

Credit to DigitMZ, gantifandor, this post that started it off

<https://yamakamu.net/kaguya89>

and the Japanese Kaguya fandom in general

Kaguya's family

Kaguya

Kaguya Shinomiya (四宮 かぐや) is obviously a reference to the Princess from the **Tale of the Bamboo Cutter**:

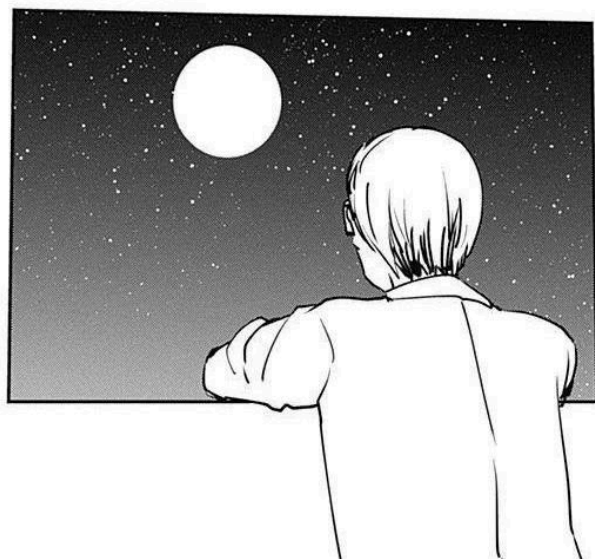
Nayotake no Kaguya-hime (なよ竹の輝夜姫) (*confirmed by the fanbook*)



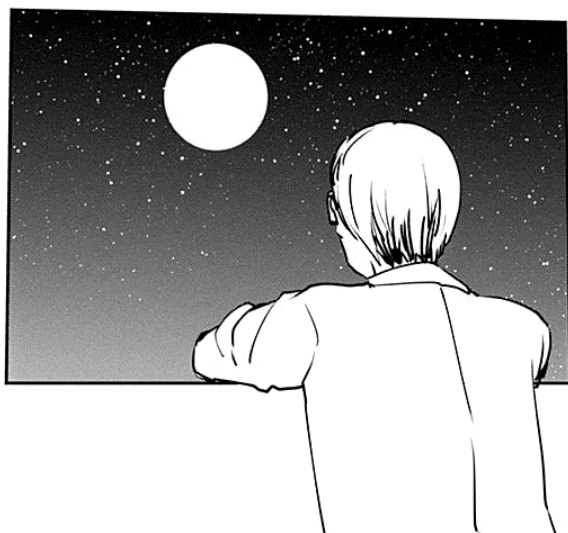
Volume 1

Nayotake

Her mother's name, **Nayotake** (名夜竹), is a reference to the “Nayotake” in Kaguya-hime's full title. The original means “supple bamboo” and refers to the bamboo stalk in which the infant Kaguya was found.



名夜竹くん
君の娘は元気にしているよ



Nayotake-kun,
Your daughter is
doing well.

Volume 8

The Five Suitors and the Impossible Challenges

In the Tale of the Bamboo Cutter, Kaguya-hime got approached by five suitors. Each of them received an **Impossible Challenge** (難題) from her.

The **Five Suitors** were:

Ishidzukuri no Miko (石作 皇子), who was told to get the **Stone Begging Bowl of the Buddha** (仏の御石の鉢)

Kuramochi no Miko (車持 皇子), who was told to get a **Jeweled Branch from Hourai** (蓬莱の玉の枝)

Abe no Miushi (阿倍 御主人), who was told to get the **Robe of the Fire-Rat** (火鼠の裘)

Ootomo no Miyuki (大伴 御行), who was told to get a **Jewel from a Dragon's Neck** (龍の首の珠)

Isonokami no Maro (石上 麻呂), who was told to get a **Cowry Shell Born from a Swallow** (燕の産んだ子安貝)

The Princes Kuramochi and Ishidzukuri are based on the real life models **Fujiwara no Fuhito** (藤原 不比等) and **Tajihi no Shima** (多治比 嶋), while **Isonokami**, **Ootomo** and **Abe** are already historical figures.

These people all served in the Daijoukan, the Great Council of State in Japan's Imperial Government, towards the end of the Asuka period.

Miyuki

Shirogane Miyuki (白銀 御行) is straightforward, he's **Ootomo**. (*confirmed by the fanbook*)



Volume 1

Shirogane apparently winning Kaguya's affection/trust by jumping into a deep lake to save her ribbon might be symbolism to show that he surpassed the suitor he's based on. Since unlike Ootomo, who failed his challenge due to seasickness, Shirogane managed to surpass his inability to swim somehow for Kaguya's sake.

The Pearl from the Dragon's Neck (and The Tiger)

The **Astronomy Club President** is the daughter of the boss of the **Ryuujugumi** (龍珠組) -Clan, which literally means “**Dragon Pearl Group**”.



Chapter 39

~~Under that assumption, the Astronomy Club President is probably **Saitou Ryuu** (斉藤 龍), the Number 9 student whose first name literally means **Dragon**.~~

(debunked in Chapter 116)

Her actual name is **Ryuuju Momo** (龍珠 桃)



Chapter 116

Her first name Momo (桃) could refer to the Japanese word for the color pink “Momoiro” (桃色), since the Dragon Jewel in the Tale was known to have five colors it could mean that we’ll be introduced to a total of five Ryuju’s, each named after a different color.

Alternatively, the five colors could be represented through other objects in the series, which seem to represent the Jewel from the Dragon’s Neck: The giant papier mache “jewel” Shirogane used during the cultural festival and the ball from kendama Shirogane gave to Kaguya as a Christmas present. Other potential candidates are the necklace Shirogane gave to Kaguya as a birthday present and the ruby on the ring Kaguya used during the Light Novel story.

~~The Kendo Club President who quarrels with the Astronomy Club President might be the Number 5 student in the school ranking, Arakawa Taiga (荒川たいが), since the Tiger is the Dragon’s rival.~~

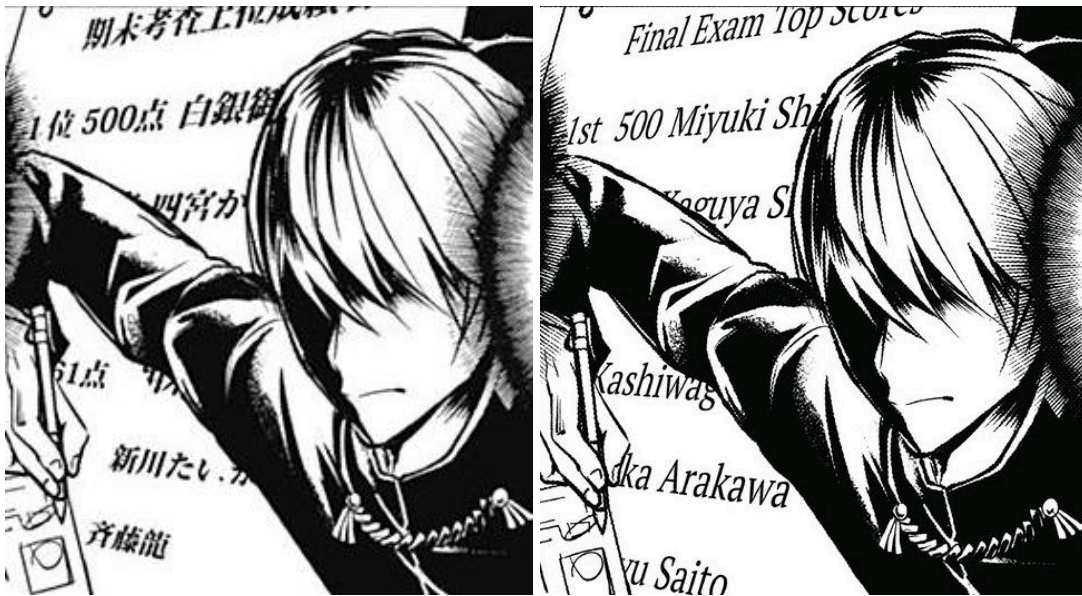
九位	七位	七位	六位	五位	四位	三位	二位	一位		
奇藤龍	住友光一	柏木渚	豊崎三郎	荒川たいが	阿部和音	四条真妃	四宮かぐや	白銀御行		
四六九	四七一	四七一	四七四	四七五	四七八	四八六	四八七	四九二		

一学期末定期考査
成績優秀者上五十名を列記する
ここに名を連ねる者は今後
模進の標となるべく更なる
講究を望むものである

教師一同

Volume 3 (Number 9 got added to the ranking)

~~The importance of these two names gains further credibility through their cameo in the very first Young Jump Chapter (though “Arakawa” was written as 新川 instead), where they are placed right next to each other.~~



Chapter 11

(debunked in the fanbook)

The Kendo club president's name is **Kojima** (小島).



First namedropped in Chapter 15

Isonokami

Ishigami Yuu (石上 優) has literally the same name as **Isonokami**, just with a different reading. (*confirmed by Chapter 104 Title*)



Volume 3

Ootomo Kyouko (大友 京子) and **Ogino Kou** (荻野 コウ) might be a reference to **Prince Ootomo** (大友 皇子)/**Emperor Koubun** (弘文天皇), who the historical Isonokami served until he was usurped.

(Note that while one of the suitor's is also named Ootomo, Ootomo Kyouko/Prince Ootomo is written with completely different kanji)

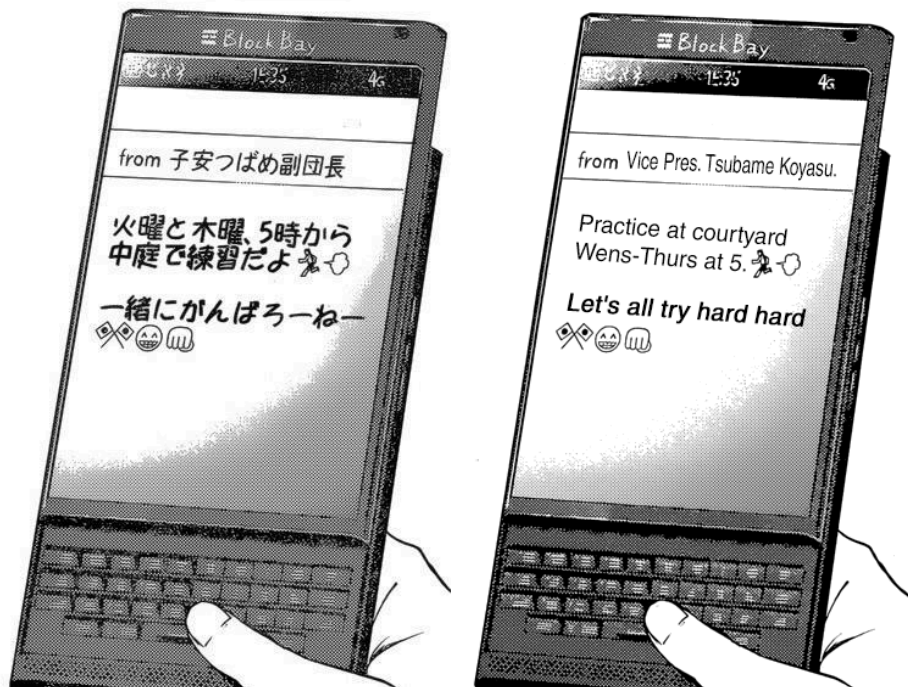
In the extra to Chapter 156, it is heavily implied that Ishigami almost falling to his death on the stairs is a parallel to Isonokami falling and dying after trying to pick up what he believed to be the Cowry Shell.



Chapter 88 (Ogino's full name was only revealed in the Volume version)

The Cowry Shell Born from a Swallow

Cowry is **Koyasu** and Swallow is **Tsubame** in Japanese, which connects to **Koyasu Tsubame** (子安 つばめ). (confirmed by Chapter 104 Title)





Chapter 104 TL Notes

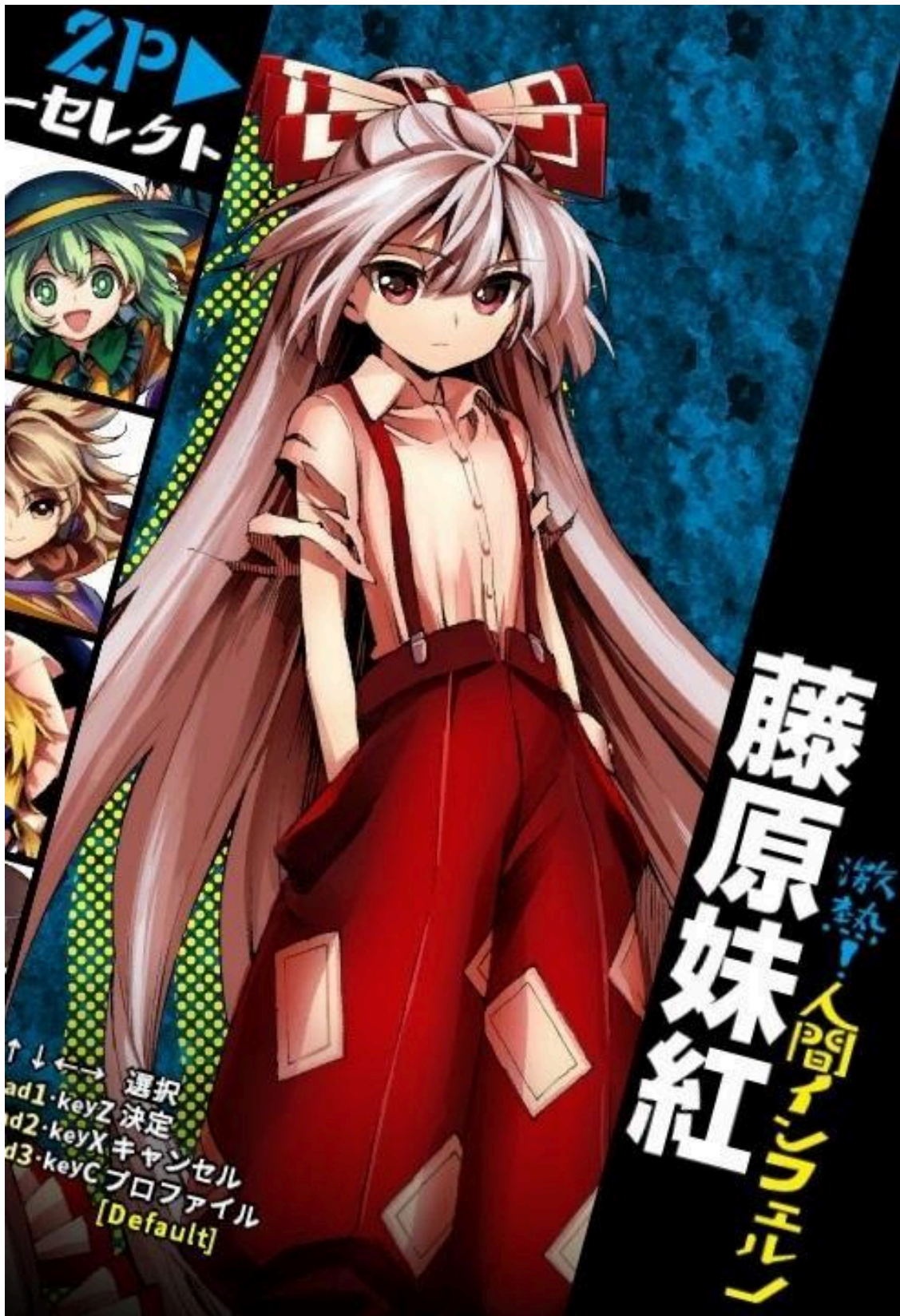
Kuramochi

Fujiwara Chika (藤原 千花) is probably a reference **Fujiwara no Fuhito**.
(confirmed by the fanbook)

Her design may also have taken some inspiration from **Fujiwara no Mokou** (藤原 妹紅) from the **Touhou** series. (Mokou is possibly supposed to be the daughter of Fujiwara no Fuhito in the Touhou lore and becomes Kaguya (Houraisan)'s rival.)



Volume 1



Fujiwara no Mokou

Miko and the Stone Bowl of the Buddha

By process of elimination, **Iino Miko** (伊井野 ミコ) is the second Miko among the suitors, **Ishidzukuri**. (*confirmed by the fanbook*).

Iino's poem hobby is also most certainly a reference to Ishidzukuri trying to woo Kaguya-hime by persistently writing her poems even after failing his challenge (though writing poems to Kaguya-hime was something all of the suitors did, as it was typical for the time period). Another thing that points to Miko being Ishidzukuri is her friend, **Oosaragi Kobachi** (大仏 こばち). Her last name literally means "Great **Buddha**". A possible way to write her first name "Kobachi", in Kanji, would be 小鉢, which means "Small **Bowl**".



Chapter 85

Considering how **Onodera Rei** (小野寺 麗) seems to have taken up a role similar to Osaragi as Iino's friend and advisor, the "dera" (寺) in her name might be a reference to the "Buddhist temple" Ishidzukuri should have taken the Stone Bowl from.

In fact, "nodera" (野寺) can be translated as "random temple", which might be a reference to Ishidzukuri trying to trick Kaguya-hime with a regular Stone Bowl he picked up from a temple in Japan.



Chapter 82

Considering current events in the series, it is not unlikely that there'll be a fallout between Iino and Osaragi to parallel Ishidzukuri throwing away his bowl after Kaguya-hime finds out that he lied about it being from India.

Abe and the Robe of the Fire Rat

The sixth member is probably going to be a reference to the remaining suitor, **Abe**. There are in fact two such characters, the Rank 4s of the Second and First Year Students at Shuuchiin, **Abe Wawon** (阿部 和音) and **Abe Yayuyo** (阿部 夜由代) Rank 49 among the first years, **Shiranui Koromo** (不知火 ころも), seems to be a reference to the **Robe of the Fire Rat**: “Shiranui” is a “Will-o'-Wisp”, a **Fire Youkai**, and “Koromo” is Japanese for **Clothing**.

成績優秀者五十名を列記する			後進の標となるべく更なる 講究を望むものである		
教師一同					
一位	白銀御行	四九二	二位	四宮かぐや	四八七
三位	四条真妃	四八六	四位	阿部和音	四七八
五位	荒川たいが	四七五	六位	豊崎三郎	四七四
七位	柏木渚	四七一	七位	住友光一	四七一

<p>These are the names of the students with the top 50 scores in the end-of-year exams. We hope that those whose names are written here will go on to become pillars of the next generation in their respective fields of study.</p>			The faculty	
1:	Miyuki Shirogane	492		
2:	Kaguya Shinomiya	487		
3:	Maki Ichijo	486		
4:	Kazune Abe	478		
5:	Taiga Arakawa	475		
6:	Saburo Toyosaki	474		
7:	Nagisa Kashiwagi	471		
7:	Koichi Sumitomo	471		

1ST	MIKO IINO	482	SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAM
2ND	DAISUKE IZUMO	479	THESE ARE THE NAMES OF THE STUDENTS WITH THE TOP 50
3RD	JING SUN	479	SCORES IN THE END-OF-YEAR EXAMS. WE HOPE THAT THOSE
4TH	YAYUYO ABE	478	WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN
5TH	KAORU TAKASHIRO	477	HERE ARE WRITTEN HERE WILL GO
6TH	MEGUMI NUMATA	468	ON TO BECOME PILLARS OF THE NEXT GENERATION IN THEIR
			RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF STUDY.
			THE FACULTY

	伍	林千尋	四二五
	一位	井手宇宙	四二三
	四位	上見もも	四二一
	四位	進藤友成	四一九
	六	ザウに権	四一七
	七位	アレヴィーニ	四一五
	八位	ジャヤビー	四一三
	九位	小野寺麗	四一一
	十位	不知火くらも	四〇九
	十一位	富岡香隆	四〇七
	十二位	キム	四〇五

順位	名前	得点
42ND	CHIHIRO HAYASHI	
43RD	SORA IO	423
44TH	MOMO UEMI	423
45TH	TOMONARI SHINDO	420
46TH	KEN SAITO	417
47TH	ANTHONY JABI	415
48TH	REI ONODERA	413
49TH	KOROMO SHIRANUI	411
50TH	HIDETAKA TOMIOKA	

In Chapter 211, a new Abe sibling, **Abe Hifumi** (阿部 ひふみ) was introduced, and is most likely going to be the sixth council member.

The Jeweled Branch from Hourai

This theory has been disproven by an interview

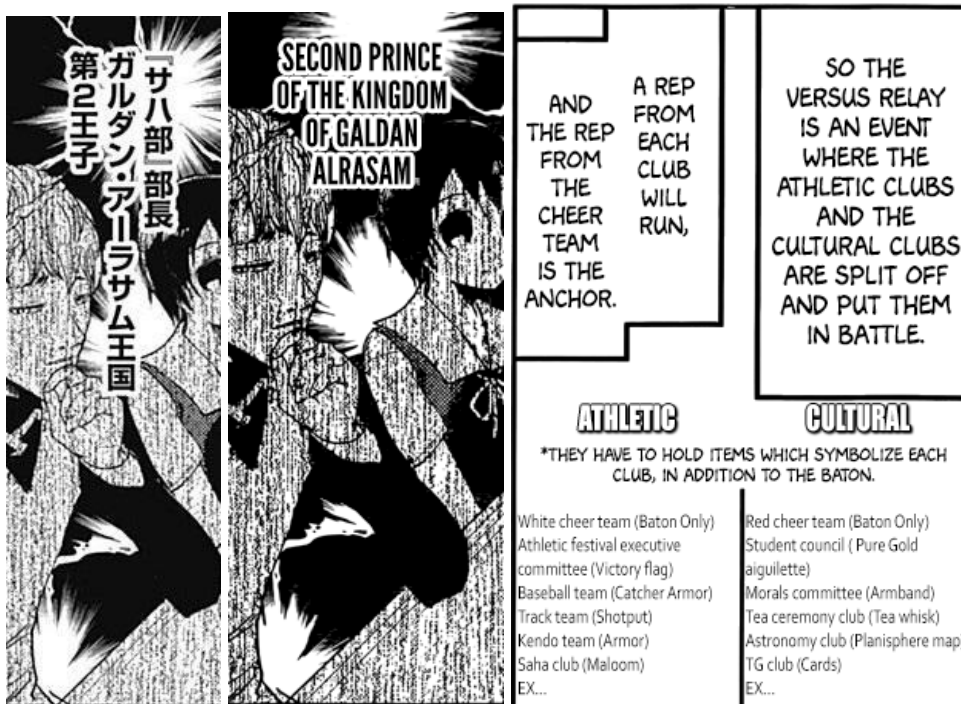
https://news.livedoor.com/lite/article_detail/17954600/

*Fujiwara's Impossible Challenge is to be a new character **Hourai-chan** related to Fujiwara not playing piano anymore.*

Since **Hourai** refers to a fictional foreign country, Fujiwara's Impossible Challenge may be related to the foreign **Saha (サハ) Club President**, the **Second Prince of Galdan Alrasam**. The "Saha" here might refer to साखा (サハ), the Nepali word for **Branch** (or perhaps some other Indian language).

Fujiwara/Kuramochi was also the **second prince** to approach Kaguya-hime. Their clubs (Saha and TG) seem to have raced against each other in the relay and he looks to have a role similar to Fujiwara, a mediator between the Astronomy and Kendo Club President, like Fujiwara was between Shirogane and Kaguya.

Alternatively the branch may be represented by some of Fujiwara's family members and/or TG club friends (see "The Fujiwara Family" Section)



The image contains two manga panels on the left and a table on the right. The first panel shows a character with the text 'サハ部部長' (Saha Club President) and 'ガルドン・アラサム王国 第2王子' (Galdan Alrasam Kingdom, 2nd Prince). The second panel shows a character with the text 'SECOND PRINCE OF THE KINGDOM OF GALDAN ALRASAM'. The table on the right explains the 'VERSUS RELAY' event, where athletic and cultural clubs are split off and put in battle. It lists items each club must hold in addition to the baton.

ATHLETIC	CULTURAL
*THEY HAVE TO HOLD ITEMS WHICH SYMBOLIZE EACH CLUB, IN ADDITION TO THE BATON.	
White cheer team (Baton Only)	Red cheer team (Baton Only)
Athletic festival executive committee (Victory flag)	Student council (Pure Gold aiguillette)
Baseball team (Catcher Armor)	Morals committee (Armband)
Track team (Shotput)	Tea ceremony club (Tea whisk)
Kendo team (Armor)	Astronomy club (Planisphere map)
Saha club (Maloom)	TG club (Cards)
EX...	EX...

Chapter 39 (Role as Saha Club Leader was added in the Volume), Chapter 88



Chapter 85

The Fujiwara Family

All the names of the Fujiwara family members seem to be connected to plant life:

Chika (千花) means **Thousand Flowers**.

Her younger sister, **Moeha** (萌葉), has the Kanji for **budding** (萌え) and **leaf** (葉).

Her older sister, **Toyomi** (豊実), has the Kanji for **plentiful** (豊か) and **fruit** (実).

Her father's name, **Daichi** (大地), means **land**.

Her mother's name, **Maho** (万穂), means **Ten Thousand Ears** ("ear" refers here to the tip part of a cereal plant).

The relation to plants may be a reference to the Jeweled Branch from Hourai.

Particularly her sisters, since in some versions the branch is described to have **pearls for fruits** and **silver for leaves**.



Volume 4 (Moeha, Toyomi)



Chapter 86 (Daichi)



Chapter 105 (Maha)

The Emperor

After all the princes failed their tasks, the Emperor of Japan, **Mikado** (帝), asked Kaguya to marry him and was rejected without being given a trial. Towards the end of the tale he tried to protect Kaguya from being taken back to the moon.

That is also the name of **Shijo Mikado** (四条 帝), the Number One student who ranked above even Shirogane in the mock exam and is probably Maki's brother.

(confirmed in Chapter 161 and 211)

順位	点数	氏名	学年	出身校
1	793	四条帝	現	東京都
2	773	白銀御行	現	東京都
3	693	長谷川研吾	現	東京都
4	686	田村若菜	現	東京都
"	"	辻井亮太	現	東京都
6	679	曾根田綾子	現	東京都
7	669	上尾愛	現	東京都
8	664	梶原大輔	現	東京都
9	662		現	東京都

Rank	Score	Name	Year	School
1	793	Mikado Shijo	Current	Pref.
2	773	Miyuki Shirogane	Current	Toky
3	693	Kengo Hasegawa	Current	Toky
4	686	Wakana Tamura	Graduated	Kyoto
"	686	Ryota Tsujii	Current	Hyogo
6	679	Junko Soneda	Current	Kanag.
7	669	Ai Ageo	Graduated	Hyogo
8	664	Daisuke Katsumi	Current	Tokyo
9	662		Current	Tokyo

The Illustration from the “Tale of Genji”

In Chapter 17 of the **Tale of Genji** appears a fictional painting of the Tale of the Bamboo Cutter, made by the painter **Kose no Oumi** (巨勢 相覧) with a caption by the poet **Ki no Tsurayuki** (紀 貫之).

The two members of the Mass Media Club, **Kose Erika** (巨瀬 エリカ) and **Kino Karen** (紀 かれん) share those names.



Others

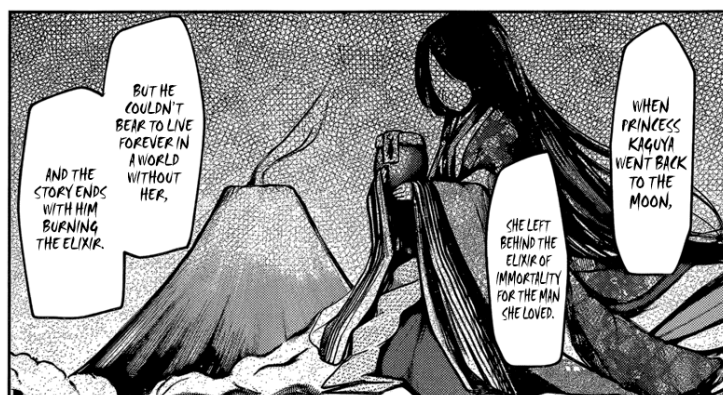
According to Chapter 166, Osaragi, Shiranui, Ryuju and Tsubame are known as the “**Impossible Girls**” (難題女子, lit. “**Challenge Girls**”), which ties in with each of them being named after one of the Impossible Challenges.

In the fanbook it was confirmed that **Hayasaka Ai** (早坂 愛) represents the emissary from the Moon who took Kaguya-hime back.

The one who tied for seventh place with Kashiwagi on the Second Year Ranking in Chapter 31 is called **Sumitomo Koichi** (住友 光一). **Sumitomo** (住友) was also one of the real life **Big Four Zaibatsu**, which the Shinomiya family is a part of in this story.

In the volume extra to Chapter 180 it was revealed that Hayasaka’s two gyaru friends are named **Hinoguchi** (火ノ口) and **Suruga** (駿河).

Hinoguchi could be seen as a long form of the Japanese word for “volcanic crater” (火口), while Suruga is the name of a Japanese province. Put together, these two names could point towards the famous volcano in Suruga, **Mt. Fuji**. It is widely believed that this is where the Emperor burnt the elixir of immortality in the Tale of the Bamboo Cutter.



Chapter 56