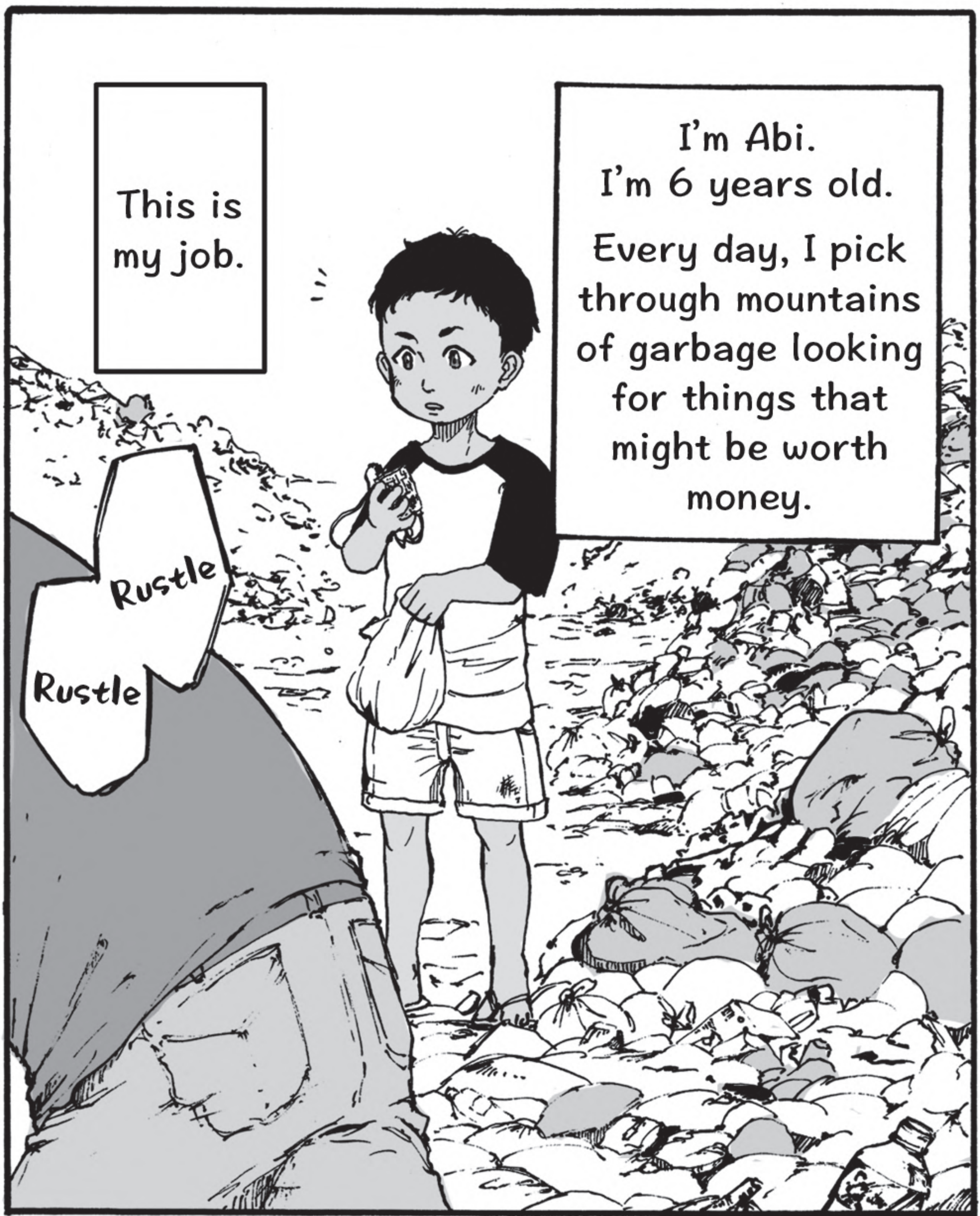


November 12, 2012
Surabaya City on Java Island,
the second largest city in Indonesia



Right then,

Yeah, that's iron.



This is my job.

I'm Abi.
I'm 6 years old.
Every day, I pick through mountains of garbage looking for things that might be worth money.

Rustle
Rustle



Our lives were about to change forever.



Signing Ceremony Establishing a Green Sister City Partnership between the Cities of Surabaya and Kitakyushu



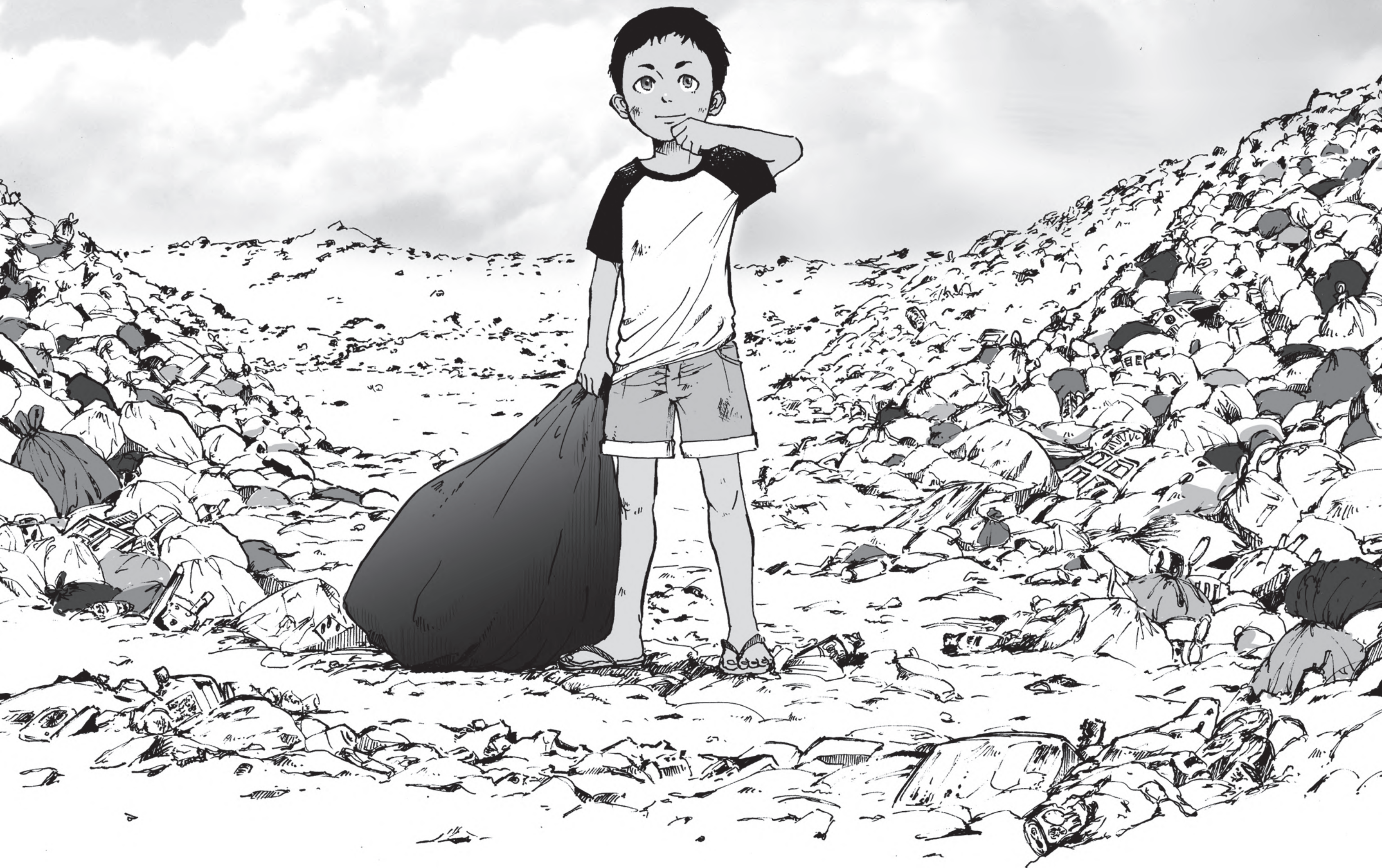
Abi's father Anton

Dad, what's this?

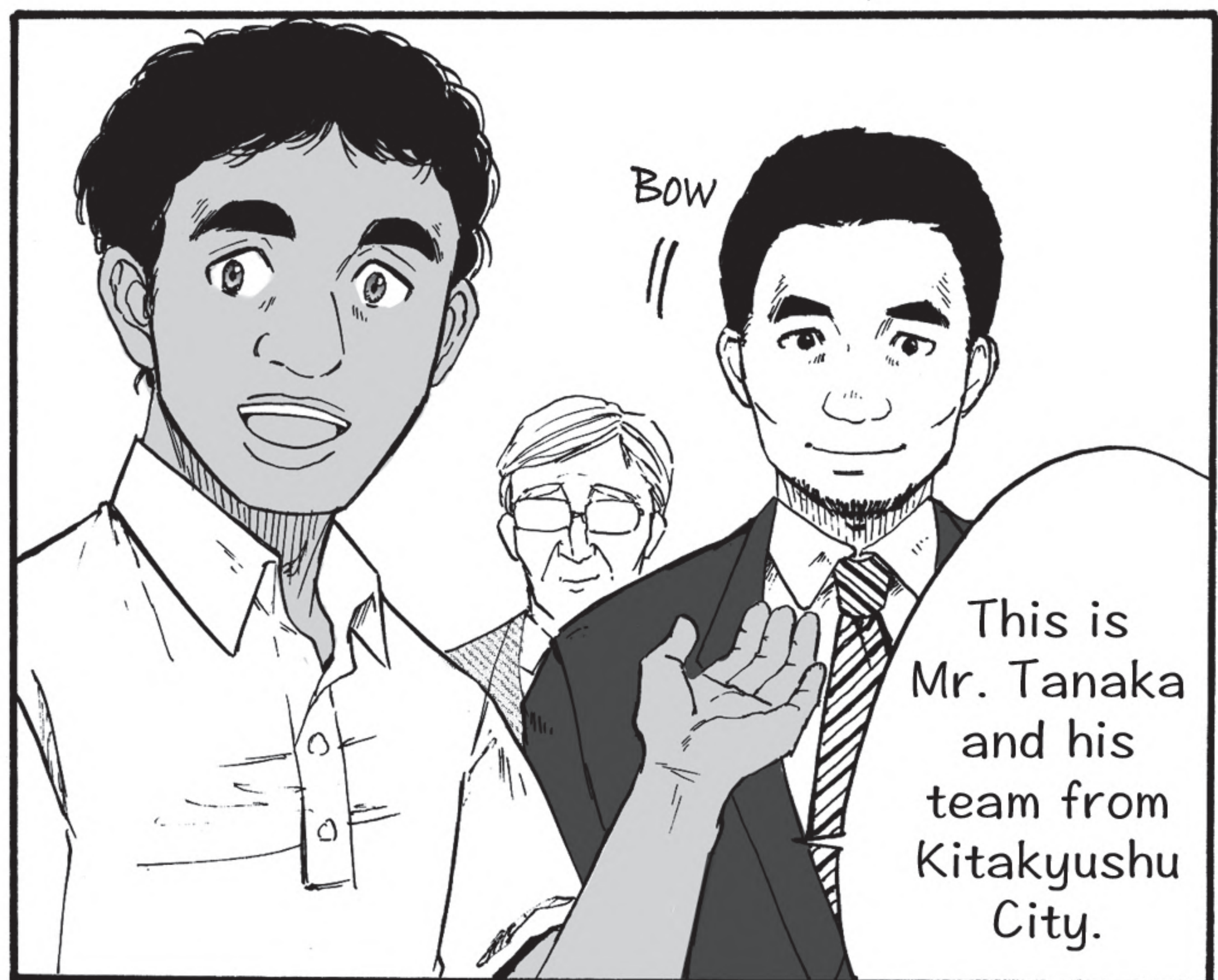
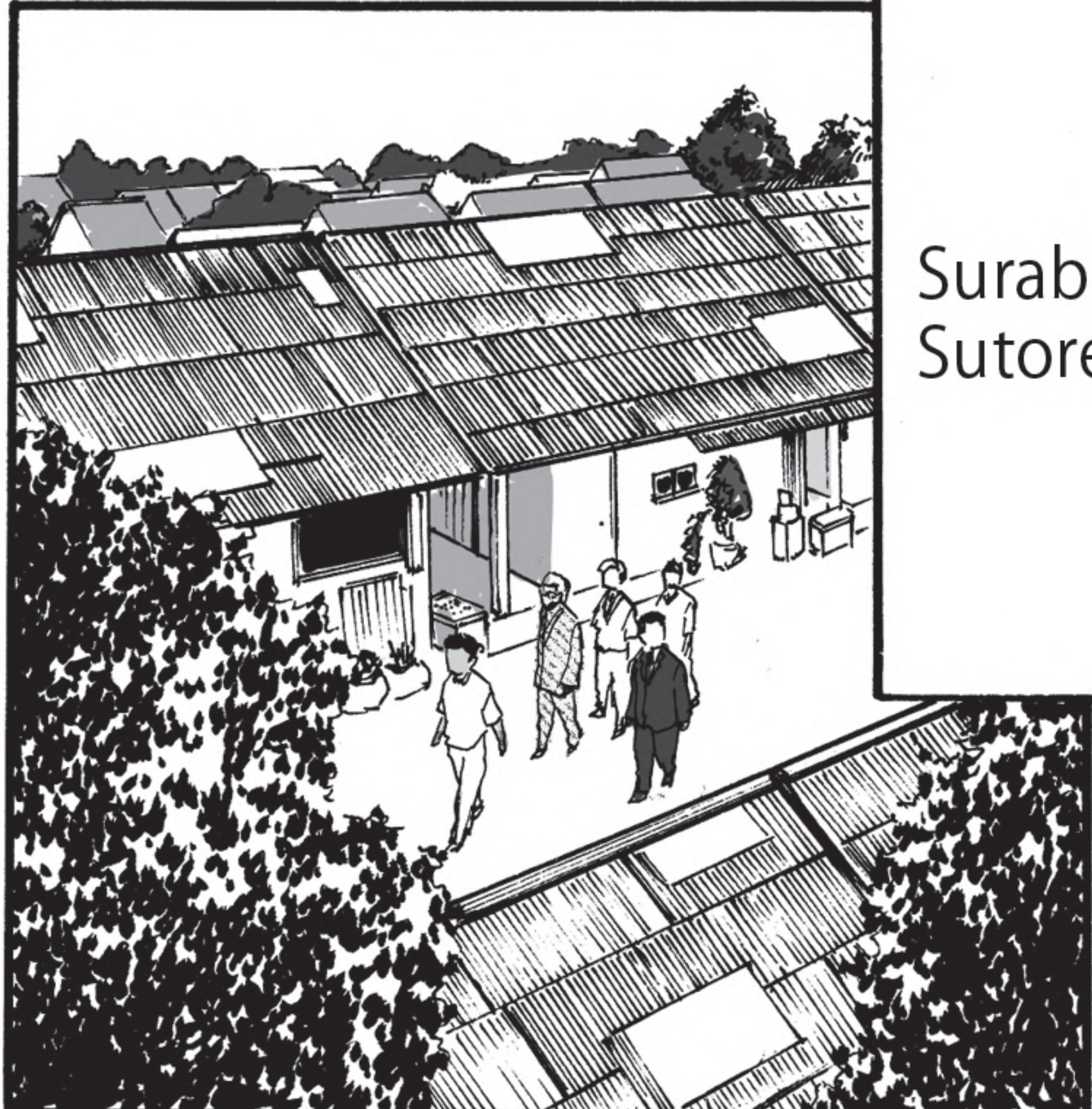
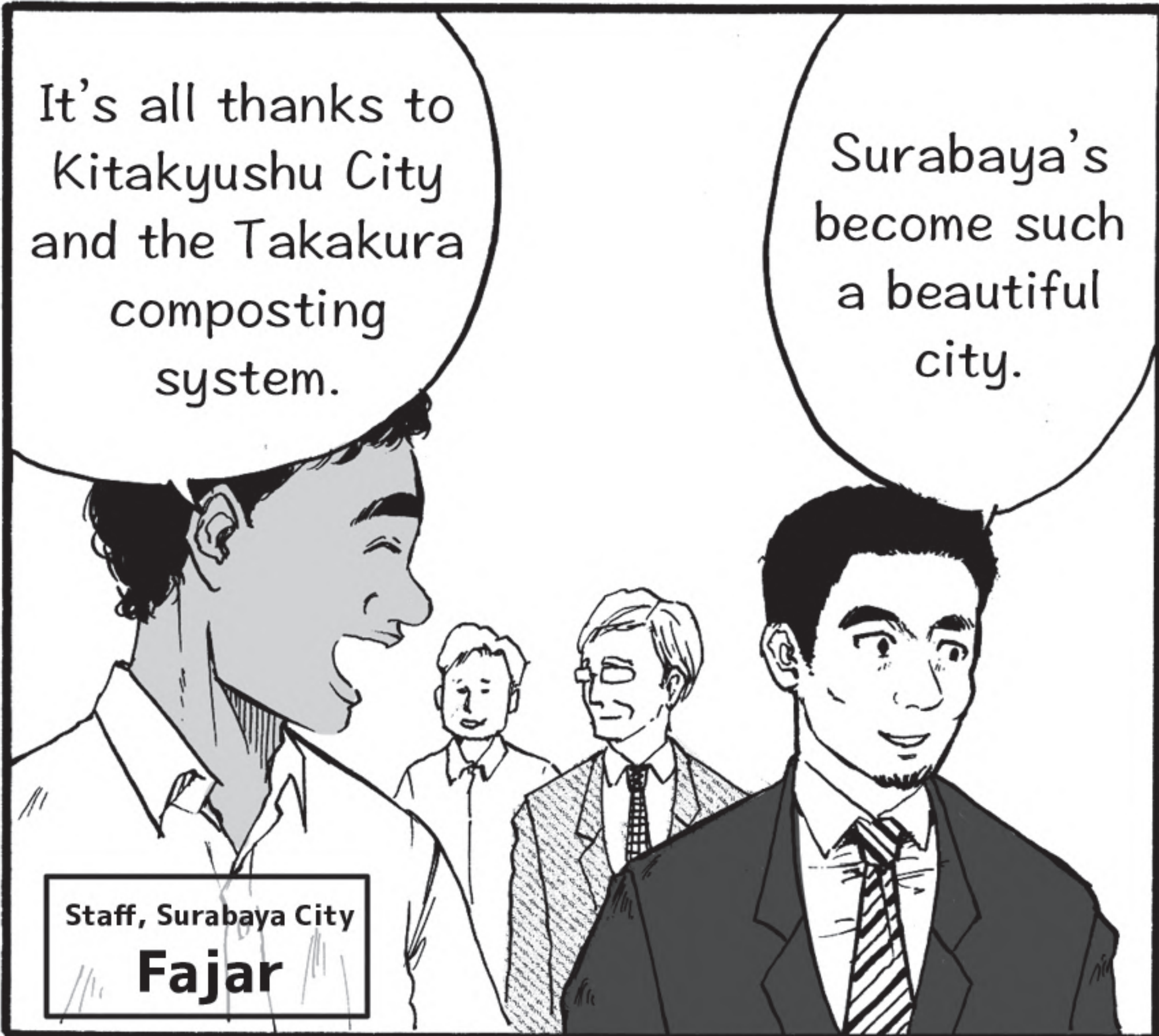
※In Southeast Asia, people who collect metal, bottles, cans, and other valuable items at garbage dumps, but are not formally employed, are called "waste pickers".

...I've got
big
dreams.

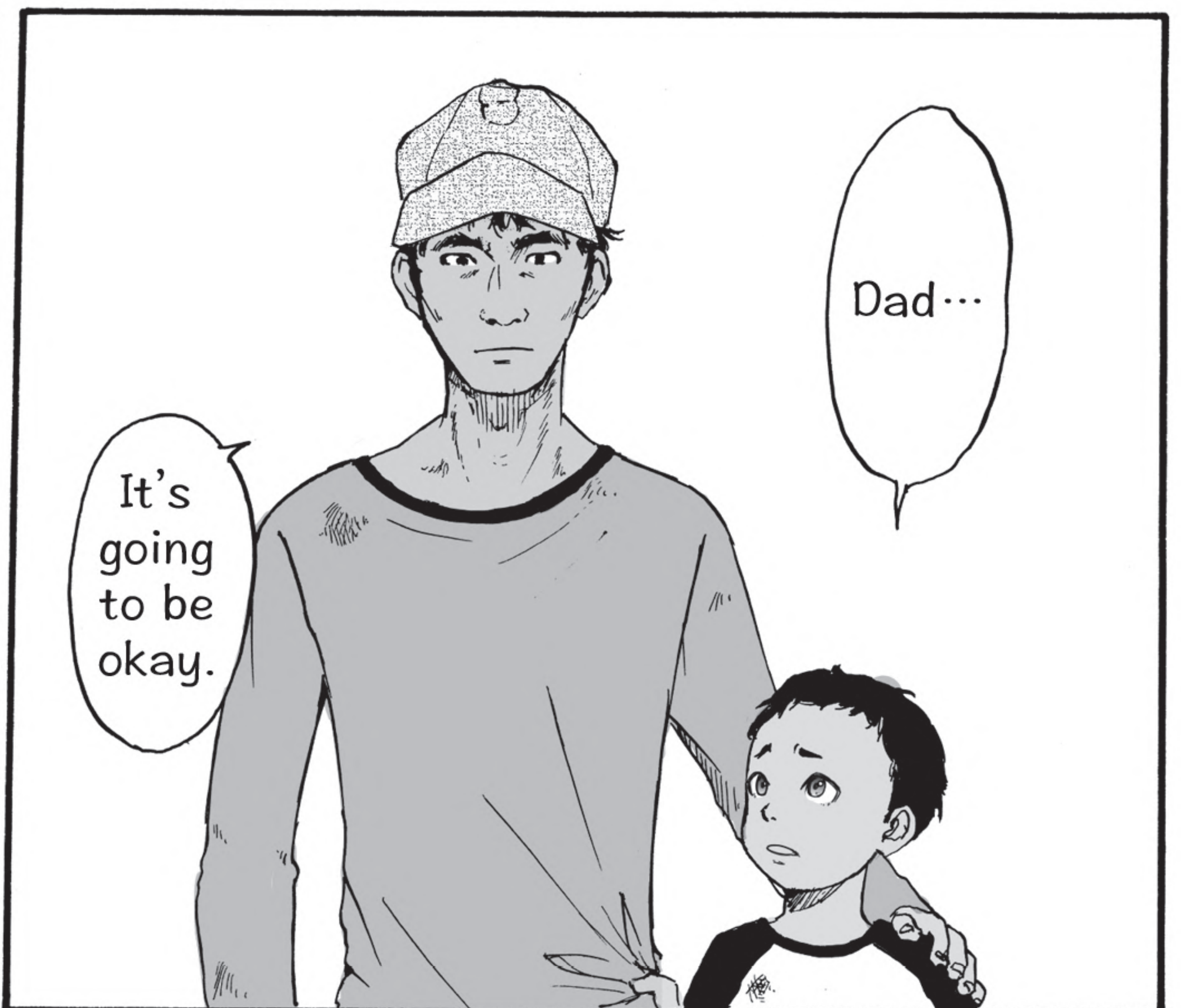
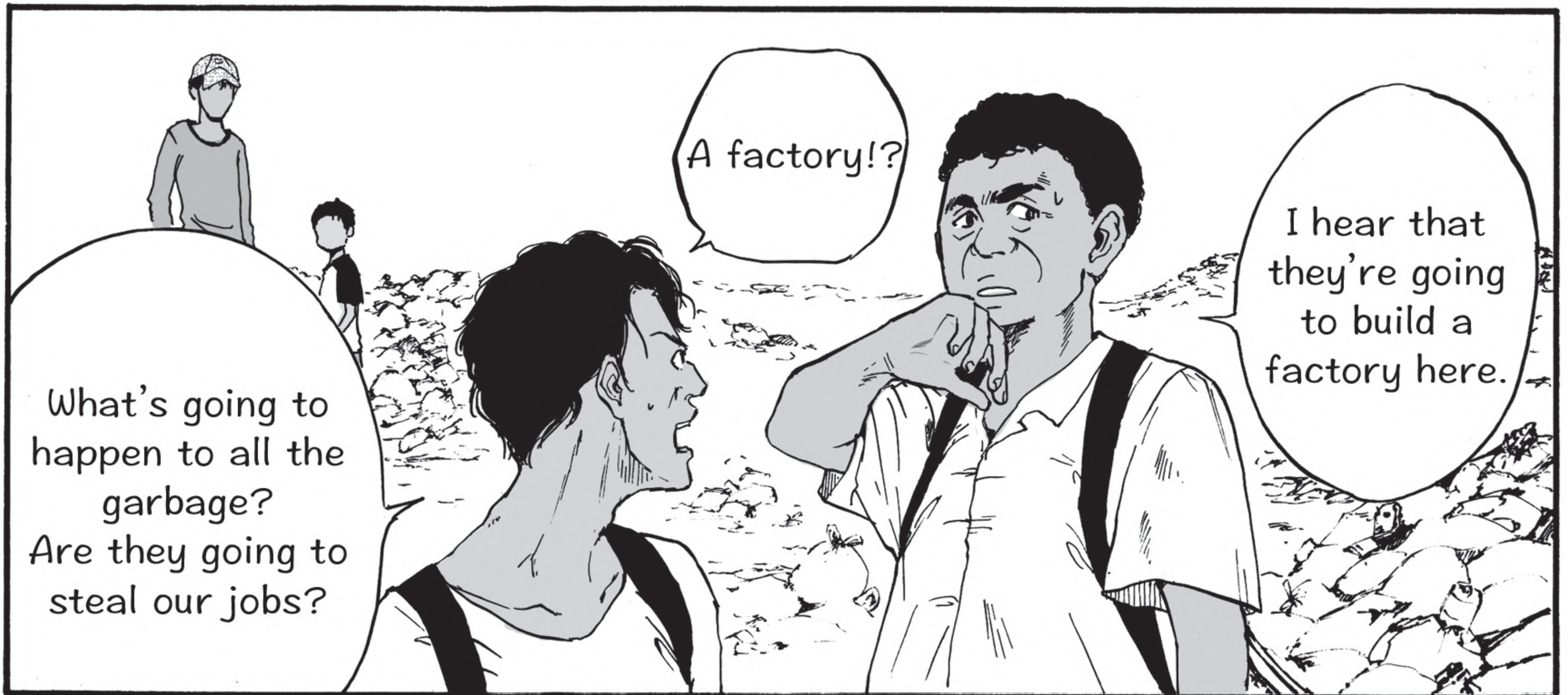
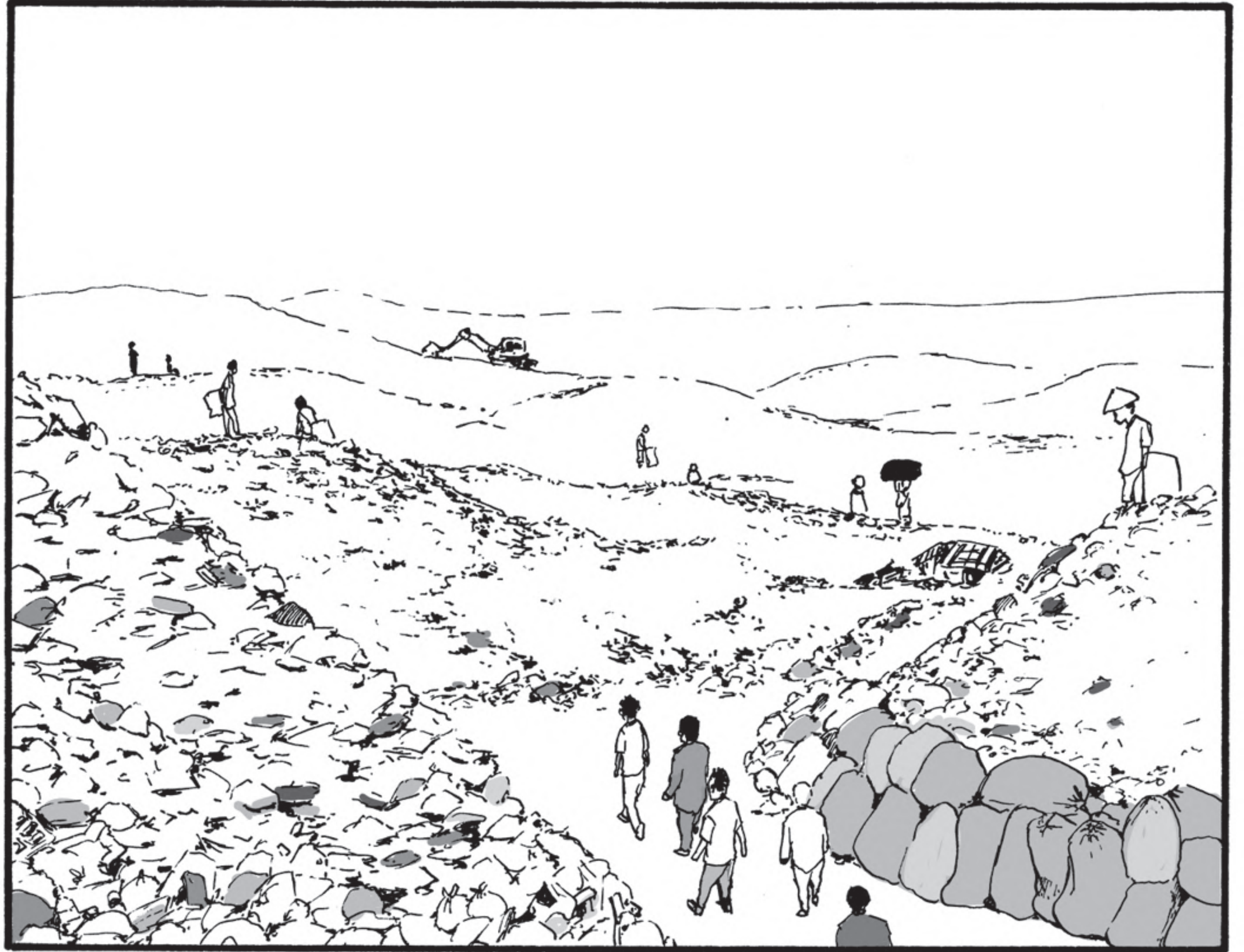
And
I...

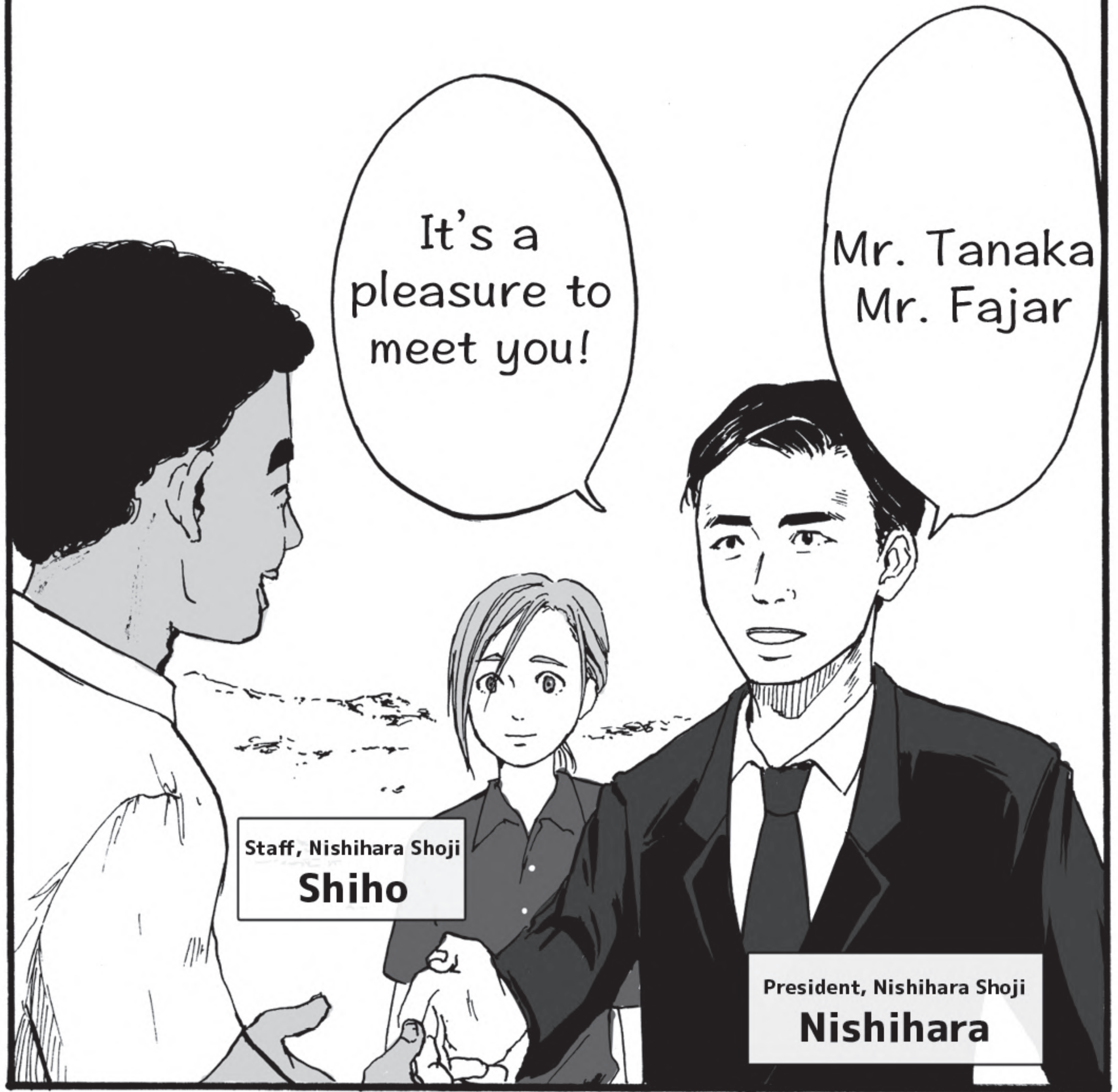
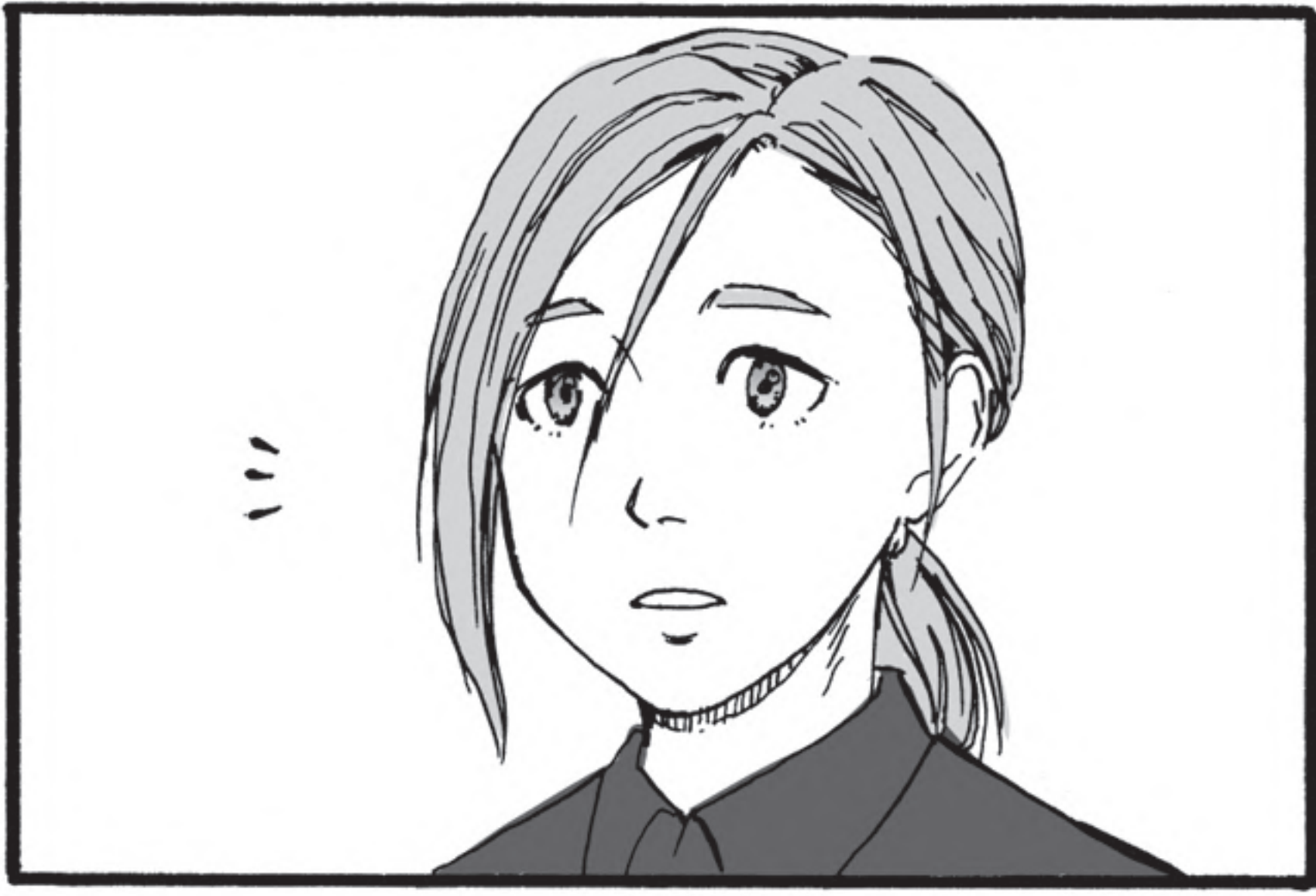


Dreams Bloom in Surabaya



※Kitakyushu is promoting the Takakura composting system in Asia as one of the city's international environmental cooperation initiatives. Local residents can easily convert food waste into fertilizer using local microorganisms, which is helping reduce the amount of waste.



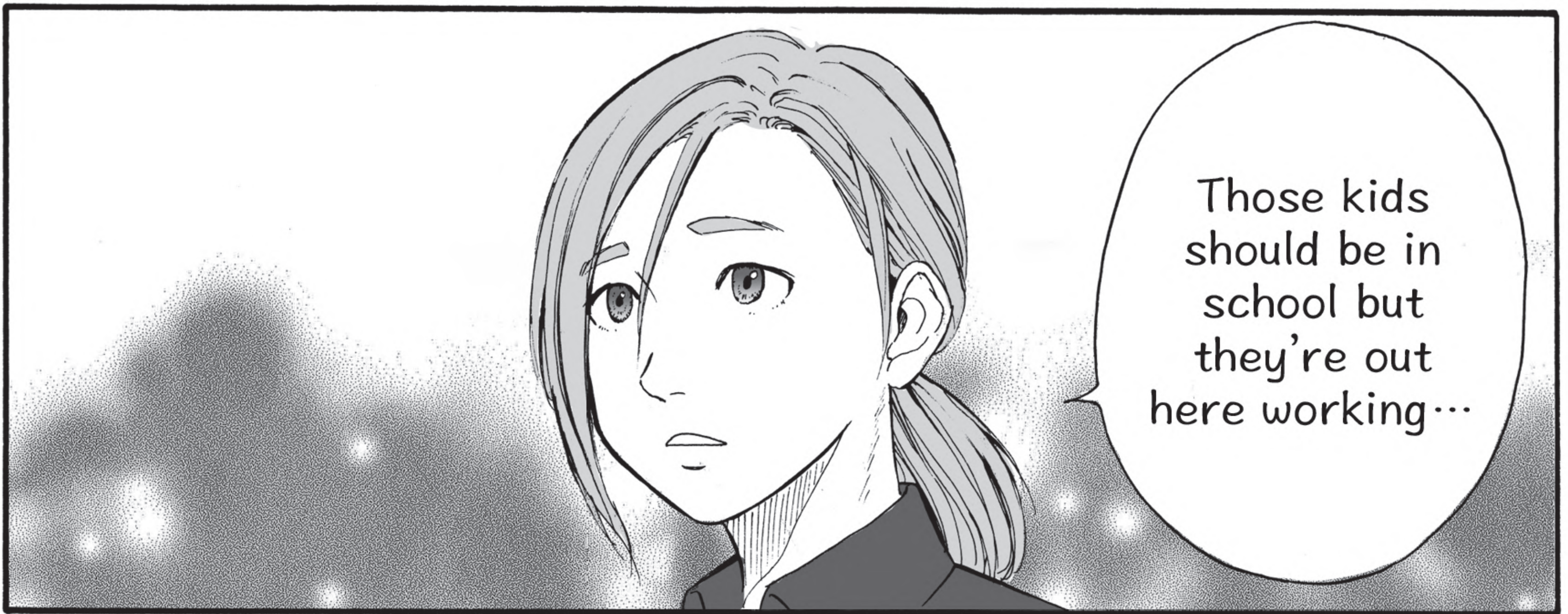
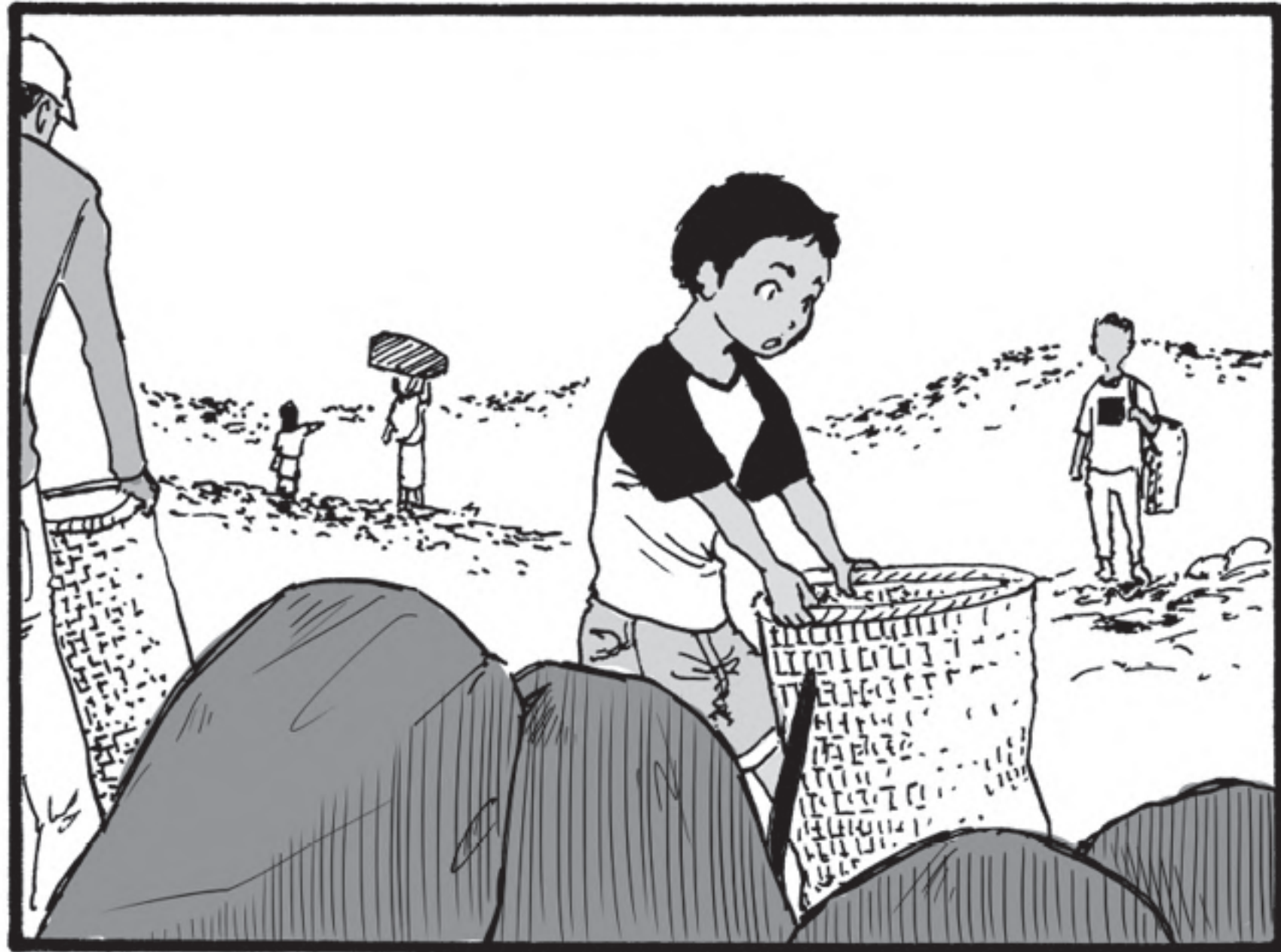


It's a pleasure to meet you!

Mr. Tanaka
Mr. Fajar

Staff, Nishihara Shoji
Shiho

President, Nishihara Shoji
Nishihara

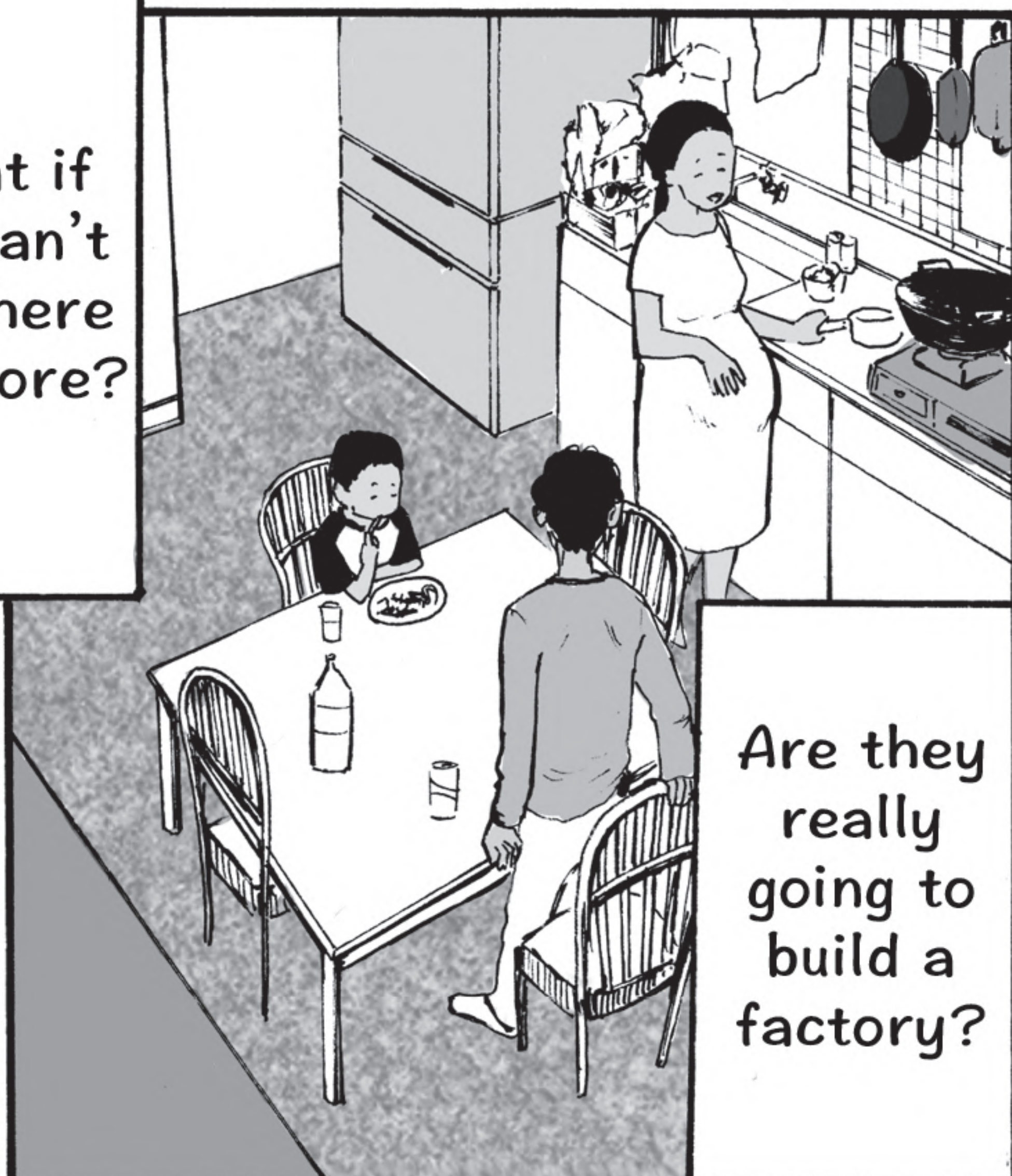


Those kids should be in school but they're out here working...



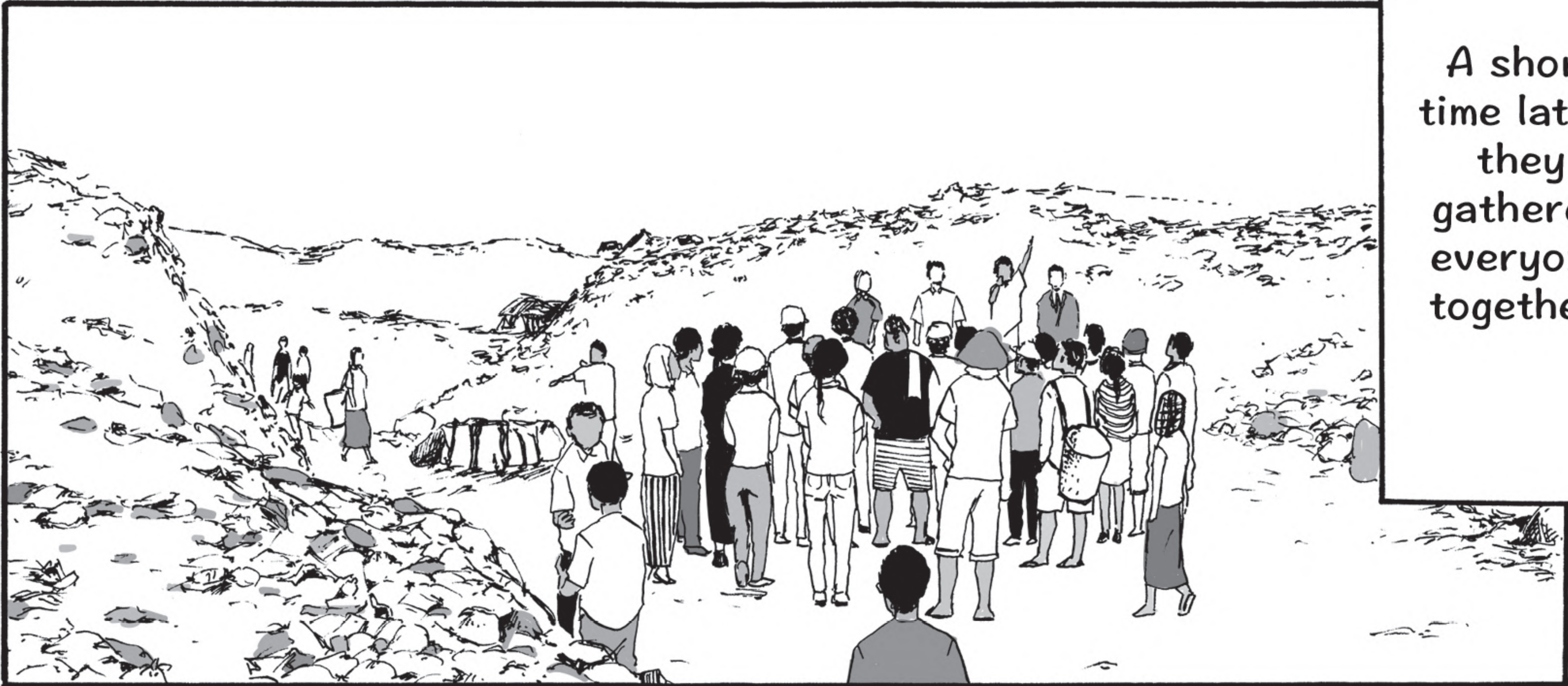
What if we can't live here anymore?

I was really scared.



Are they really going to build a factory?





A short time later, they gathered everyone together.

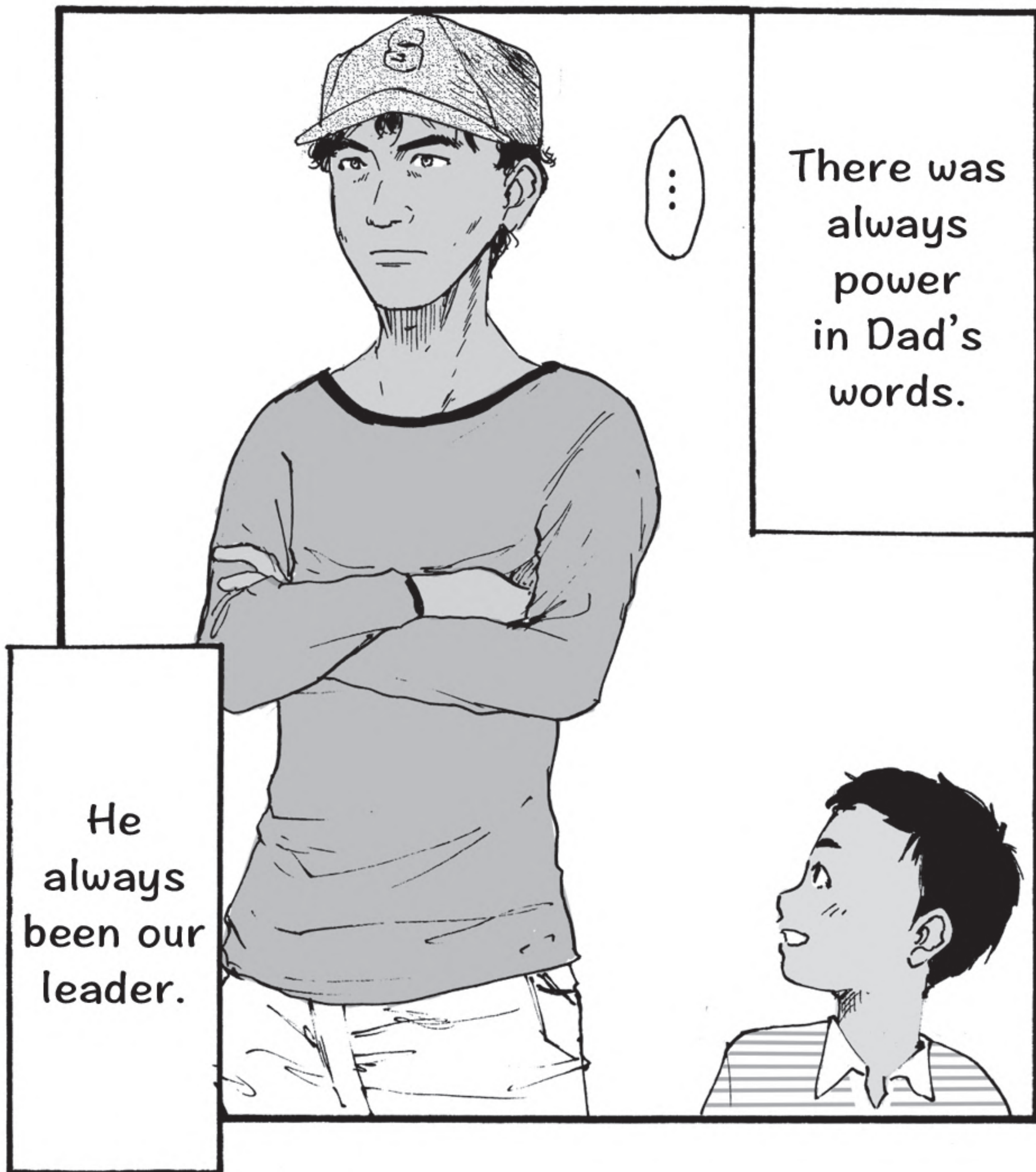
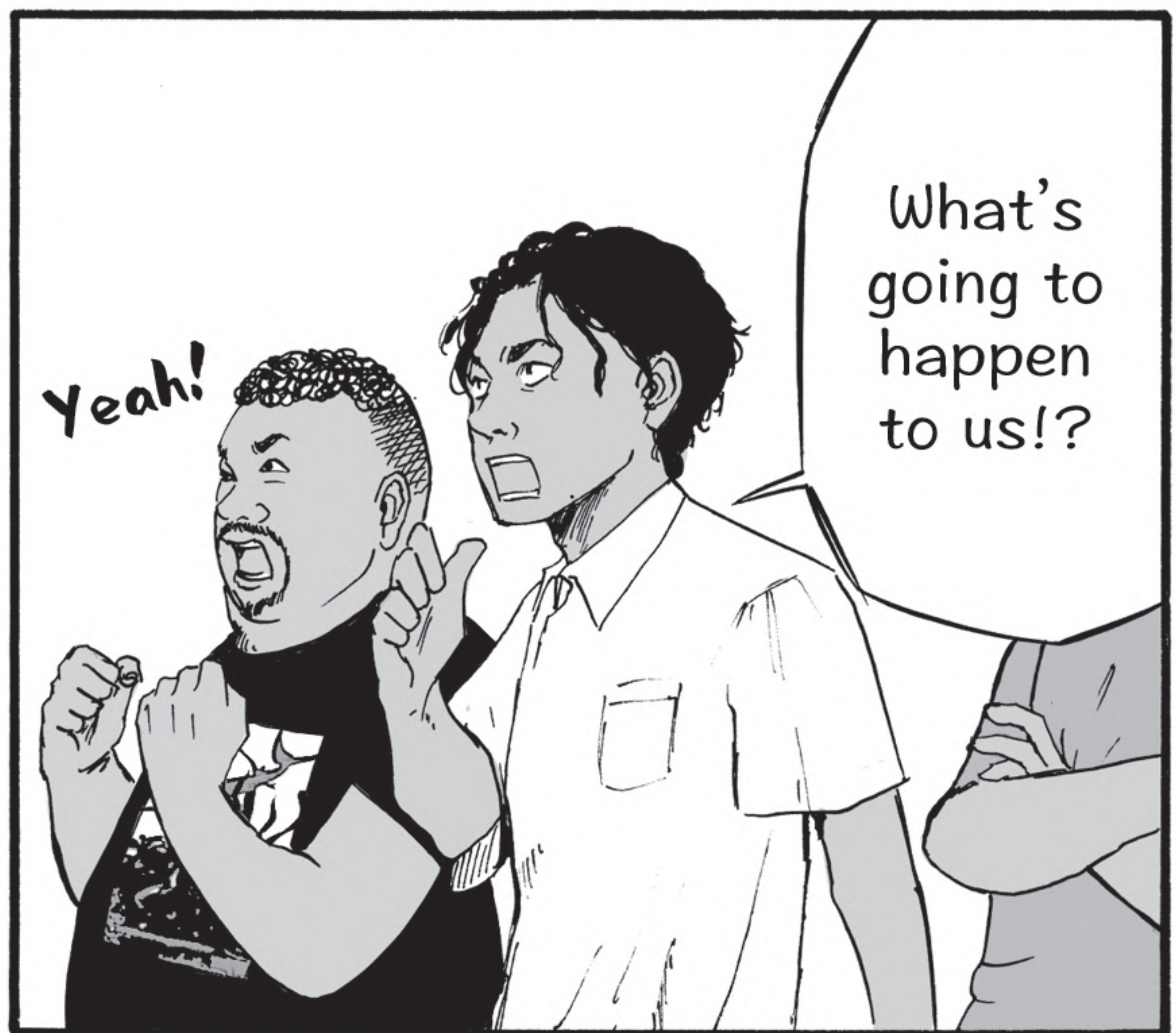
They would sort and collect valuable items from discarded trash.

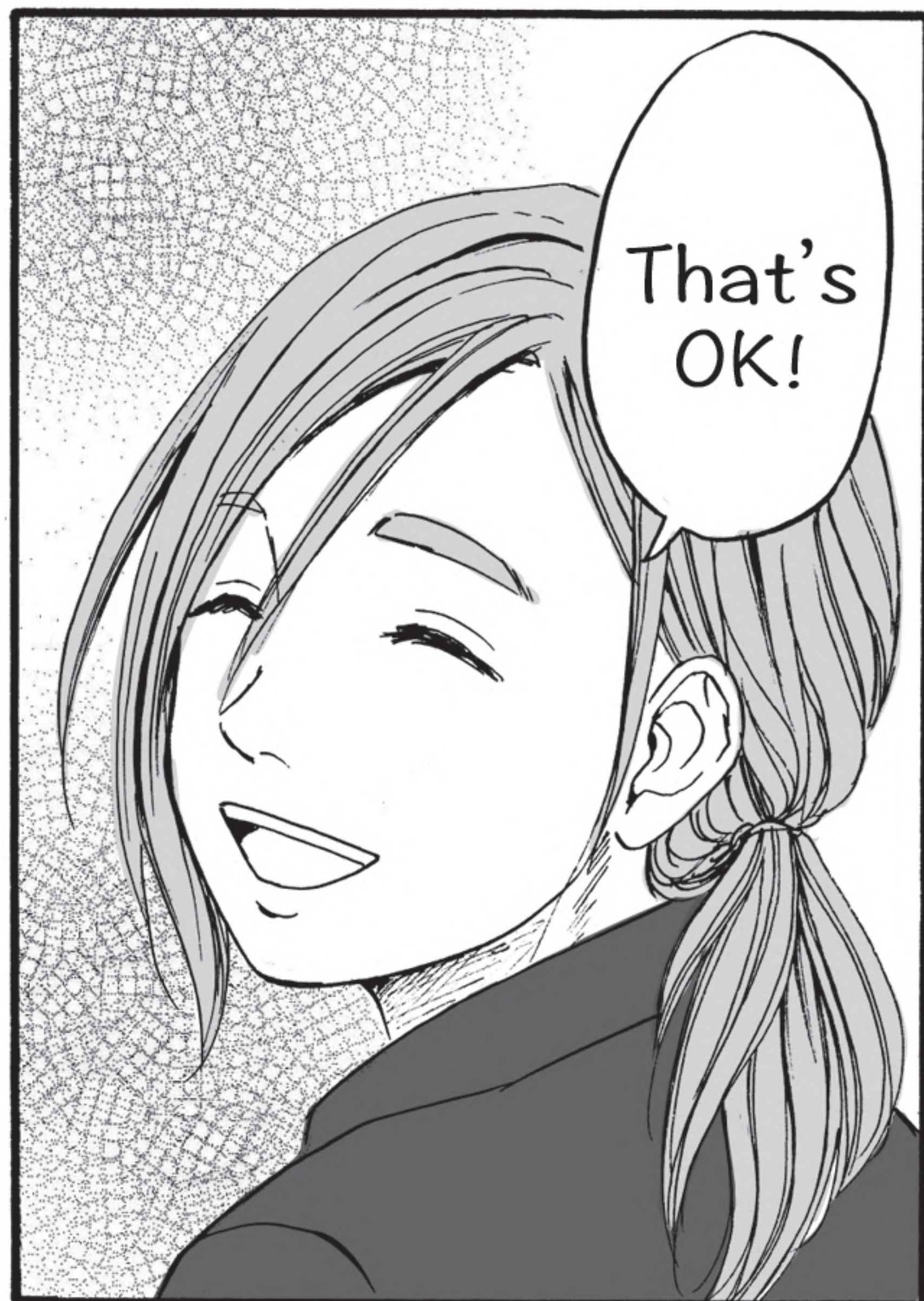
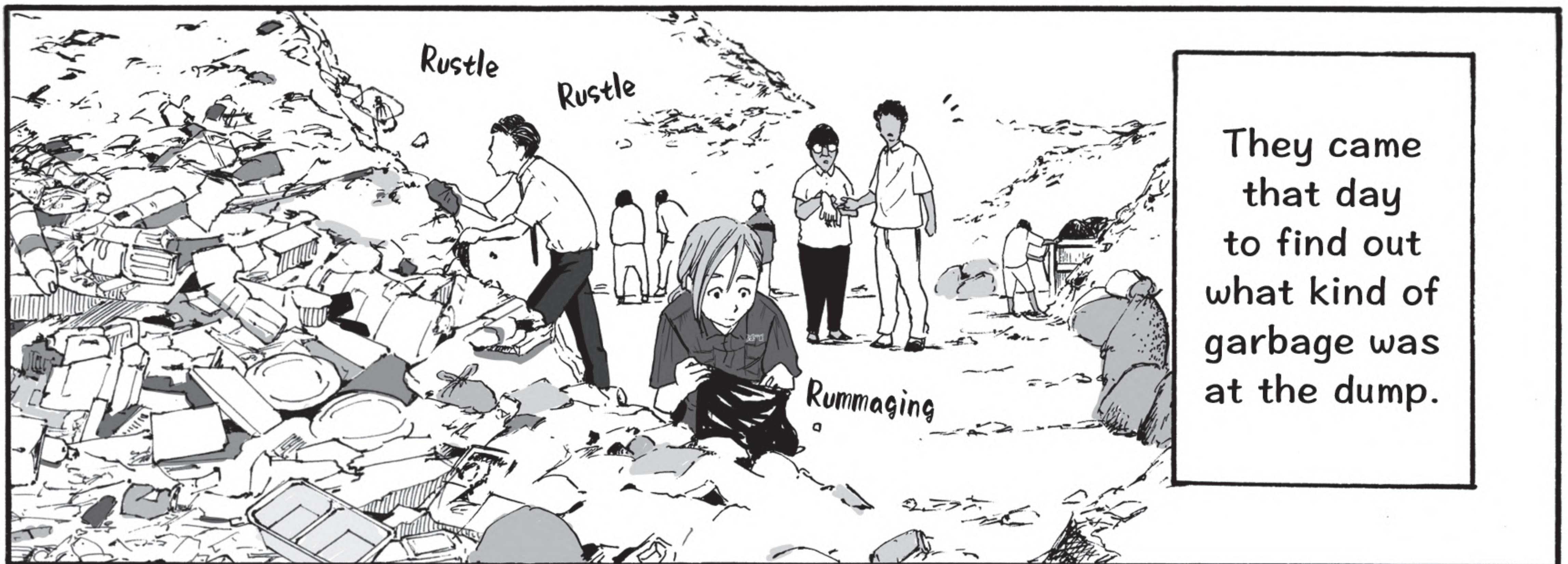
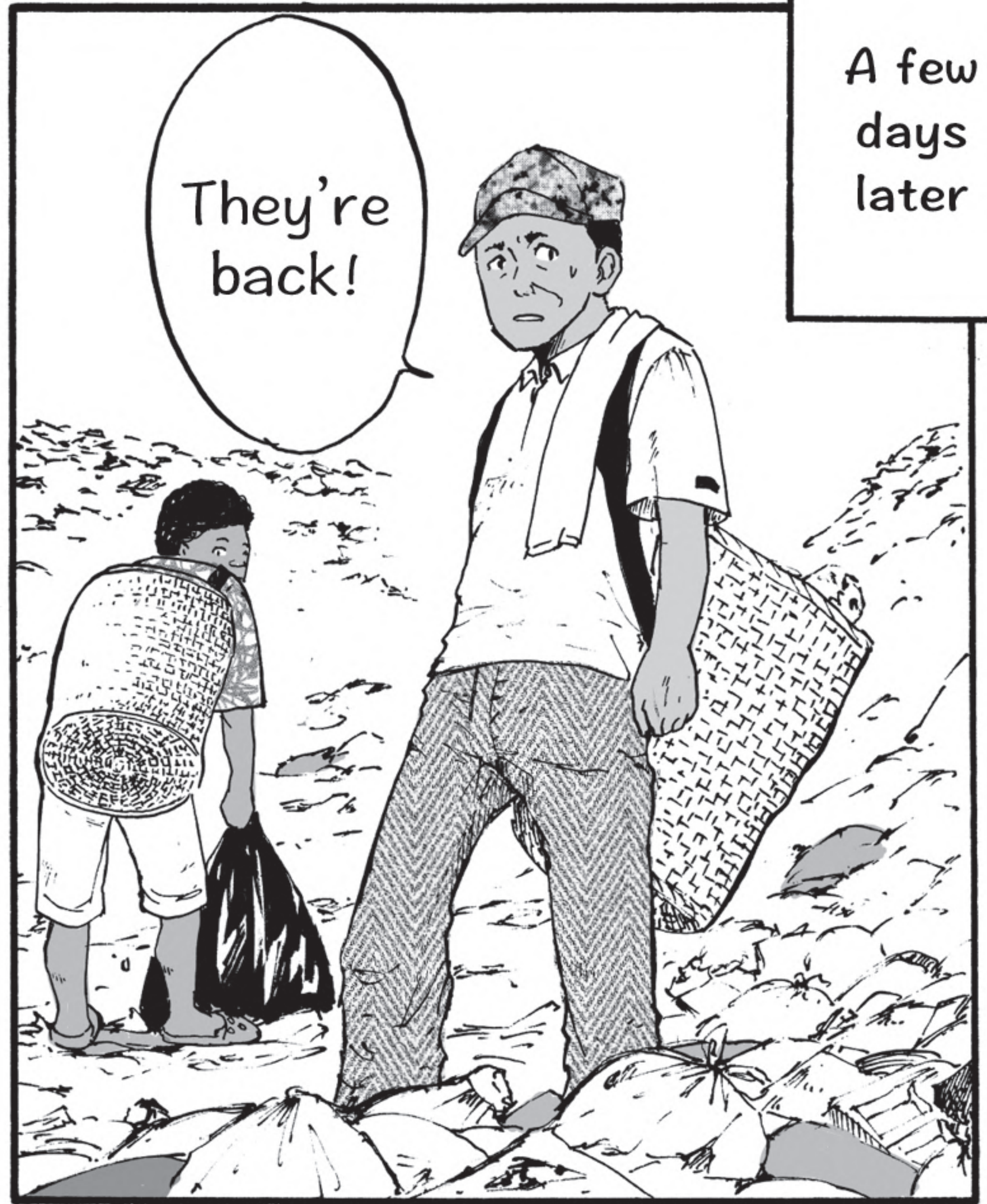
They said that a company called Nishihara Shoji from Kitakyushu City was going to build a factory called a Super Depo.

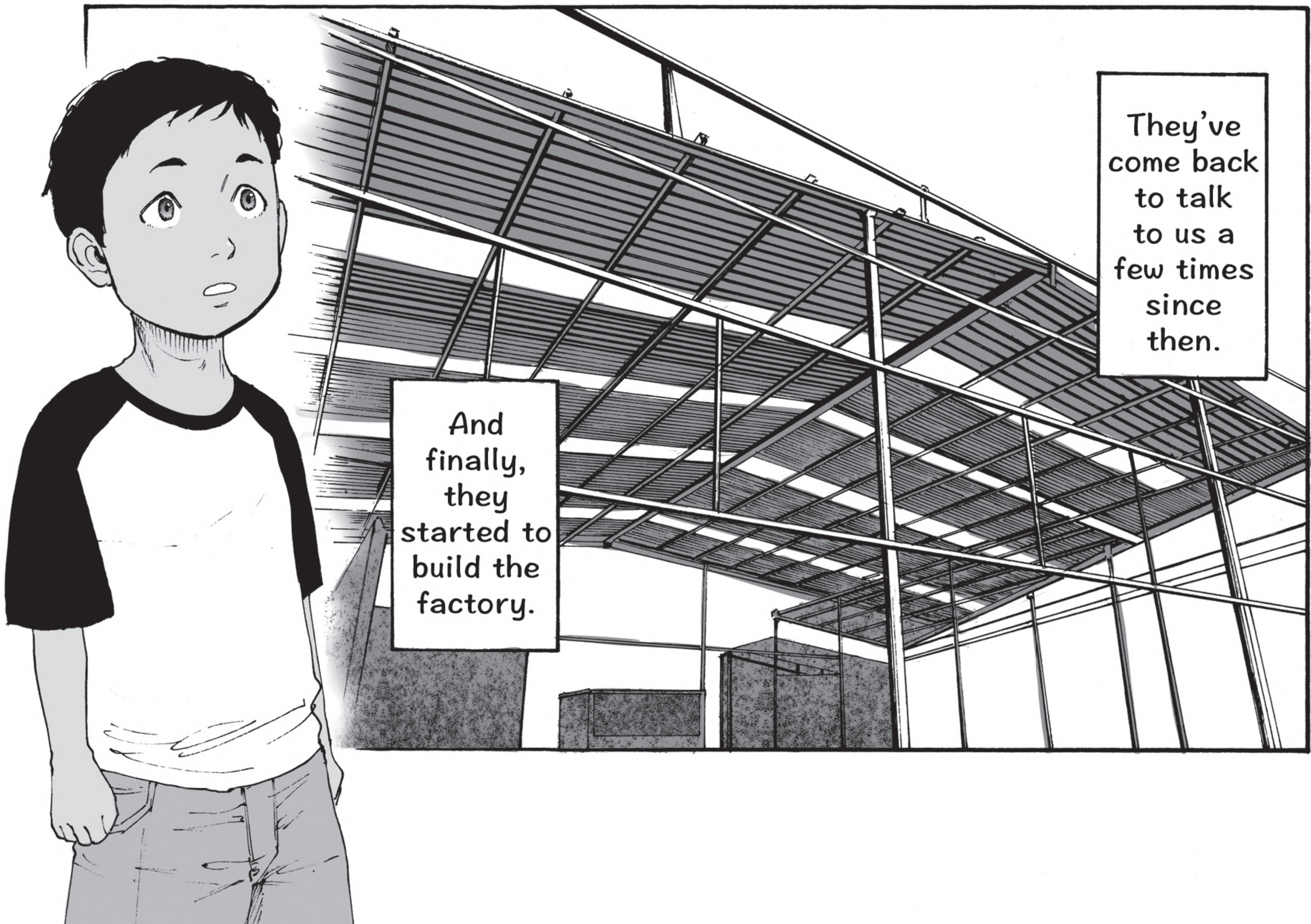
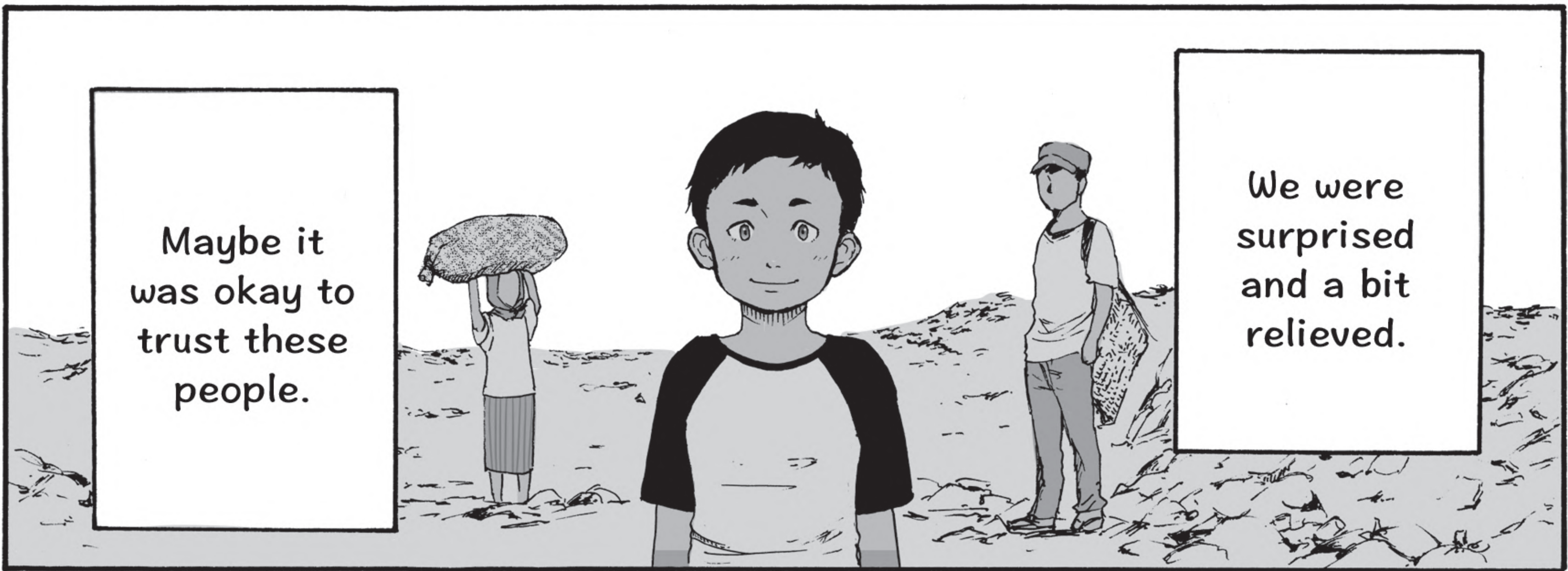
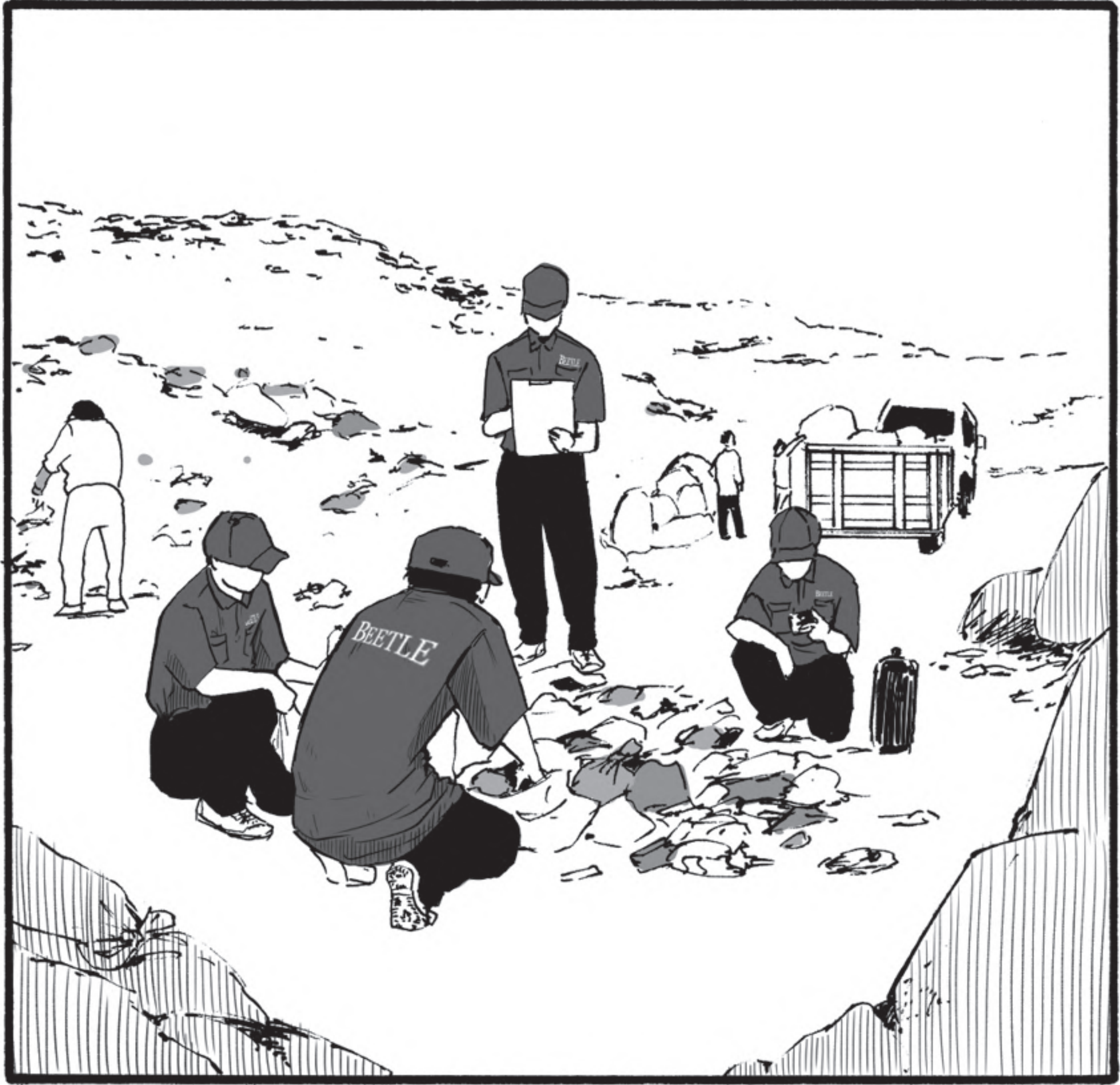
Grimacing

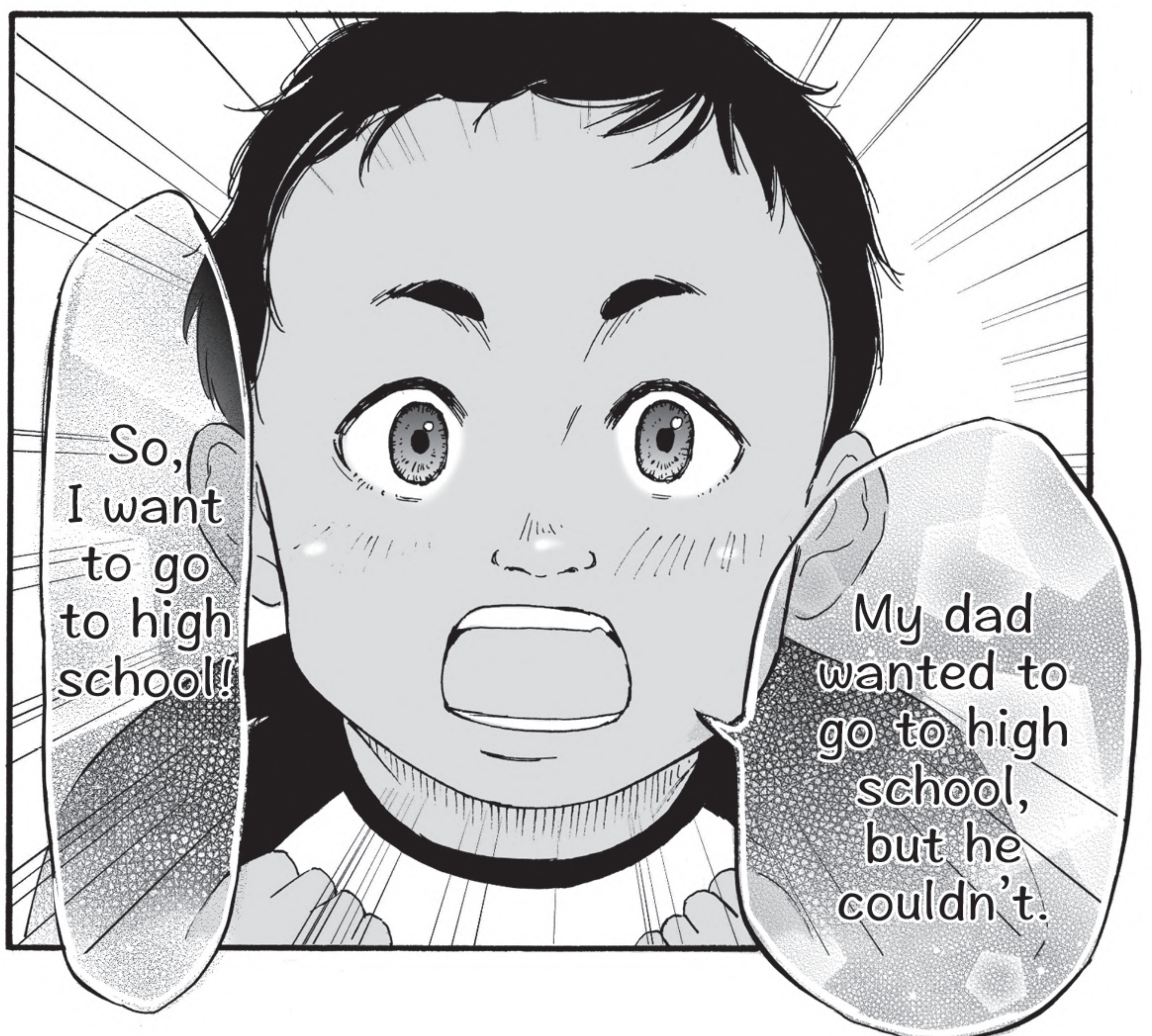
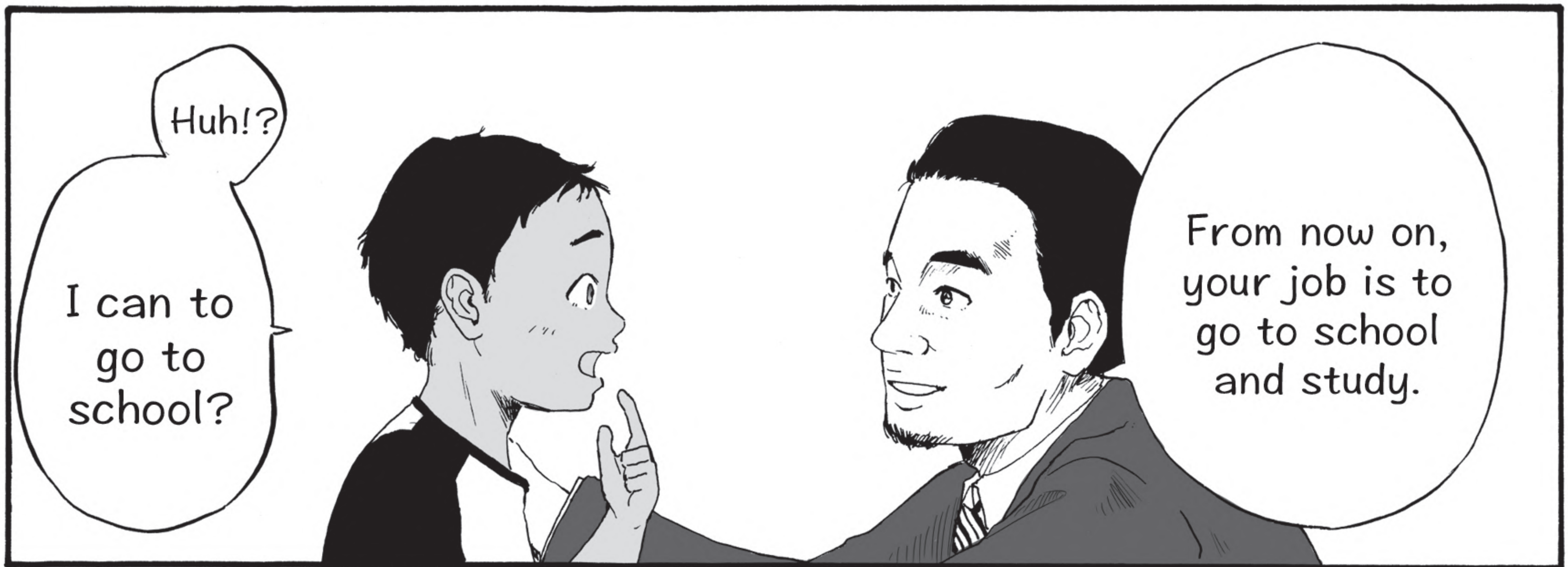
That's what it sounded like.

They were going to do what we were already doing, but in a clean factory.









Smoke-filled sky...

Sea of death...

Well,
there's
a story
behind
that...

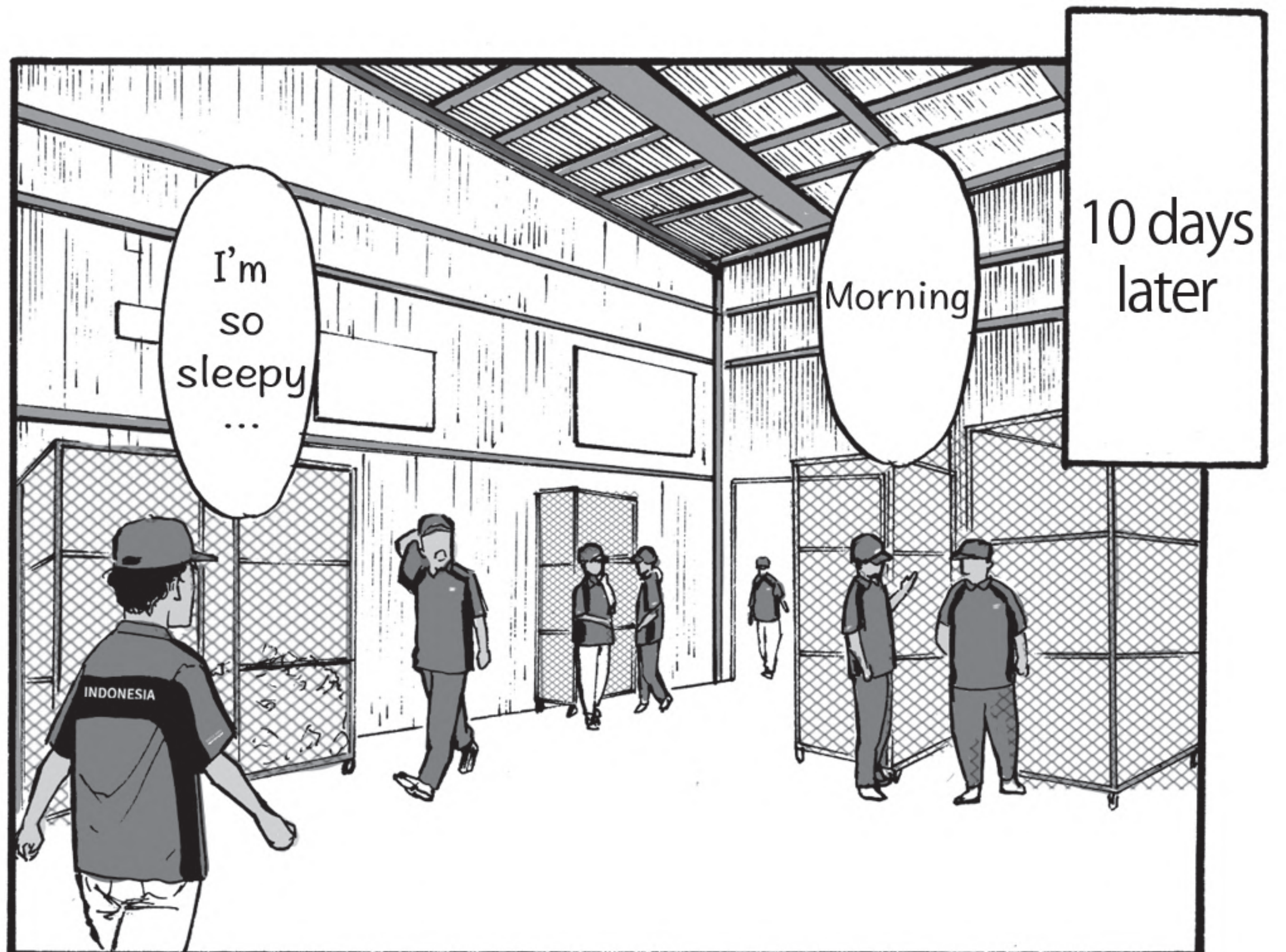
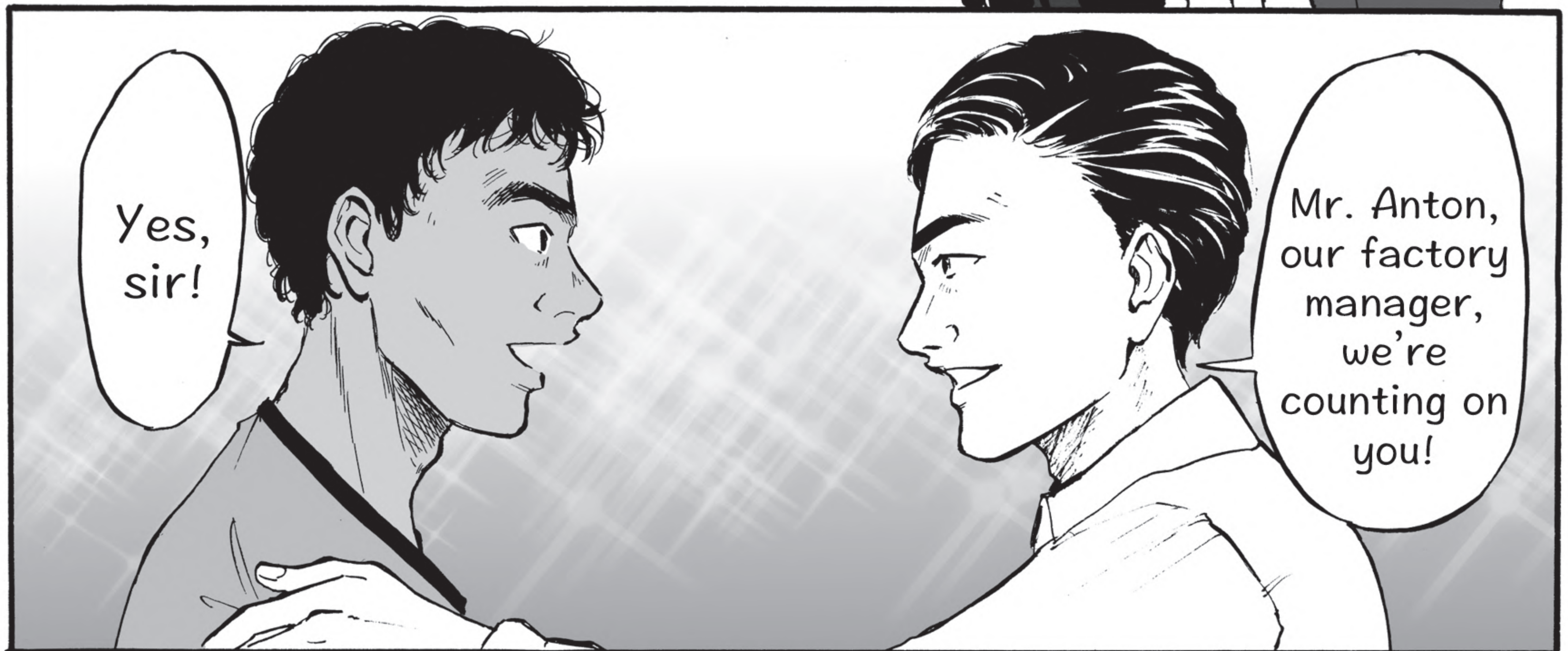
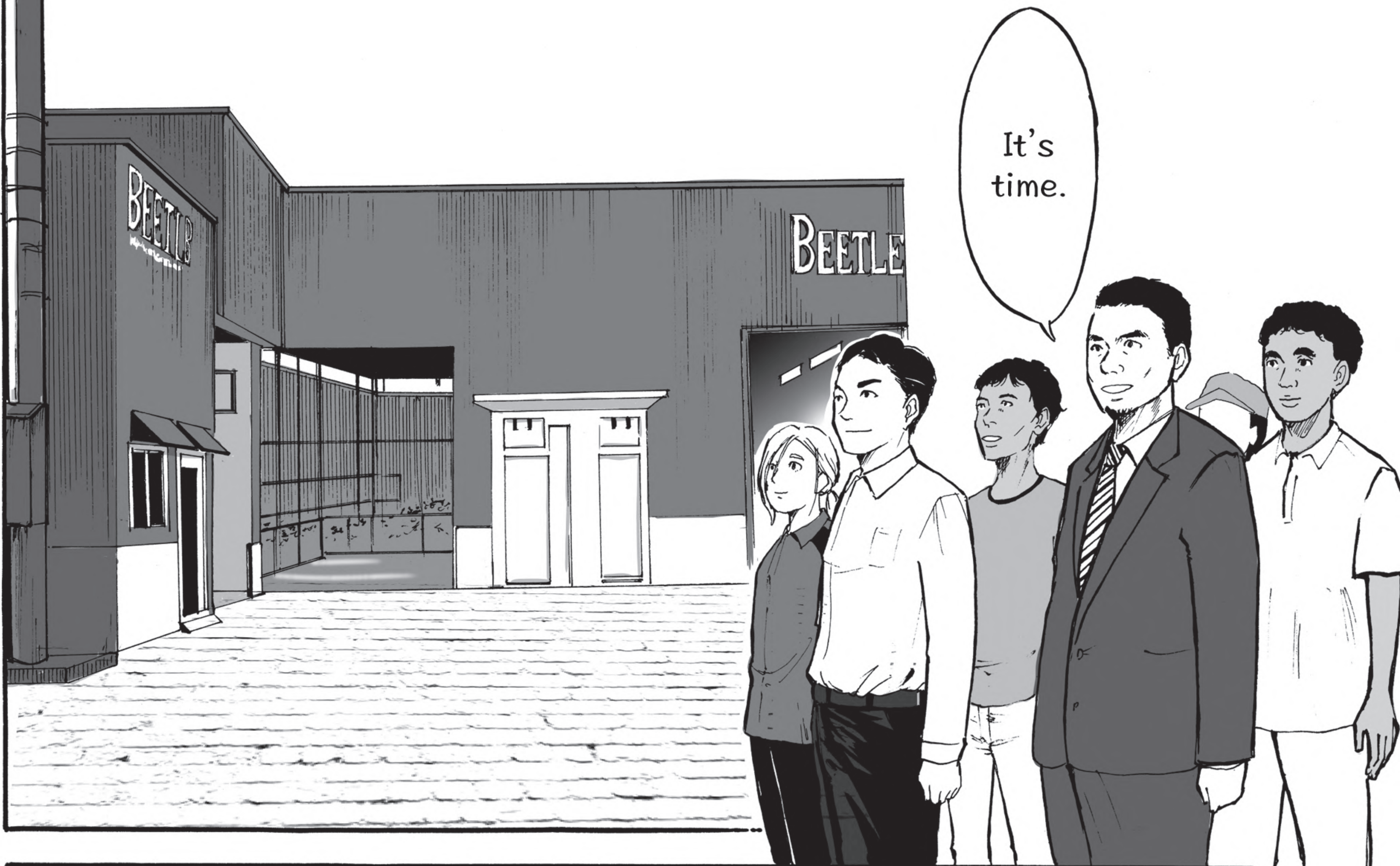
A long time ago,
Kitakyushu had
pollution problems,
however we all
worked together
to clean up the
city and overcome
those problems.

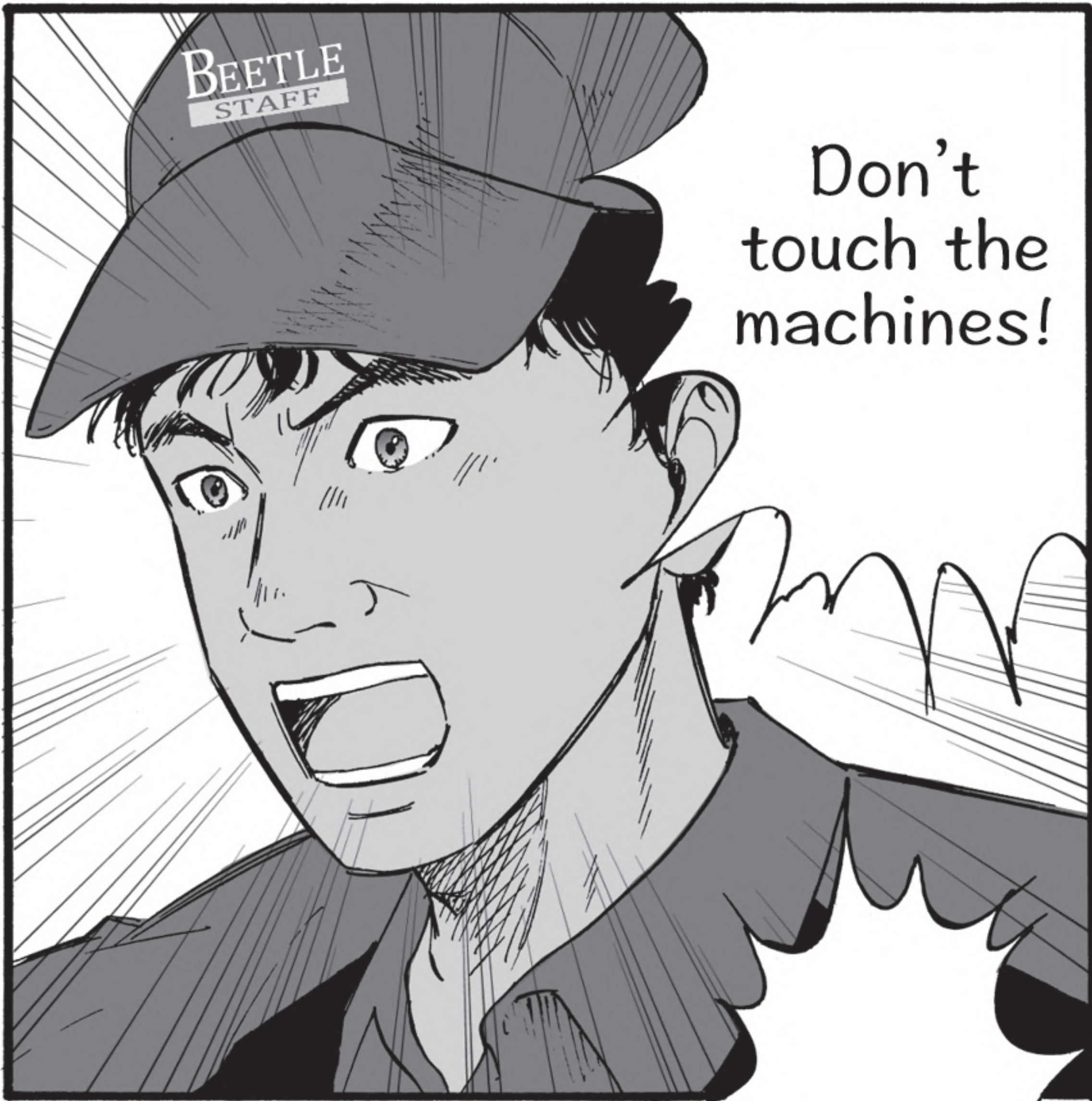
Why did you
come from so
far to help
our city?

As I listened to them,
I started to think
that I'd like to visit
Kitakyushu someday.

Kitakyushu
wants to
beat these
environmental
problems
together with
everyone
around the
world.

Today, the
world is being
overrun with
environmental
problems like
global warming
and energy
issues.





Don't touch the machines!



Peeking around the door

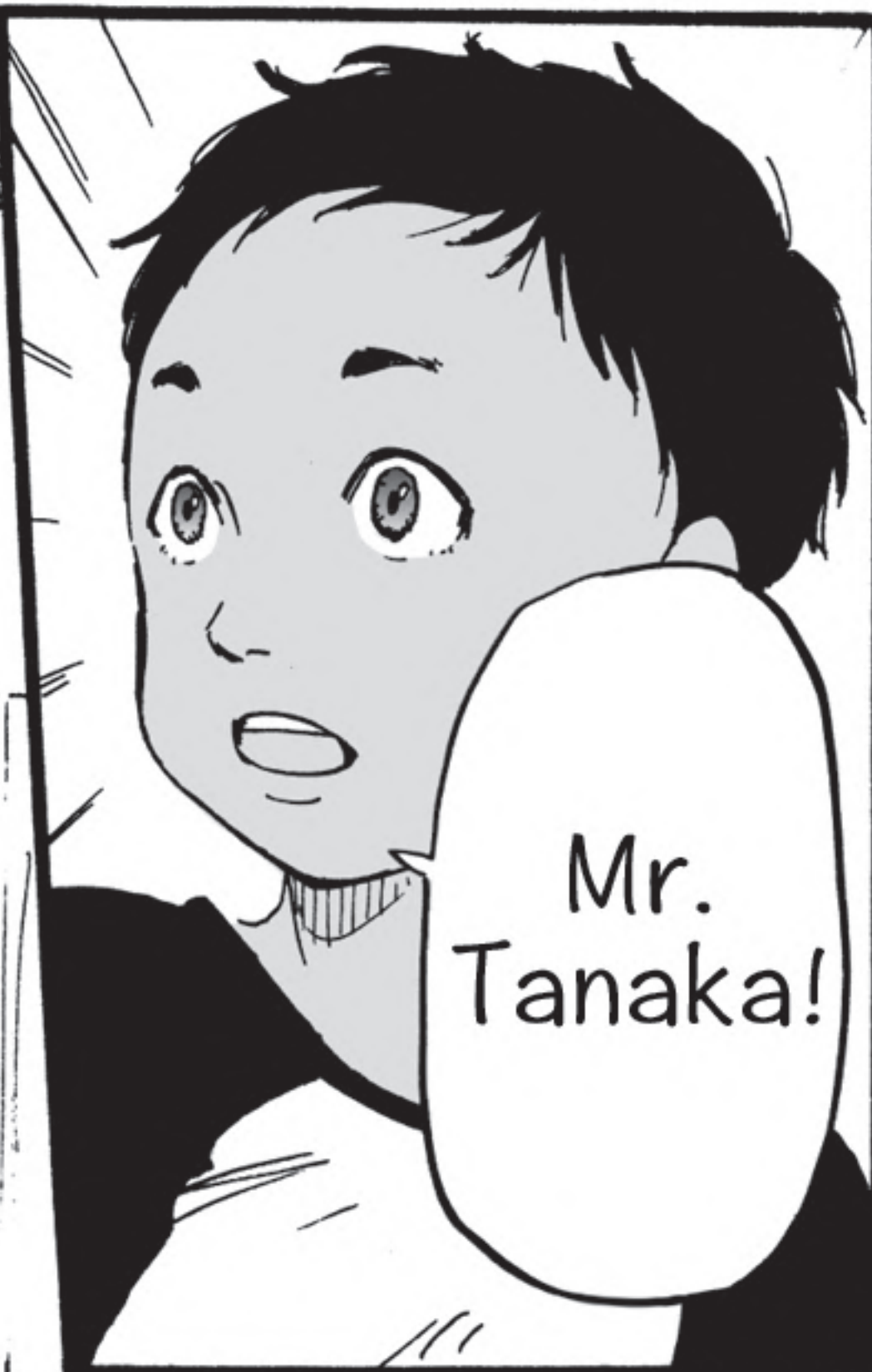
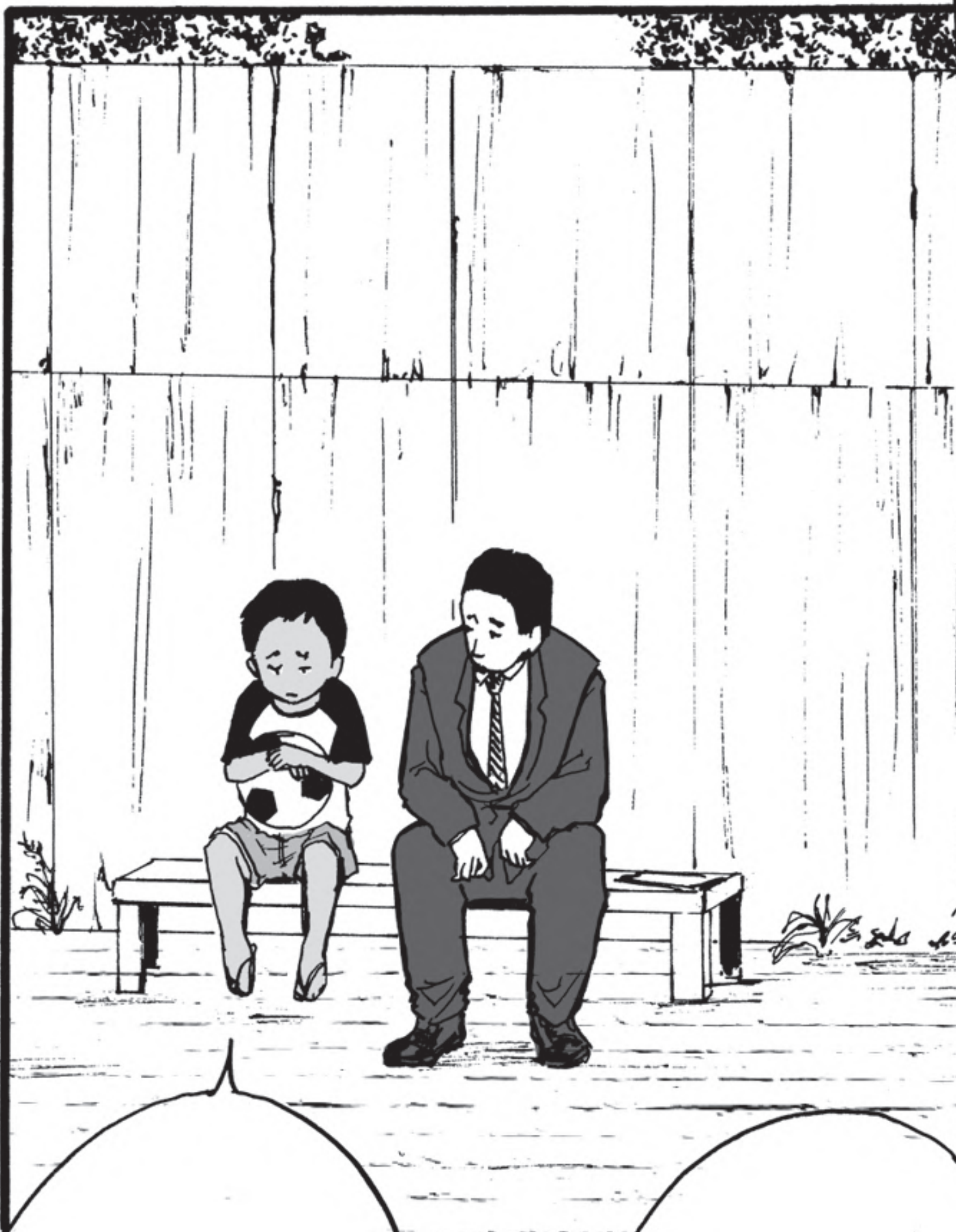


Go play outside!

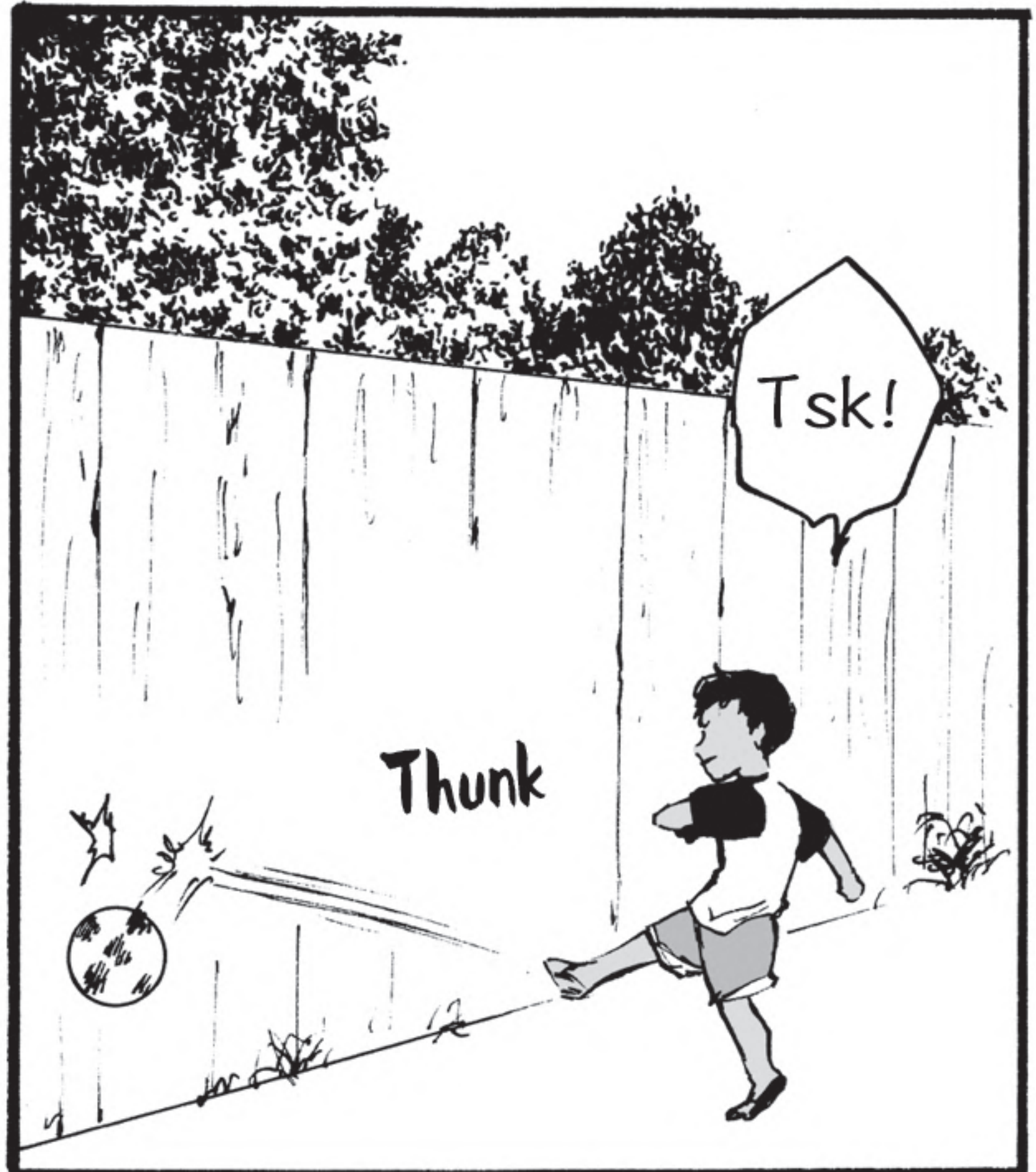


This is amazing...

Whoa~

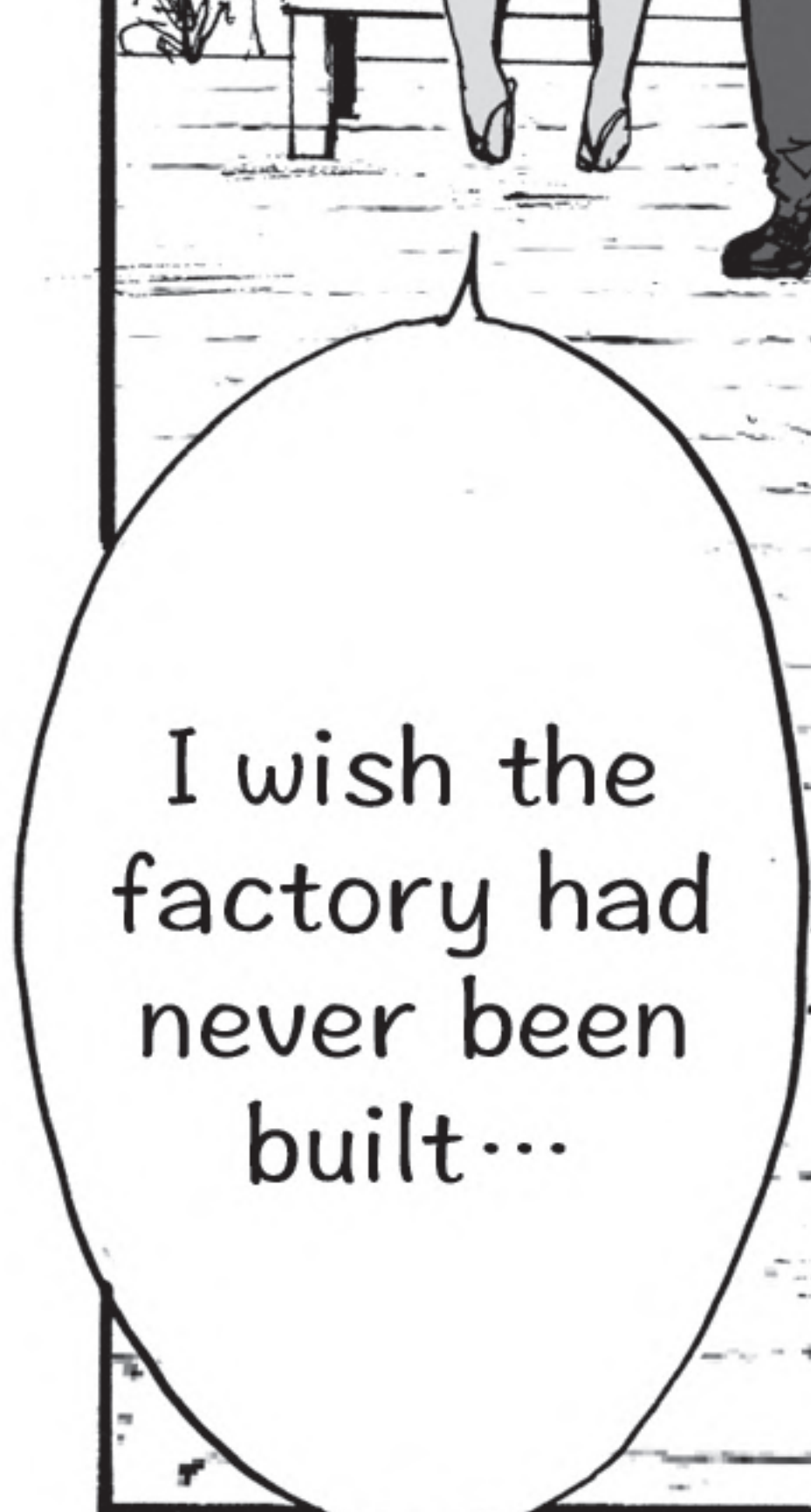


Mr. Tanaka!

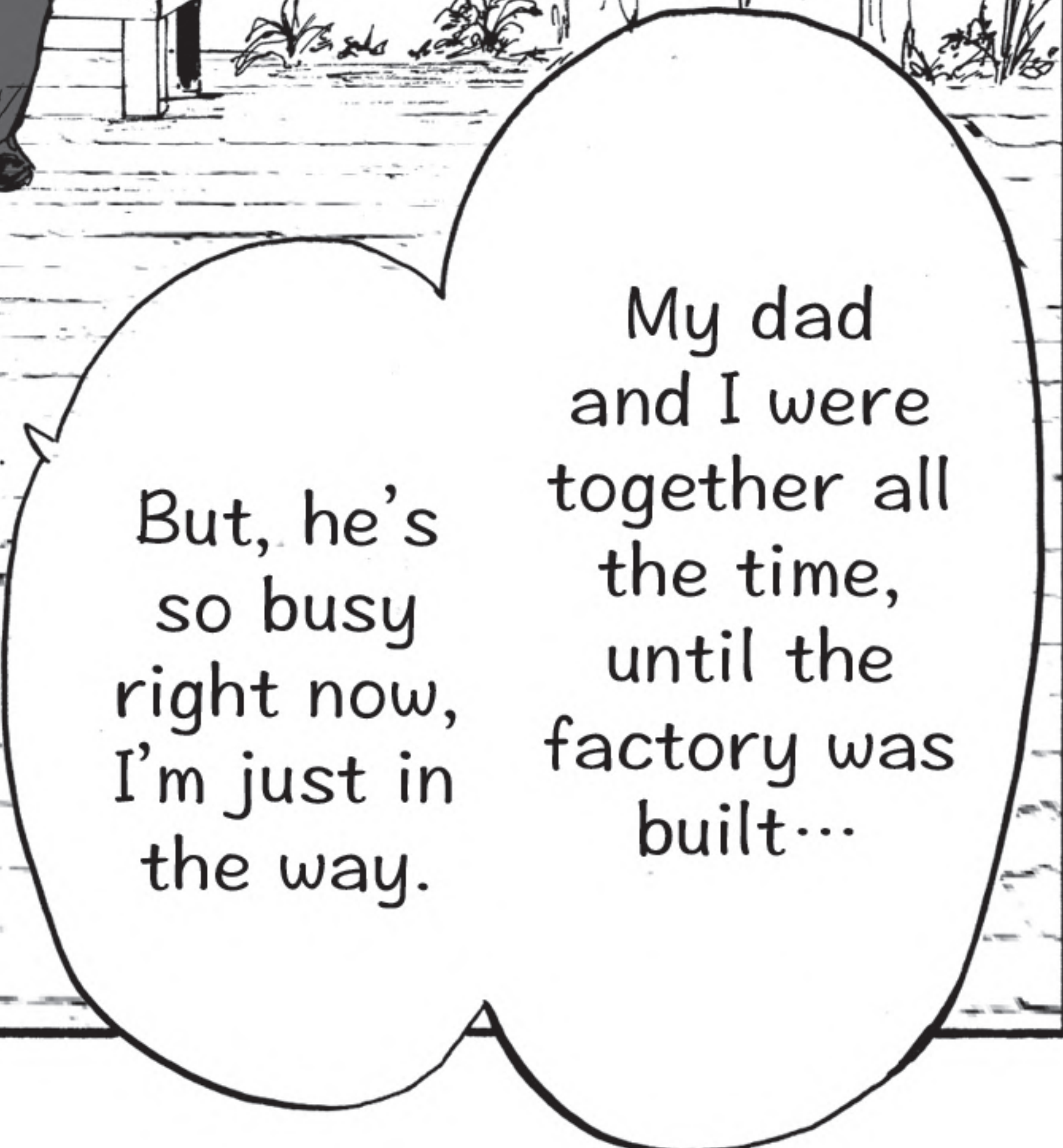


Tsk!

Thunk

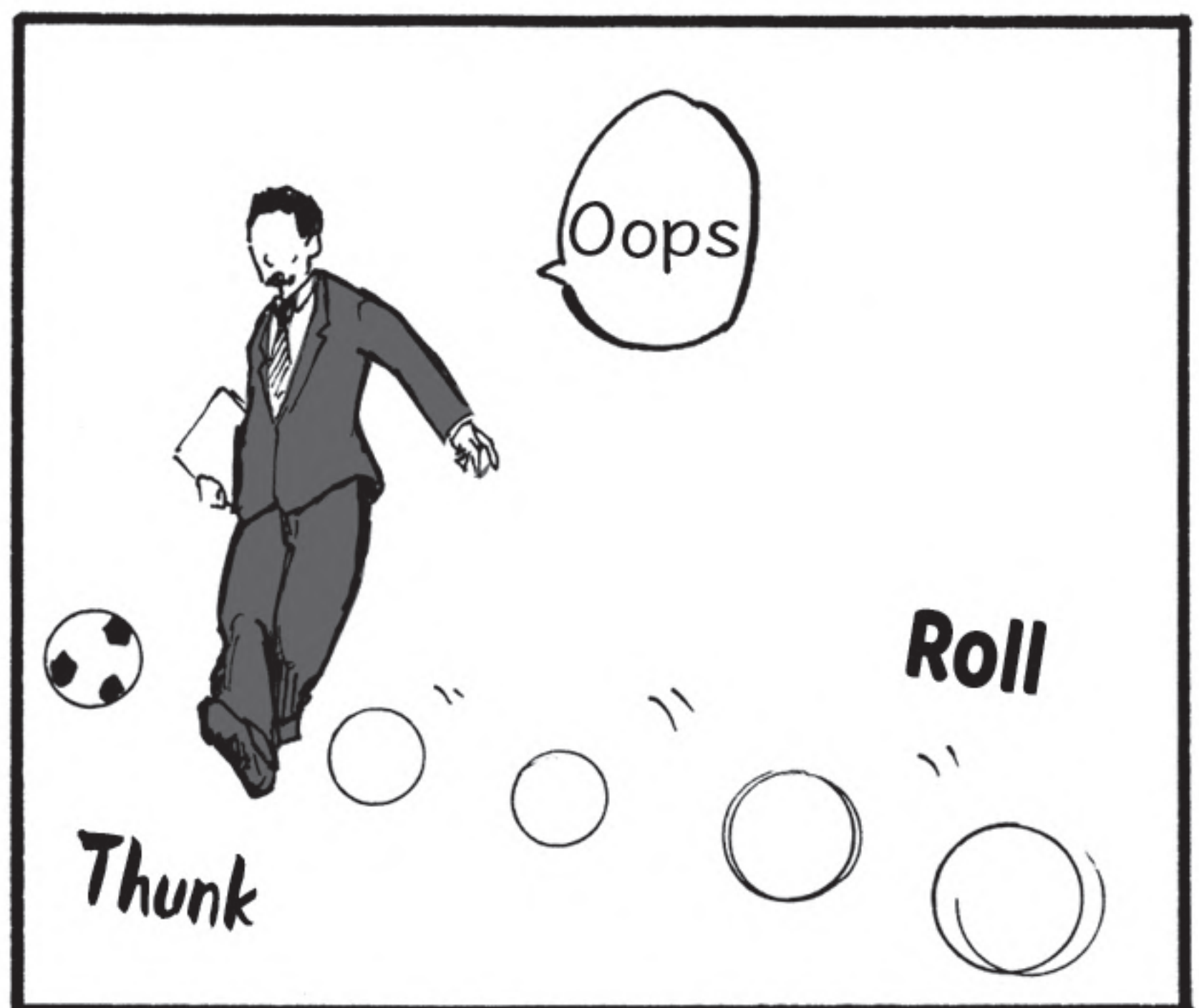


I wish the factory had never been built...



But, he's so busy right now, I'm just in the way.

My dad and I were together all the time, until the factory was built...



Oops

Thunk

Roll



Tomorrow, Mayor Risma and ministers from the national government will come by to see the factory.

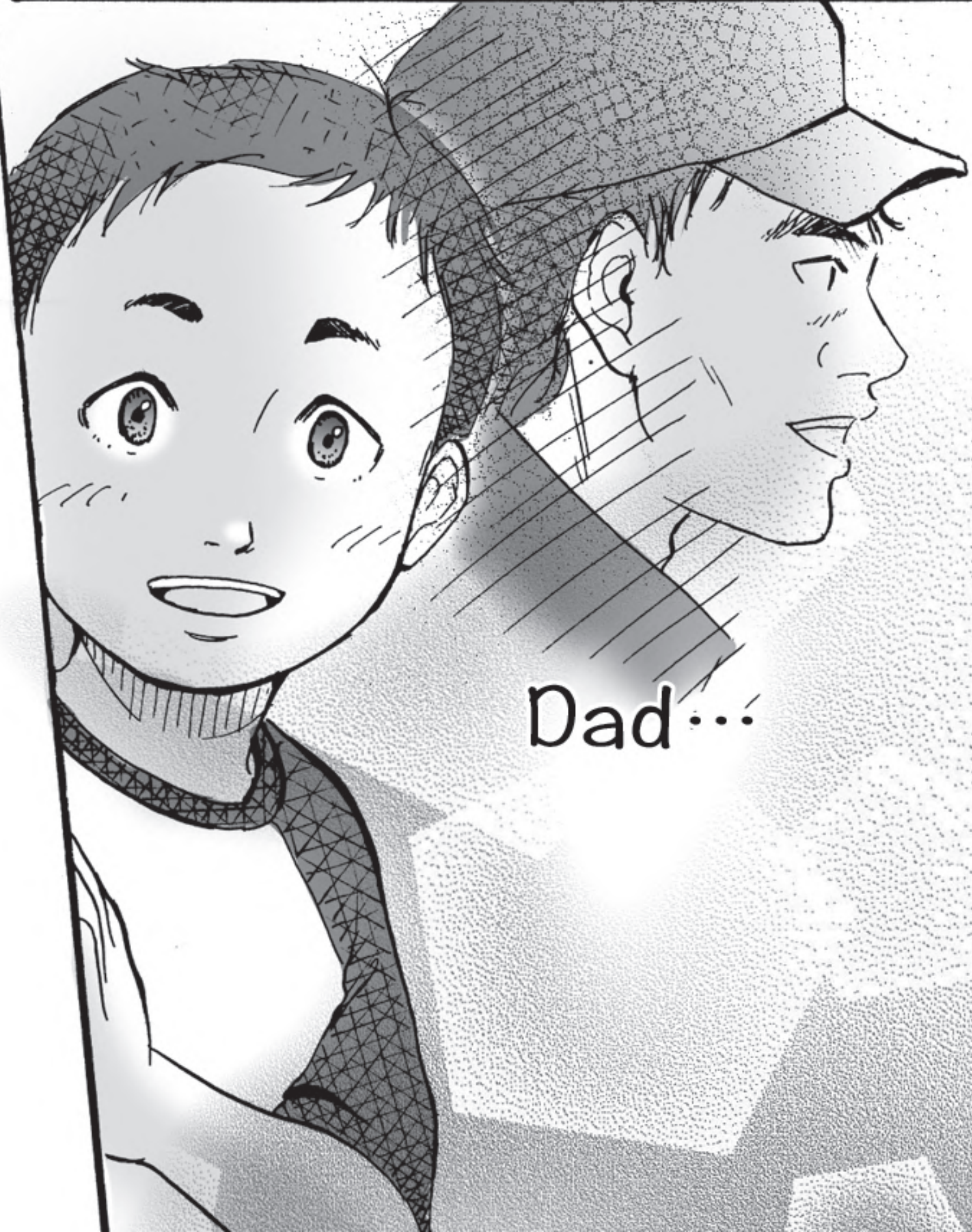


It's lonely, isn't it.

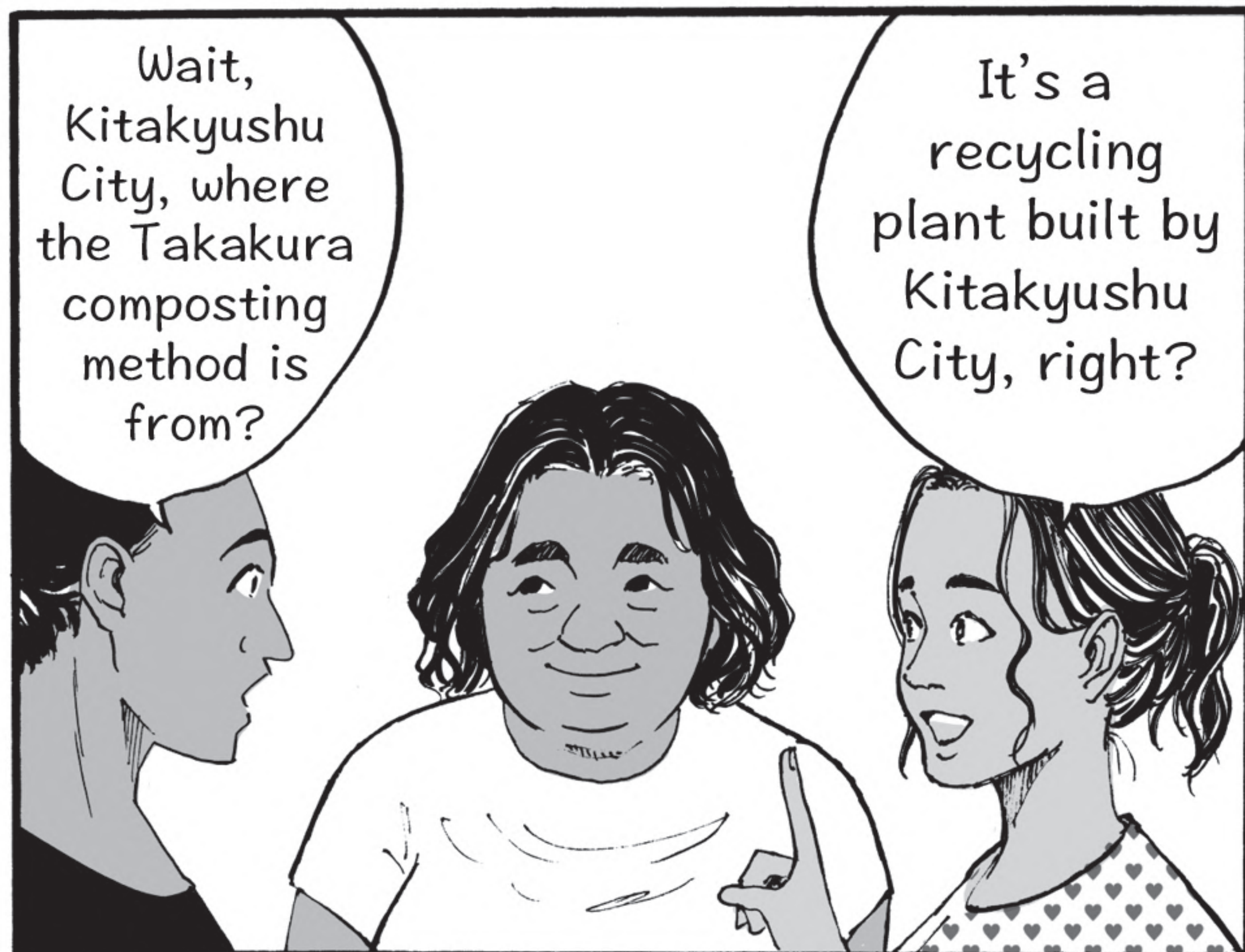
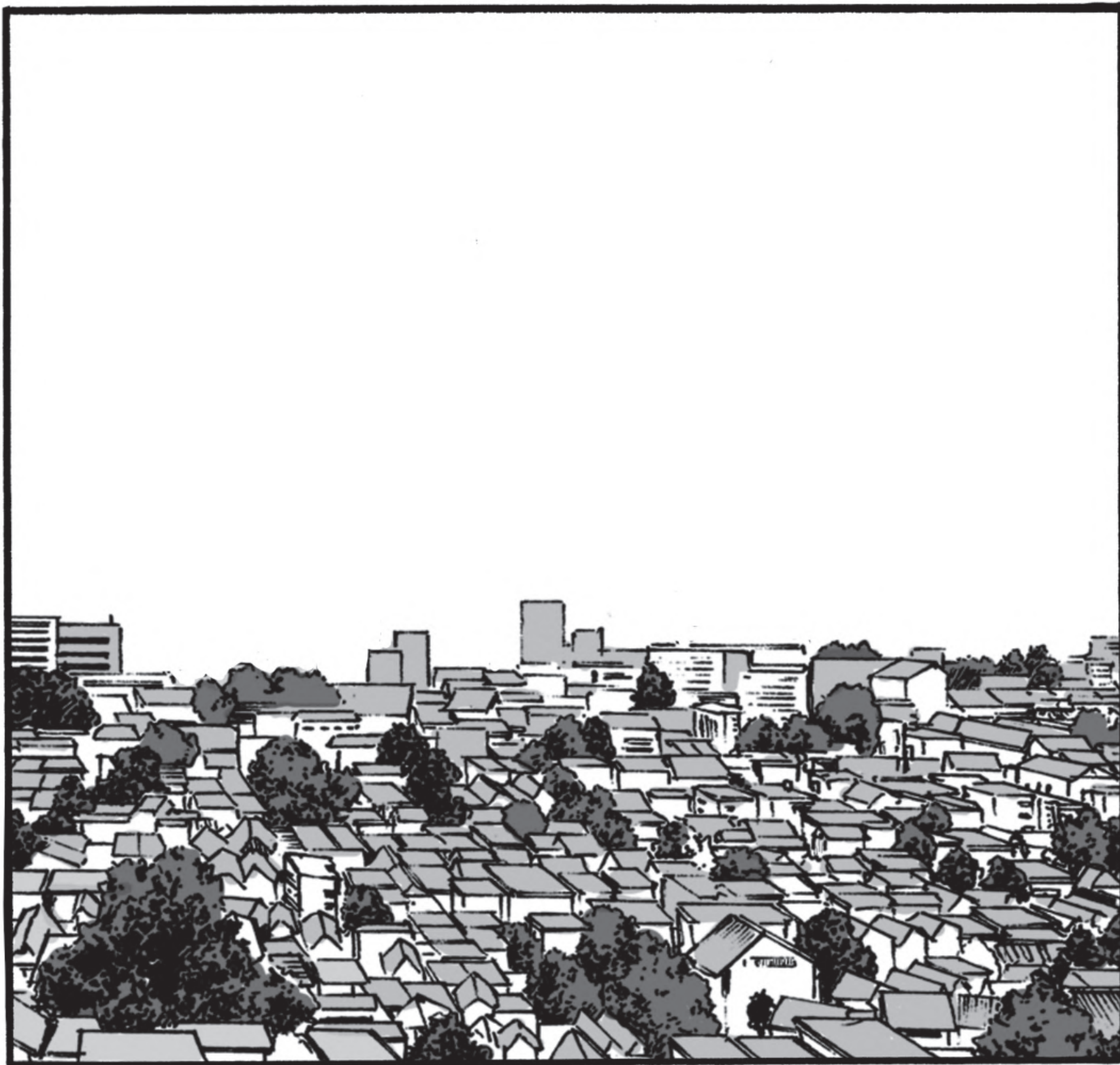
But building the factory has helped everyone in the city.

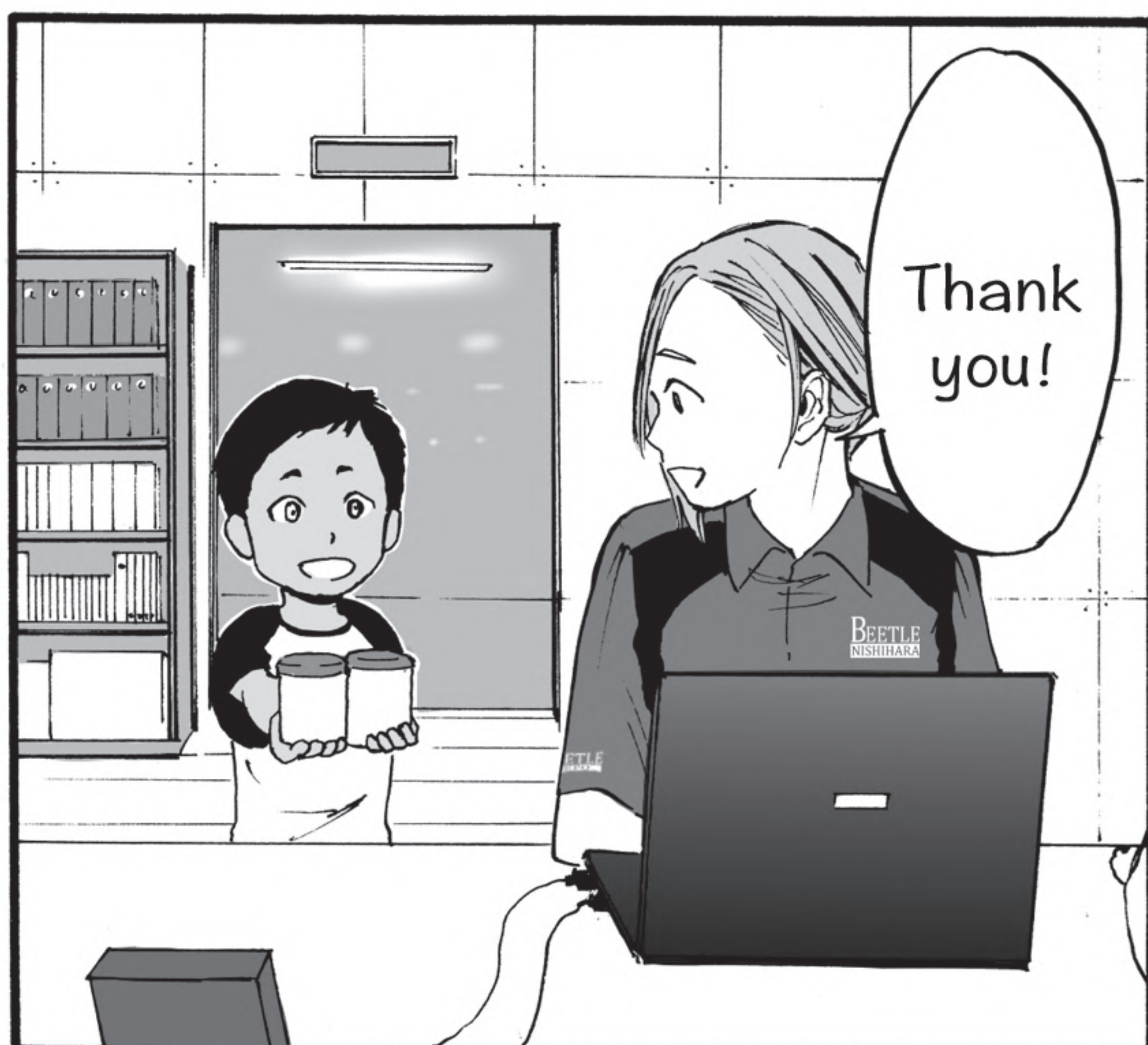
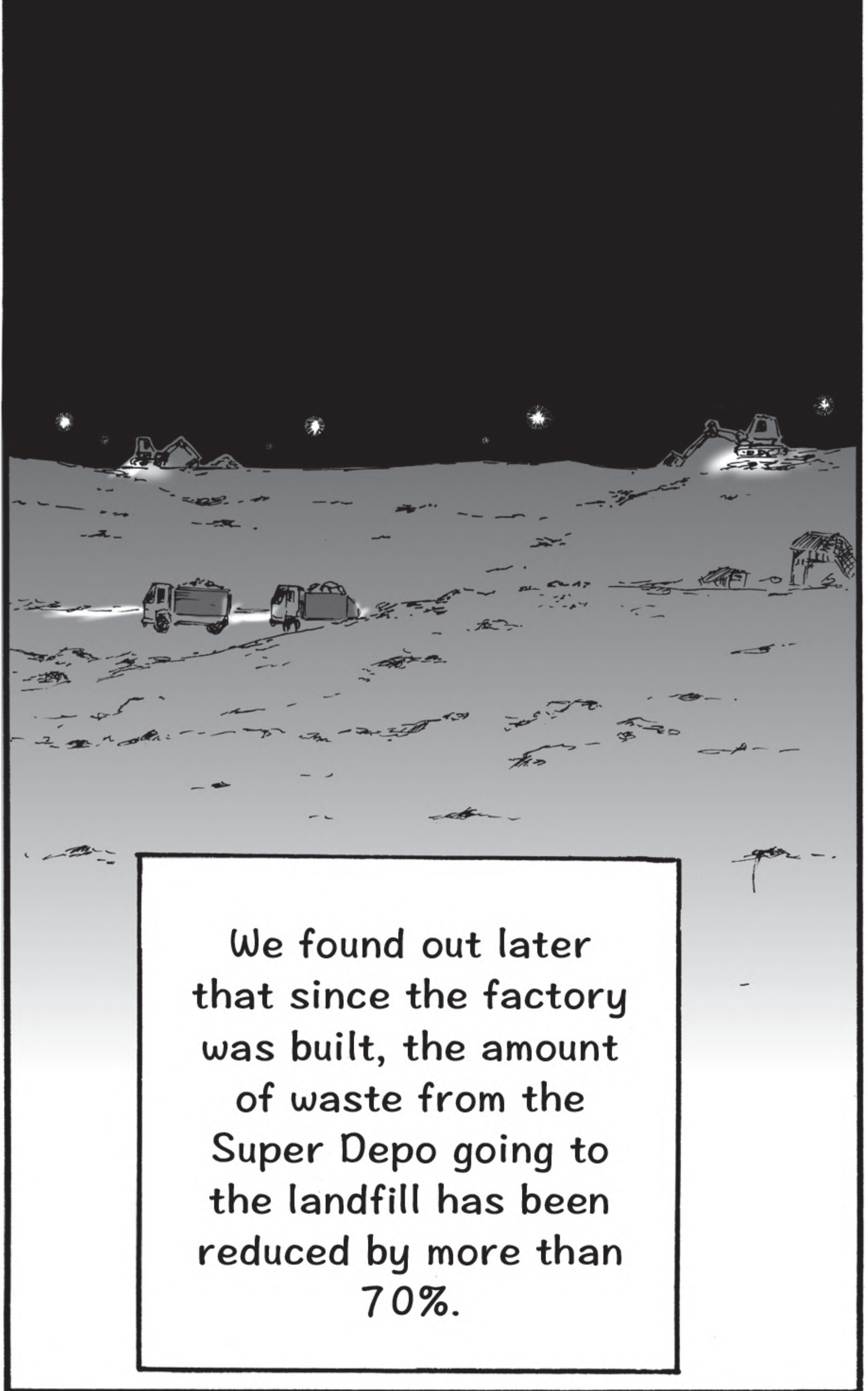


This is Mr. Anton, the factory manager.



Dad...







Really?!
That's
great!

I'm going to
start school
next month.



Work hard,
and your
dreams will
come true.



Yeah!
I'm going to
study hard
and go to
high school!



Waving

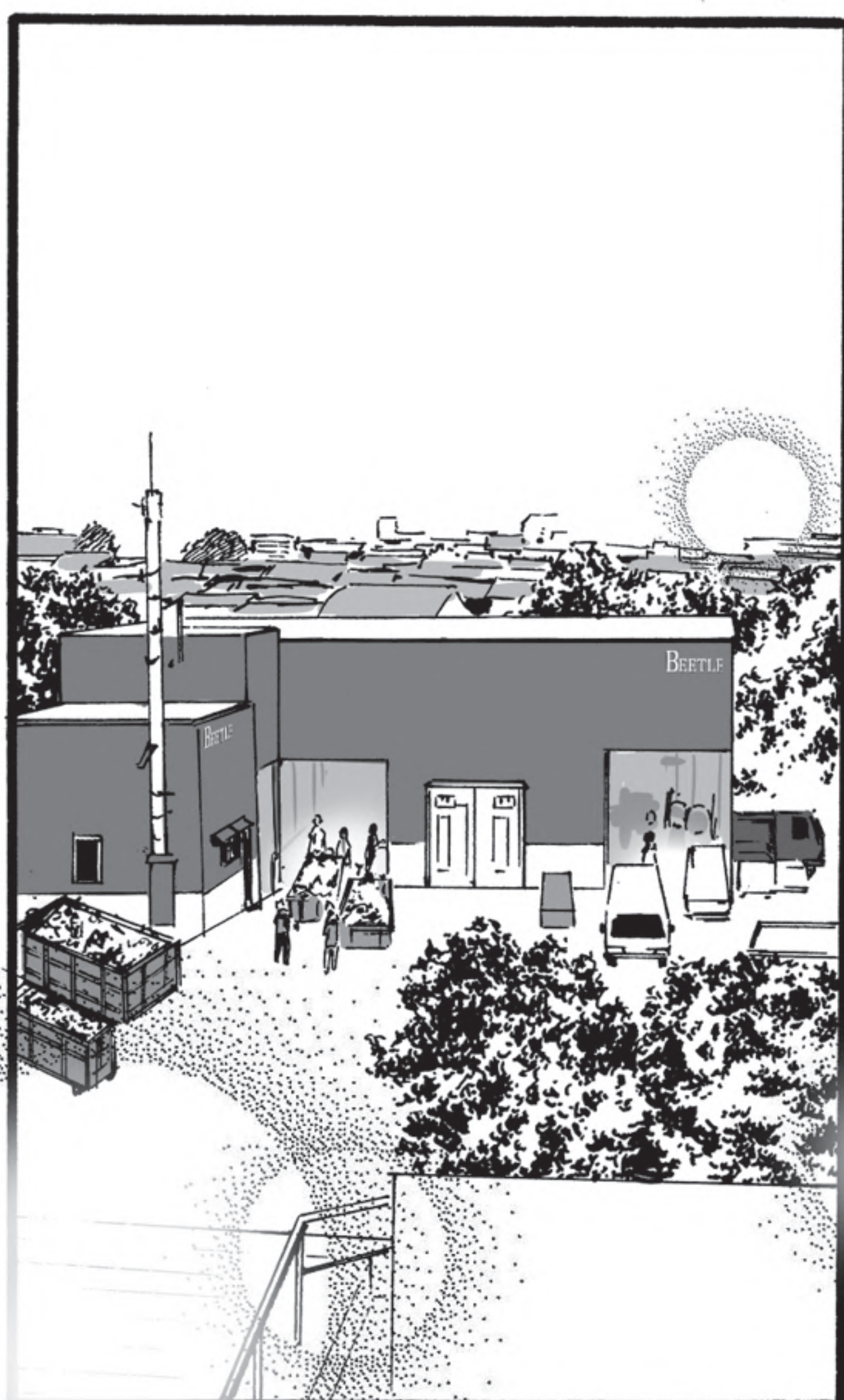
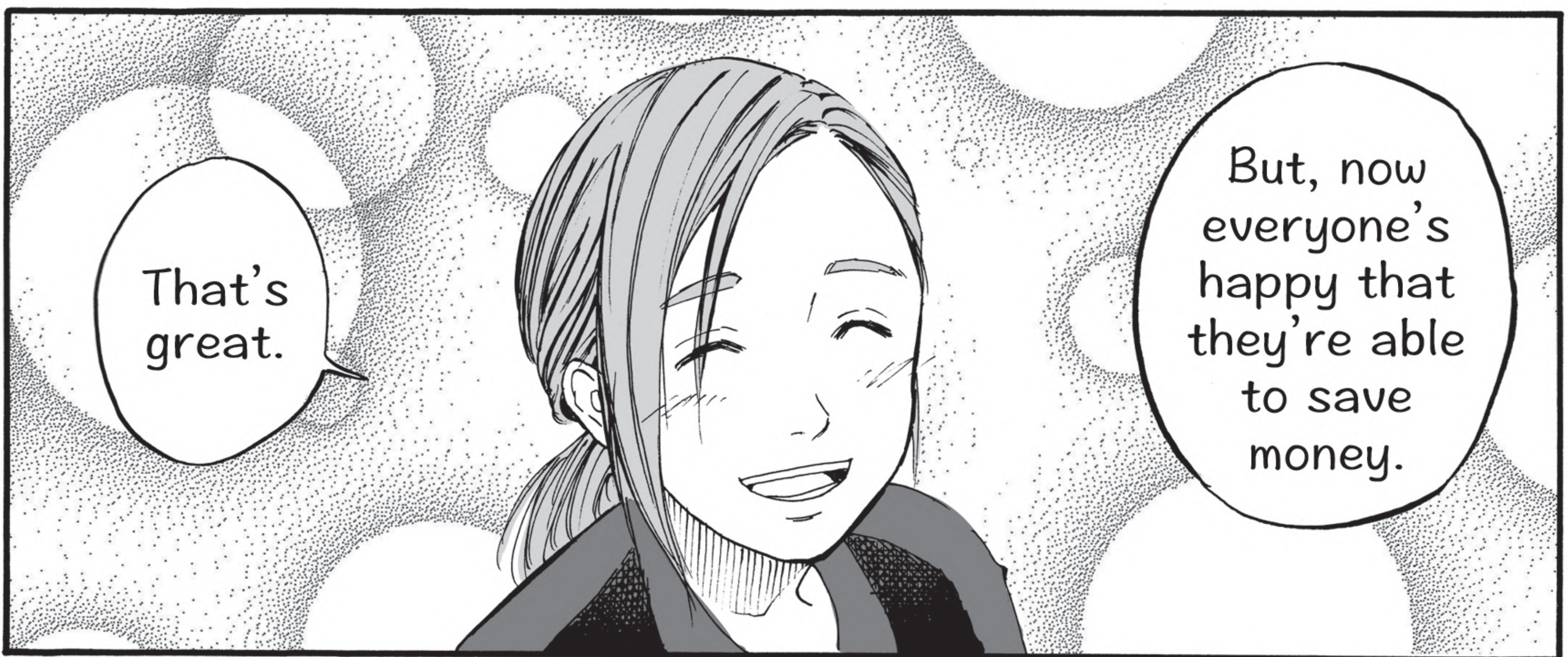
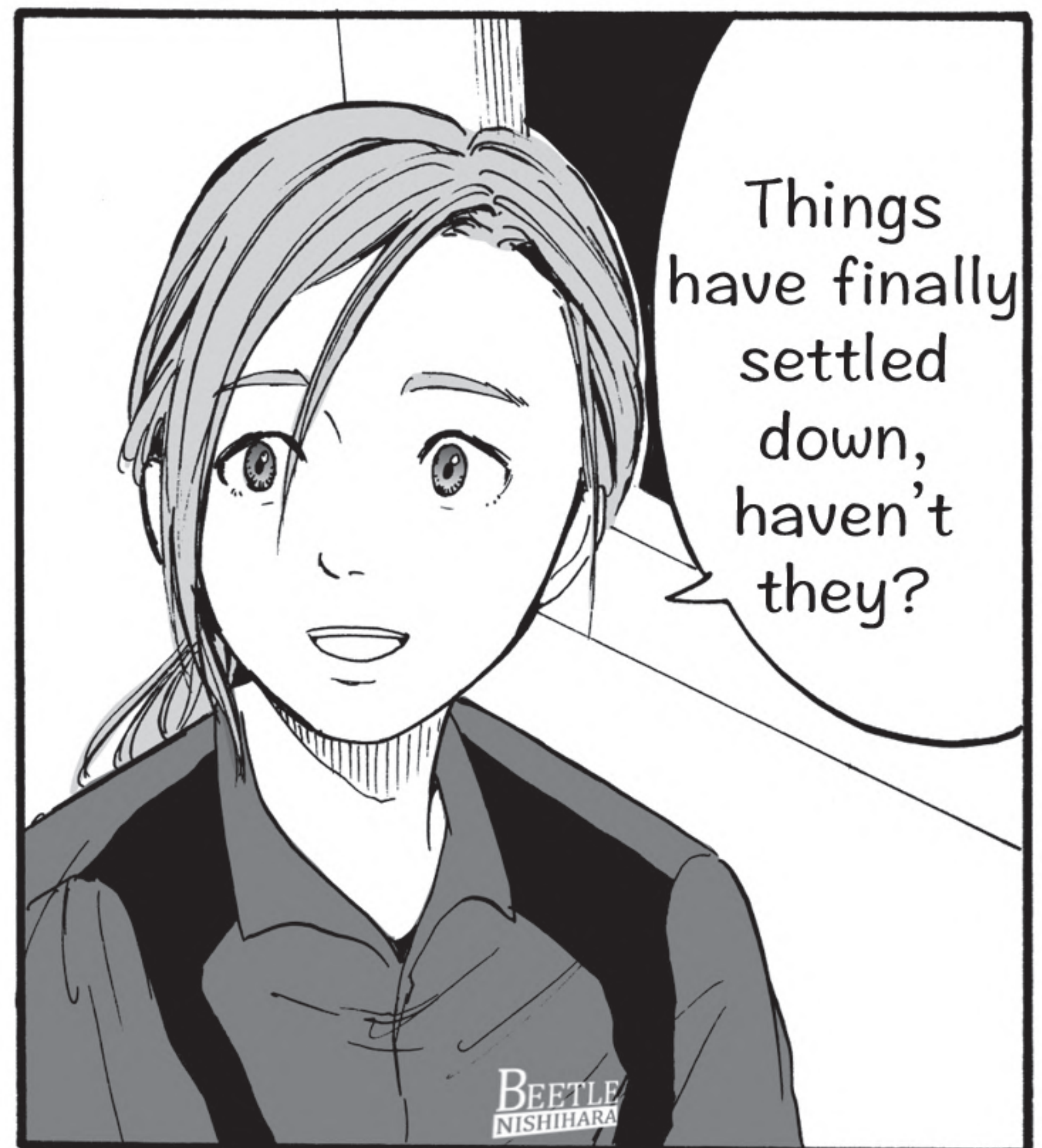
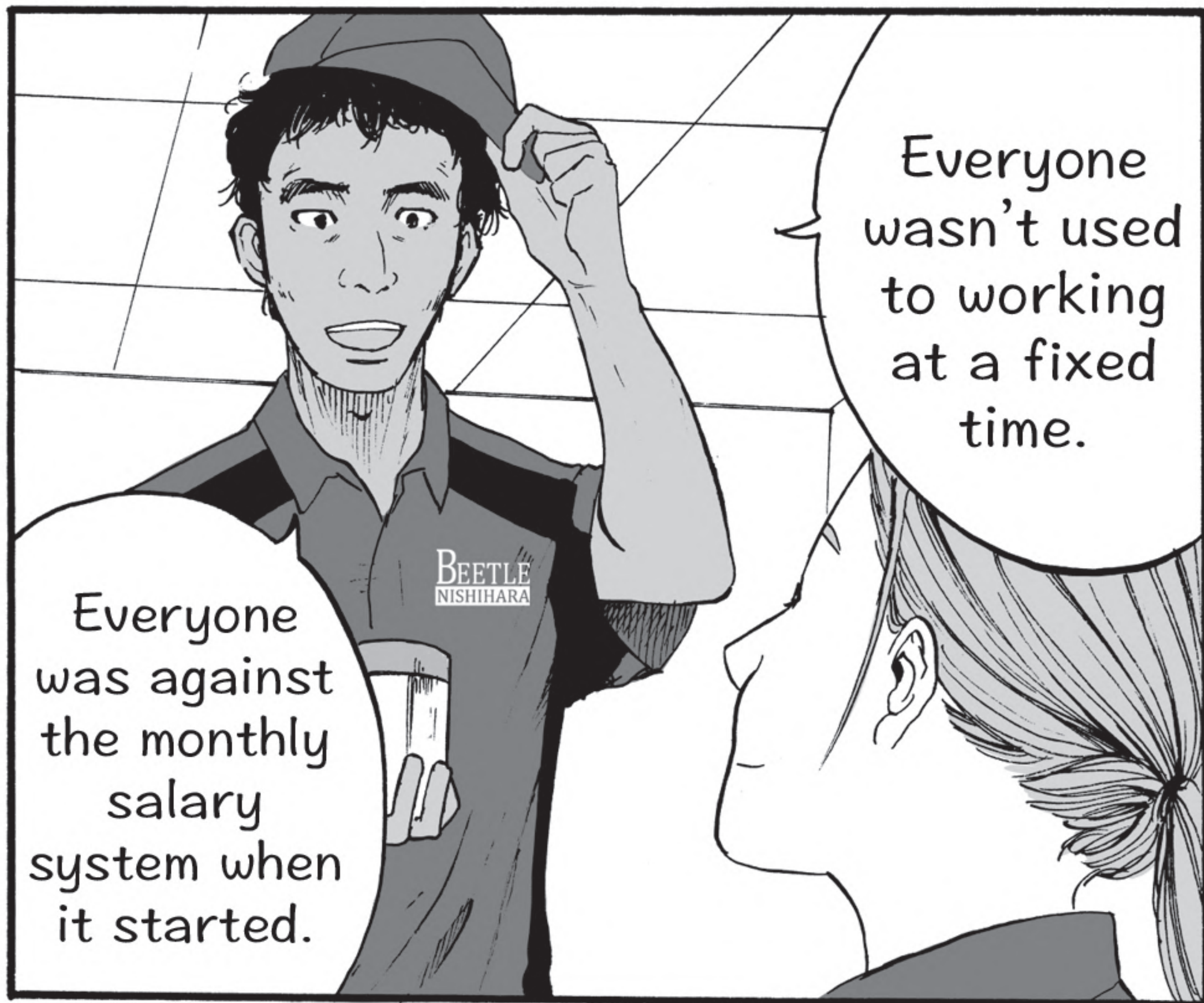
Work
hard!

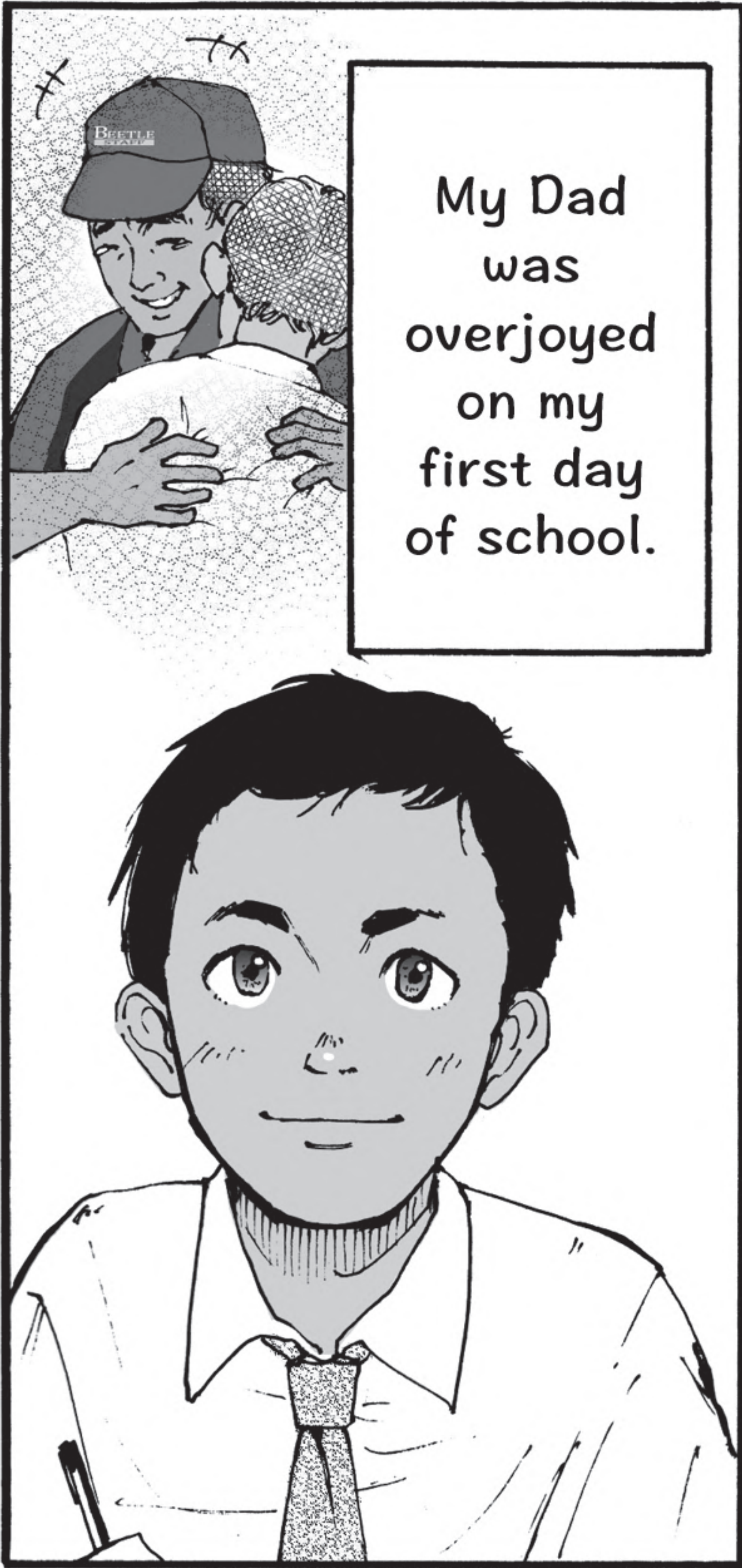
OK, I'm
going.



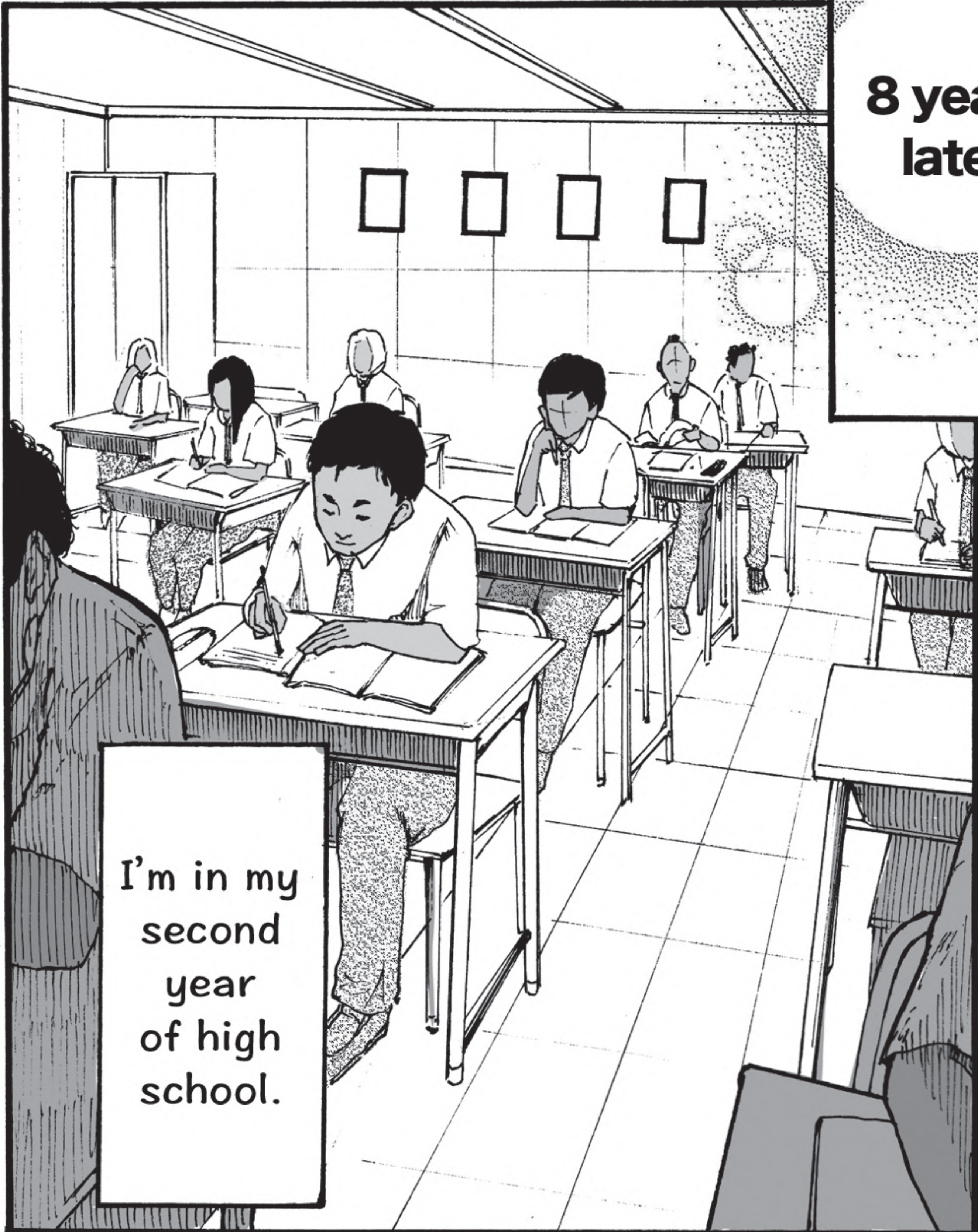
Just dropping
off some
of Mom's
soup.

What
are you
doing
here?





My Dad was overjoyed on my first day of school.

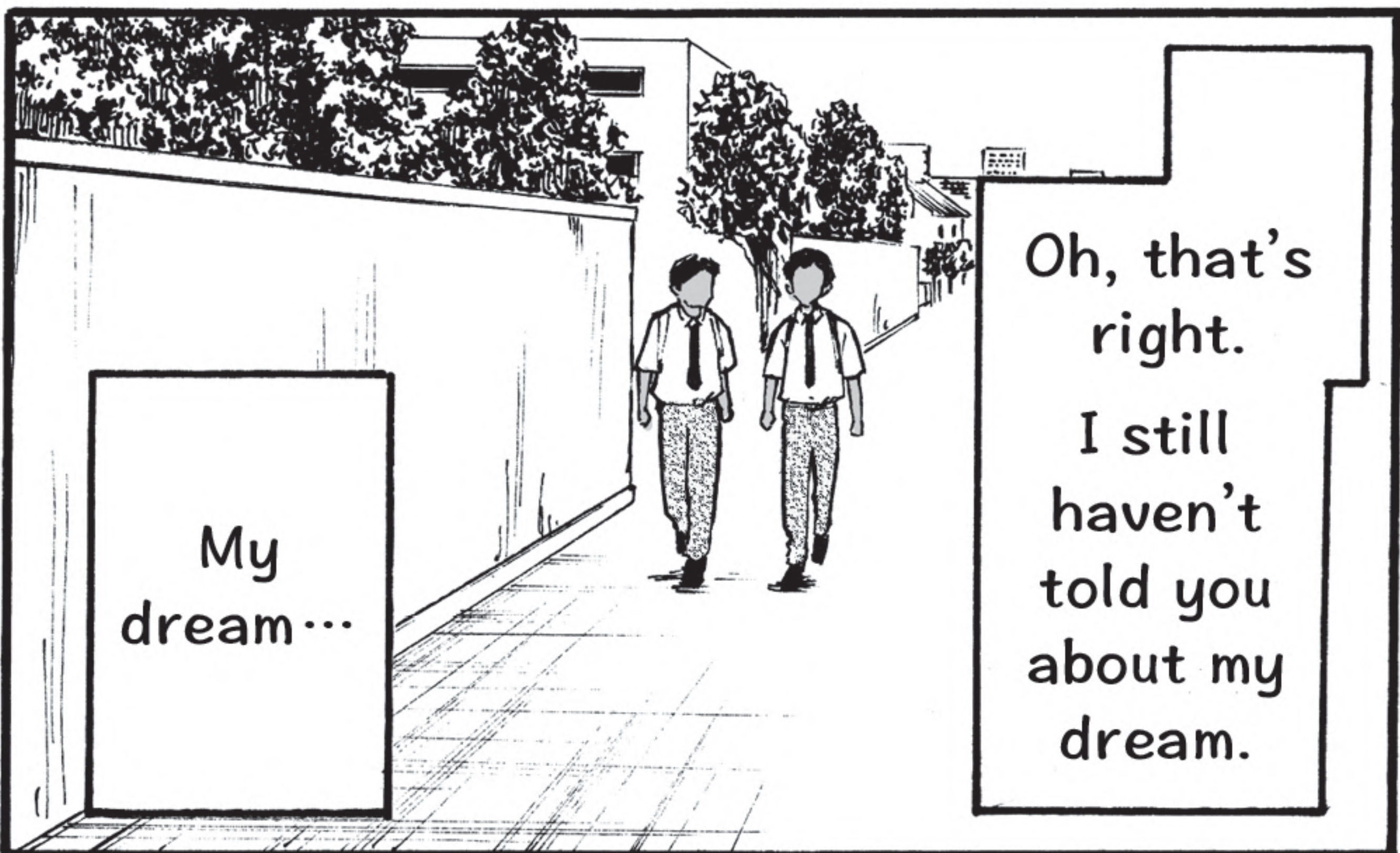


8 years later

I'm in my second year of high school.



I want to work for Indonesia in the future.



My dream...

Oh, that's right. I still haven't told you about my dream.



...is to go to Kitakyushu one day and learn about solutions to climate change and energy problems.

Work hard,
and your
dreams will
come true.



Kitakyushu
wants to beat
environmental
problems
together with
everyone
around the
world.



See you in
Kitakyushu
someday!

Ms. Shiho
Mr. Tanaka





Industrial development and pollution

Kitakyushu has developed as an industrial city ever since government-run Yawata Steel Works first opened its doors in 1901.

However, debilitating levels of pollution followed Kitakyushu's golden industrial age, and in 1969, Japan's first smog warning was issued for the area around Dokai Bay, where factories loomed large and countless people suffered from asthma.

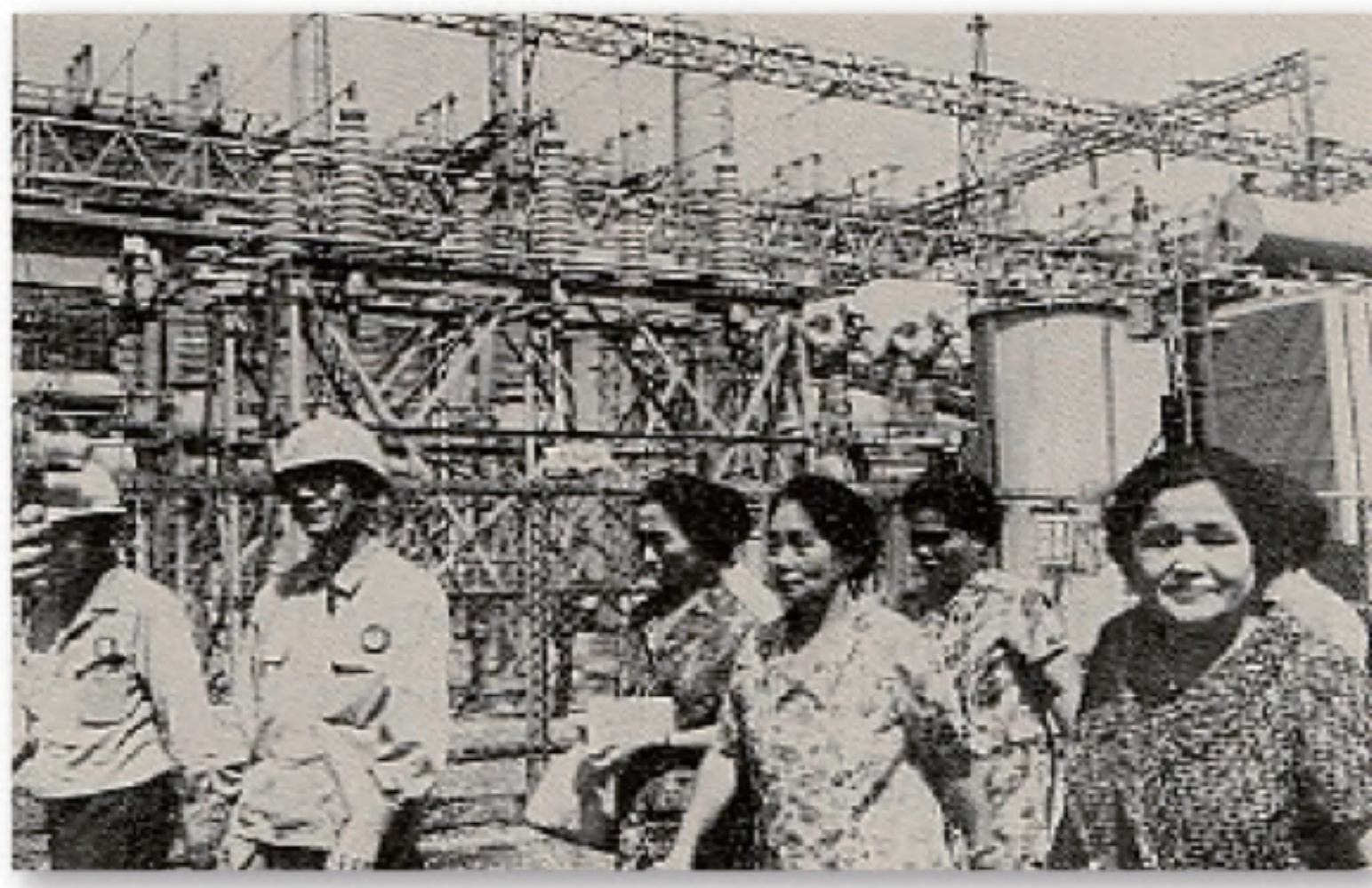
Untreated industrial wastewater also transformed Dokai Bay into a "sea of death", a body of water devoid of fish or other life.



Industrial area in Kitakyushu (at that time)

Local residents take a stand against pollution

Women's groups and other residents took to their feet, voicing their hopes for the return of the blue sky above the city. As a result of their dedication and the concerted efforts of companies and the local government, the environment in Kitakyushu improved in leaps and bounds.



Factory tour by a local women's group



Rebirth of Kitakyushu's blue sky and sea

The sky and sea around Kitakyushu have been brought back to life, an incredible feat of triumph over adversity. With the residents, local administration, and companies working together, Kitakyushu is now using its experience in overcoming pollution to help find solutions to environmental problems in other countries.

Then

Now

Kitakyushu's experiences and achievements in overcoming pollution are attracting attention from all corners around the world!



International environmental cooperation in Surabaya, Indonesia

Community project on separating food waste and producing fertilizer

In order to solve the problem of a lack of space for a waste landfill site, a major issue in developing countries, Kitakyushu worked with Surabaya, the second largest city in Indonesia, to introduce a project on producing fertilizer from garbage in households and communities.

At that time, residents in Surabaya did not sort household waste when they threw it away, which caused foul odors, sewage and other problems. Waste pickers were also working in poor conditions at the landfill site.

With Kitakyushu's full cooperation, the "Takakura composting system", a method of producing composting using locally sourced microorganisms, was introduced in a large number of households to reduce waste. With this system, households succeeded in turning some waste into fertilizer, which was also used for greening their communities.

Today, this system is also being promoted in other countries and cities.



Original landfill site



Guidance by experts from Kitakyushu on producing fertilizer from food waste

Environmental business in Surabaya ~Waste recycling business by Nishihara Shoji Co., Ltd.~

Waste in Surabaya cannot be reduced simply by composting.

With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan, a Kitakyushu-based company called Nishihara Shoji set up a recycling facility in Surabaya, where former waste pickers now recycle plastics, metals and other valuable materials in safe and hygienic conditions.

As a result, the amount of waste transported to the final disposal site from the area where the facility has been built has fallen dramatically by more than 70%. This project has achieved other great results, including the formal employment of waste pickers who had been working in poor conditions.



Recovering valuable materials



Global Reach of Kitakyushu's International Environmental Cooperation and Business Ventures

Kitakyushu utilizes its intercity network of green partner cities and sister cities for a number of environmental improvement projects, such as waste management, energy savings, and the water business.



Vietnam
(Haiphong City)



Technical support for water purification and treatment (introduction of advanced water purification treatment technologies)



China
(Dalian City)



Proposal on a study to promote plans for the development of the Dalian Environmental Model Area



Cambodia
(Phnom Penh Capital City)



Guidance on water supply technologies (Phnom Penh Miracle)



Philippines
(Davao City)

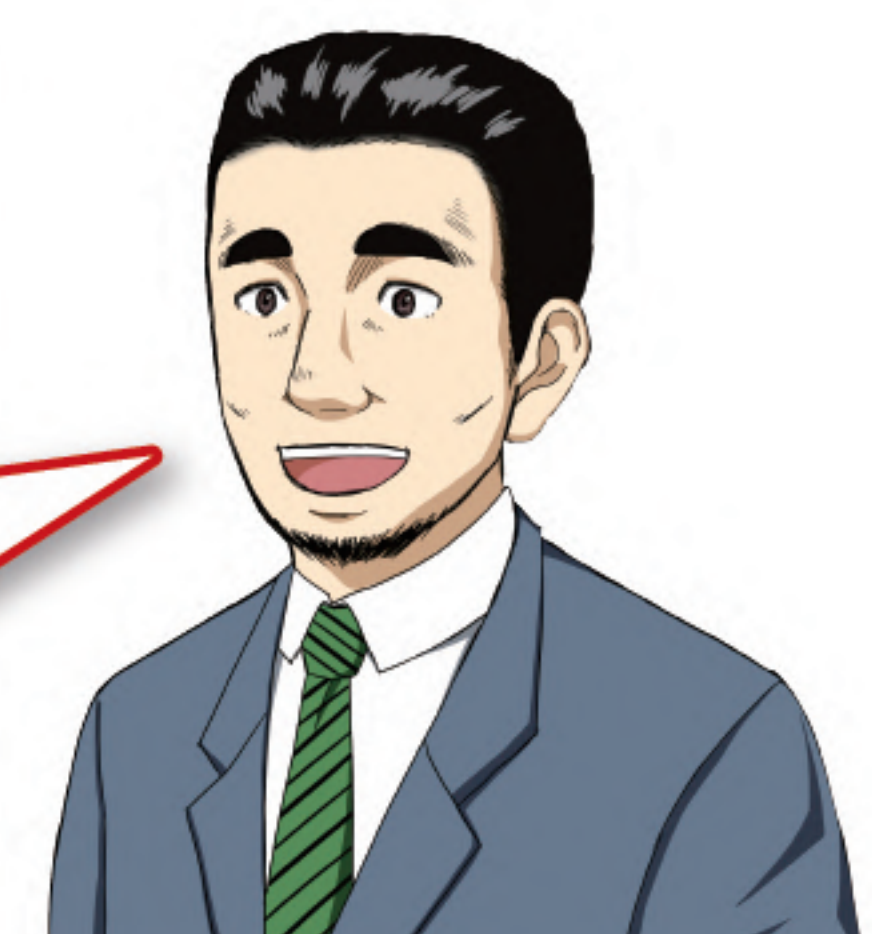


Technical support and human resources development, mainly in the waste management sector



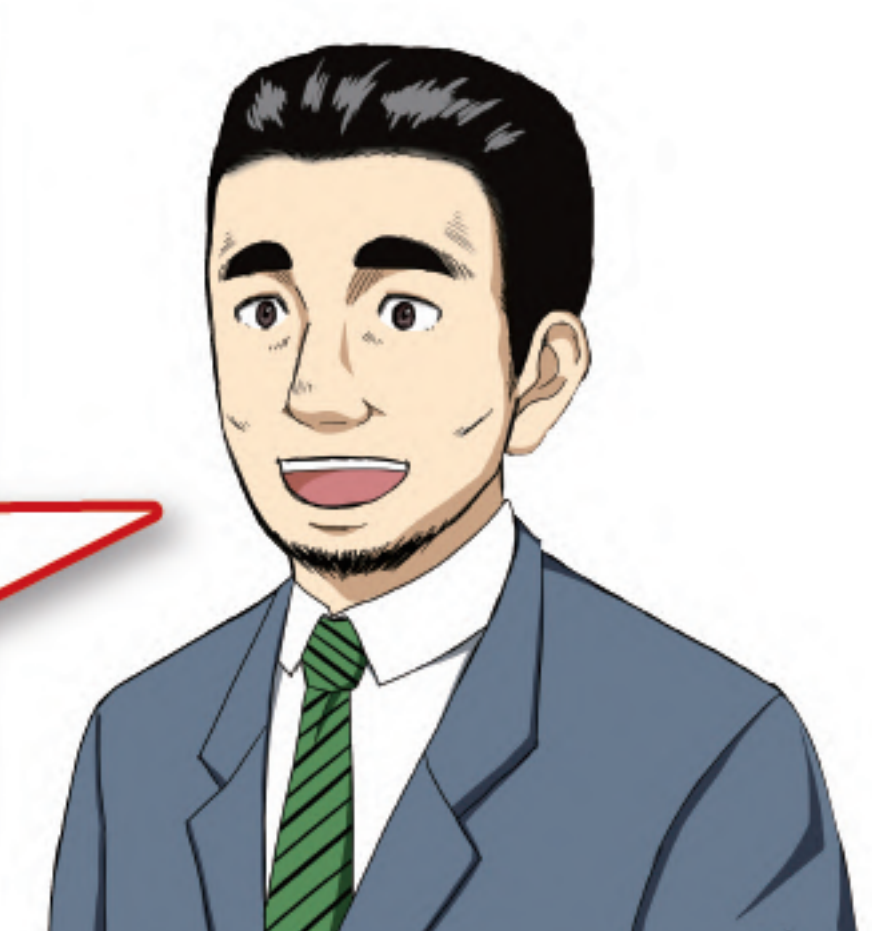
Q Why is Kitakyushu carrying out international activities to help improve the environment?

A We want to pass on the environmental technologies and know-how that we have developed over the years, so that other Asian cities will not have to experience the pollution that Kitakyushu did. We hope that this will also energize and inspire companies in Kitakyushu and give local residents a sense of pride.



Q Why is Kitakyushu focusing on international environmental business?

A In addition to international environmental cooperation, where support is usually one-sided, we can ensure that environmental improvement projects are more sustainable by transforming them into environmental businesses, with partner countries paying for equipment and other services.





Zero-Carbon City

A world leader in environmental policy, Kitakyushu declared its commitment to become a “Zero Carbon City” in October 2020, an unmistakable statement of its goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

1 Kitakyushu Model for 100% Renewable Energy

Kitakyushu is promoting the introduction of 100% renewable energy in public facilities. With the installation of solar panels, storage batteries, and energy-efficient devices, Kitakyushu is aiming at the stable and economical use of renewable energy.

2 Offshore wind power

Kitakyushu is promoting the development of a comprehensive base for wind power industries in the Hibikinada area of Wakamatsu. Today, Kitakyushu is the top ranked government designated city in Japan in terms of the amount of wind power generated, with an installed capacity of approximately 30,000 kW. When construction is completed on the large-scale offshore wind power generation facility (scheduled for 2022), the total installed capacity will be approximately 250,000 kW.



Offshore wind farm

Creating a material-cycle society

1 Kitakyushu Eco-Town

The Eco-Town Project aims to create a material-cycle society by taking advantage of Kitakyushu's distinctive characteristics as a manufacturing city. A variety of different types of recycling plants are located in the Eco-Town area, operating under a system of collecting waste from a wide area.



2 Initiatives to reduce plastic waste

Kitakyushu Eco-Town

Kitakyushu is reducing emissions by converting designated garbage bags into biomass plastic, promoting reuse and recycling initiatives by supporting the development of technologies to process plastic, thoroughly collecting waste along the coast, and organizing cleanup activities in the city.

International environmental business

With the Asian Center for Low Carbon Society playing a key role, Kitakyushu supports local companies seeking to deploy environmental technologies to markets overseas. Kitakyushu aspires to realize the creation of decarbonized societies in the Asian region and revitalize local companies through international environmental business.



We can create a brighter future ourselves!

Want to learn more about how Kitakyushu is helping improve the environment in other countries?



Asian Center for Low Carbon Society

The Asian Center for Low Carbon Society was established in 2010 to consolidate the environmental technologies in Kitakyushu and around Japan for use in promoting low-carbon development in Asia through the medium of environmental business. The center capitalizes on the respective strengths of Kitakyushu's Environment Bureau, the Kitakyushu International Techno-cooperative Association (KITA), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and collaborates with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to export "green cities" that meet the needs of Asian cities, taking advantage of Kitakyushu's collective energy as an environmentally advanced city.



Address : 1-1-1 Hirano, Yahatahigashi-ku,
Kitakyushu City, Japan 805-0062
TEL : 093-662-4020
URL : <https://asiangreencamp.net>

Want to know more about Kitakyushu's environmental history?



Environment Museum

At the Environment Museum, visitors can use their senses of sight and touch to learn about environmental issues. Kitakyushu Eco-House, a 21st-century model eco-home, and the "Road of the Earth", where visitors can learn about the importance of the global environment, are also located at the museum.

Address : 2-2-6 Higashida, Yahatahigashi-ku,
Kitakyushu City, Japan 805-0071

TEL : 093-663-6751 URL : <https://eco-museum.com>



Want to find out more about the material-cycle society?



Kitakyushu Eco-Town Center

The Kitakyushu Eco-Town Center is an environmental learning base that uses Eco-Town as a living teaching tool. This core facility provides comprehensive support to the Kitakyushu Eco-Town project.

Address : 10-20 Koyomachi, Wakamatsu-ku,
Kitakyushu City, Japan 805-0002

TEL : 093-752-2881 URL : <https://www.kitaq-ecotown.com>





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



International Environmental Strategies Division
Overseas Environmental Project Department
Environment Bureau, City of Kitakyushu

Address: 3F Kitakyushu International Village Center 1-1-1
Hirano, Yahatahigashi-ku, Kitakyushu City, Japan

(Production Team: COLT Co., Ltd.)

