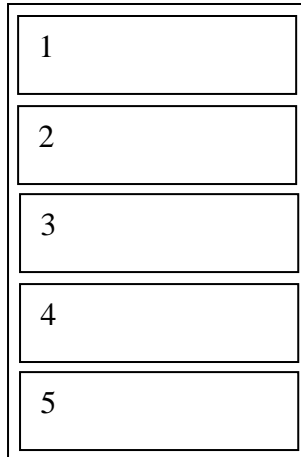


**Inside cover – intentionally blank**

**PAGE ONE** (five panels)



Panel 1. Silhouetted wide shot of two samurai standing on a grassy hill, facing each other in the Iaijutsu stance\*. The man on the left wears a kimono and a headband. The man on the right is in samurai armour and wears his hair in a topknot.

\* Iaijutsu stance images:

1. [http://www.katoridc.com/\\_/rsrc/1297637253533/Home/Sha.jpg?height=200&width=178](http://www.katoridc.com/_/rsrc/1297637253533/Home/Sha.jpg?height=200&width=178)
2. [http://4.bp.blogspot.com/\\_Jj-YKRBwOoI/TUWKISdWAVI/AAAAAAAAAJI/0uok\\_xOlZhQ/s1600/draw.jpg](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_Jj-YKRBwOoI/TUWKISdWAVI/AAAAAAAAAJI/0uok_xOlZhQ/s1600/draw.jpg)
3. [http://www.niten.org.br/img/2008/01jan/iai2\\_g.jpg](http://www.niten.org.br/img/2008/01jan/iai2_g.jpg)

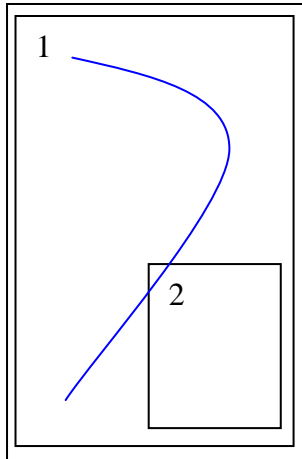
Panel 2. Close up shot of the eyes of the first samurai, weighted towards the left of the panel. His eyes have narrowed in concentration. The only visible item of clothing is the bottom of a headband, one of the ends of which is blowing across his face. This is our protagonist, Jiro.

Panel 3. A repeat of panel 1. Neither man has moved.

Panel 4. Close up shot of the other samurai's eyes, weighted towards the right of the panel. He wears an eye-patch over his left eye. His other eye expanded in rage. His brow is furrowed angrily.

Panel 5. The men stand in the same positions as panel 1. The man on the left is leaning forward slightly. His sword is now out and has swung to a position behind him. The figure on the right's head is in mid air, a spray of blood following both it and the arch of the first man's sword. His body has gone limp, but has not had time to fall yet.

**PAGE TWO** (two panels)



Panel 1. Isometric view. A column of troops marches along a path inside a forest (roughly along the blue line).

There are a few caravans and mounted samurai, but the majority of the column is made up of peasant infantry. Dotted along the column are banners held high. The column is headed up by the captain, a hard looking samurai on horseback with a back banner. All banners bear the same army symbol; though the scale of this image will mean the symbol cannot be made out clearly.

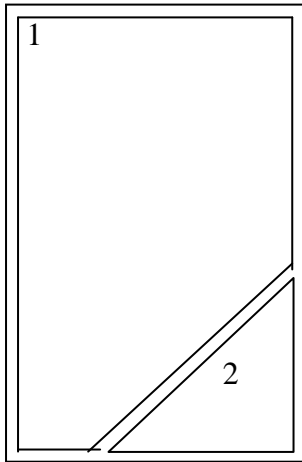
1 CAP

Japan, 1600

Panel 2. An inset panel. A low, Dutch-angled shot of the captain. With his left hand he has pulled his horse to a halt (so the image will be weighted towards his right side) and raised his right hand in a military 'halt' gesture. He scans the treeline.

The banner on his back should be clearly visible. This is his lord's symbol, so it should be something very cool and eye catchy, based off Tokugawa's symbol - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa\\_clan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa_clan)

**PAGE THREE** (two panels)



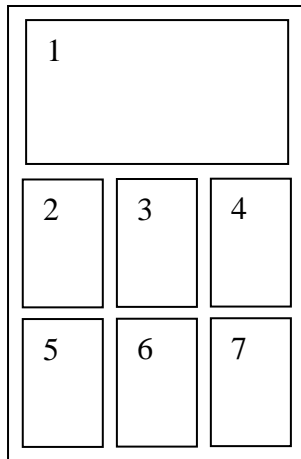
Panel 1. The column of soldiers, shown from the front. It's a low angle, showing the captain and a handful of troops behind him. The sky above them is blotted out by a hail of arrows from both sides of the forest.

Panel 2. A close up of the captain (shoulder and head)

1 CAPTAIN

AMBUSH!

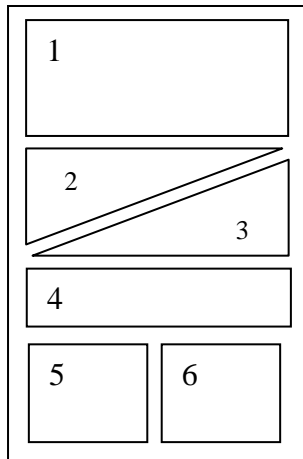
**PAGE FOUR** (seven panels)



Panel 1. The path and column from a raised position to the right. Soldiers from the column lie dead in pools of blood. Arrows stick out of the caravans. Assailants pour out of the forest; they carry no banners or identifying marks, but they all wear the same outfit. The remaining troops from the column run forward to engage them.

Panels 2 – 7. Various combats. The Captain should be seen fighting in some of them – either where he is the focus of the panel or seen in the background of a random skirmish. He is kicking ass.

**PAGE FIVE** (six panels)



Panel 1. The battle field from far off. A man's legs frame the shot. He is clad in the same colours as the rest of the assailants. The tip of an arrow that he holds in his right hand can be seen.

Panel 2. The new man from the front. He holds a bow out in front of him in his left hand. It has been fired. His right hand is open after having let the string go.

Panel 3. The captain reels backwards as the arrow strikes his heart. His grip on his sword loosens.

Panel 4. A solider near the captain sees this.

1 SOLDIER                      CAPTAIN!

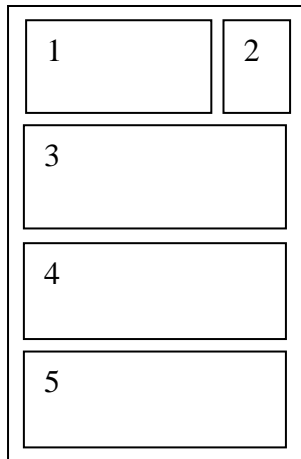
Panel 5. The captain lies on the ground, held by the solider from panel 4. He is handing a sealed scroll to the soldier.

1 SOLDIER                      Captain... what do we do?

2 CAPTAIN                      Ma...make sure this scroll reaches our lord...

Panel 6. The soldier running into the forest, clutching the scroll tightly. He is looking back and sees the man with the bow standing over the captain, preparing to fire a final shot into his face.

**PAGE SIX** (five panels)



Panel 1. Establishing shot. A beautiful rolling hillside, broken only by the large two-storey inn (left of frame).

Panel 2. A continuation of panel 1, but the leg of the runaway soldier is in frame. His trousers are torn and reveal a part of his bloodied leg.

Panel 3. Inside the inn, shown from behind the bar counter. The door is visible from this angle. The inn is bustling with various patrons – all peasants. At the bar sits Jiro, who is the only ronin at the inn.  
(Add a particularly distinctive looking peasant for later on - page 10)

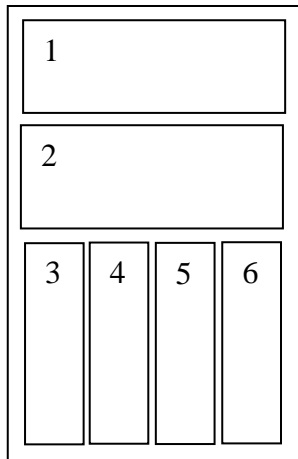
Panel 4. Same layout as previous panel. The doors to the inn has burst open and the soldier stands there, silhouetted from the outside light. Everyone in the inn has stopped what they are doing and their attention faces the battered man in the door frame. Everyone except Jiro.

Panel 5. Same layout as previous panel. The soldier has staggered over to Jiro and fallen to one knee, his head bowed. Everyone's eyes have followed him. Jiro has still not acknowledged him and has raised his wooden cup to his mouth.

1 SOLIDER

You... You're that ronin... The ronin Jiro, yes?

**PAGE SEVEN** (six panels)



Panel 1. Same layout as previous panel. Jiro is now refilling his cup from a wooden bottle. Through the open doorway some far off figures can just about be made out. The soldier is holding the scroll out in front of himself, while still bowing

1 JIRO                               \*sigh\* What of it?

2 SOLDIER                        I need your help to get this message to my lord.

Panel 2. Same layout as previous panel. The archer from before is standing in the doorway, after unleashing an arrow. The soldier has been shot in the back and his body has arched forward, thrusting the scroll towards Jiro. Everyone is ducking for cover and Jiro has spun to see what has happened. He still holds his wooden bottle in his hand.

1 SFX                               THUNK!

2 SOLIDER                        ARGH!

Panel 3. A close-up shot of Jiro from the front. He is shocked. His hand with the wooden bottle is also visible. The soldier's hand and letter are in the bottom of the frame.

Panel 4. A close-up shot of the archer. He has a smug grin on his face as he prepares another arrow.

1 ARCHER                         Ha! Typical Tokugawa, relying on Ronin filth.

Panel 5. Similar closeup shot of Jiro as in panel 3. His face is more determined now. He throws the wooden bottle at the archer and grabs the letter.

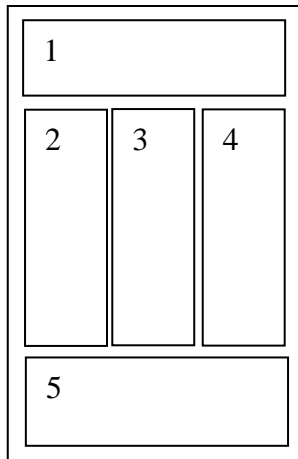
Panel 6. similar close up as in panel 4. The bottle hits the archer in face.

1 SFX                               CRACK!

2 ARCHER                         UGGH!



**PAGE EIGHT** (five panels)



Panel 1. A side shot of the scene. The first 1/3rd of the panel should be outside the inn and show four other soldiers. The other 2/3rds should be inside the inn. The archer is in the doorway, reeling backwards, hand on head. Jiro runs towards him, hand on the hilt of his blade.

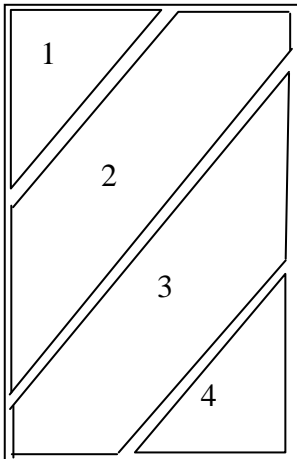
Panel 2. Jiro slices through the archer with an upward cut, the arch flowing from the release of his blade from its saya (the scabbard).

Panel 3. Jiro slices through the first of the men outside the inn. A downward slice from his previous position. One of the other men is seen moving behind him.

Panel 4. Jiro plunges his blade through the man behind him, without shifting his gaze from in front.

Panel 5. Jiro slices the final two guys outside. He should be facing us, while we see the soldiers' backs; one on each side of the panel, Jiro in the middle, his blade slicing from our left to right, catching both men in one powerful strike.

**PAGE NINE** (four panels)



(Panels 1-4 should all form one continuous image, with Jiro appearing in each of them. Each shot should be from far off.)

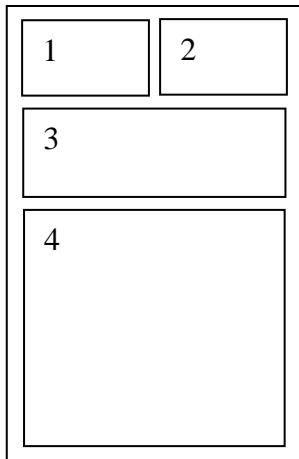
Panel 1. The back of the inn, distant on the hillside. Jiro runs, scroll in hand.

Panel 2. Jiro reaches the edge of a forest and enters.

Panel 3. Jiro wanders deeper into the forest.

Panel 4. A clearing with a rock. Jiro rests upon it.

**PAGE TEN** (four panels)



Panel 1. Low angle shot. A Samurai looking down at somebody, his hand on his hilt.

1 SAMURAI A            Tell my Lord what happened here Peasant!

Panel 2. A high angle, looking down on the interesting looking peasant (from page 6 of panel 3) as he lays on the ground, one hand up protecting himself.

1 PEASANT            A ronin... named Jiro... He killed these men and took the scroll... He ran into the Damasu Forest...

Panel 3. A wide shot, showing the front of the inn. The dead bodies still lie here. Many samurai on horses are here now, too. Any banners bear the symbol of Oda Nobunaga

([http://3.bp.blogspot.com/\\_dN6cDz2T95s/S\\_S\\_on6yFtI/AAAAAAAAAb0/Ii\\_B83CwU08/s1600/FujiwaraClanCrest.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_dN6cDz2T95s/S_S_on6yFtI/AAAAAAAAAb0/Ii_B83CwU08/s1600/FujiwaraClanCrest.jpg)). They are lead by a sinister looking man with a cloak. This is Lord Zenshin.

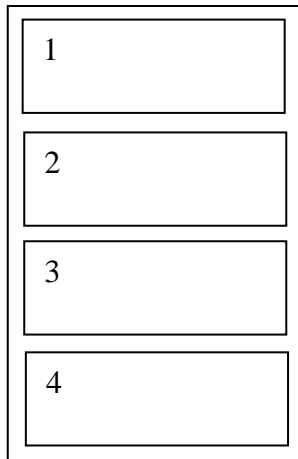
1 SAMURAI A            What are your orders, Lord Zenshin?

2 ZENSHIN            Lock them all in and burn it.

Panel 4. Further from the inn, towards the forest that Jiro ran to. The inn is in the background, burning. Zenshin leads his men towards the forest.

1 ZENSHIN            Find this Jiro before he reaches Tokugawa's camp.

**PAGE ELEVEN** (four panels)



Panel 1. Jiro still sits on his rock, resting. He is on the left of the frame. He is looking to the right of frame, where he hears giggling.

VOICE 1                      Ahahahaha! Kamiko, stop it!

Panel 2. Jiro now stands beside a tree. He is looking at a pool, where two beautiful girls are bathing and playing, splashing water at each other.

1 SFX                              Ha ha ha!

Panel 3. From over the girls' shoulders. They are right of frame, with Jiro on the left. Though we are behind them, they are angled facing Jiro, so we can see their faces. Jiro leans cockily up against a tree.

1 JIRO                              You know, it's not safe for women to be out here alone.

2 GIRL A                         Then, why don't you join us lord samurai?

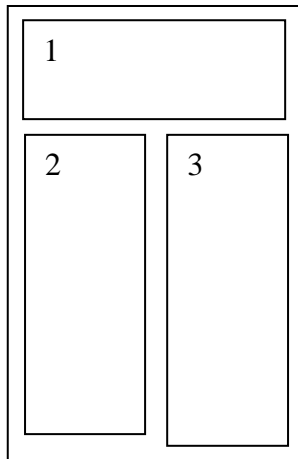
3 GIRL B                         Yes. Come and keep us safe.

Panel 4. Jiro's sword leans up against the tree now, with the scroll wrapped around the hilt. He is at the edge of the water, pulling back his kimono from his shoulders. Under his kimono is a tattoo of a dragon\*, wrapped around his torso. The two girls have moved towards him and separated so he will enter between them.

\* A Japanese dragon tattoo – like Yakuza

([http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e3/Japanese\\_dragon,\\_Chinese\\_school,\\_19th\\_Century.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e3/Japanese_dragon,_Chinese_school,_19th_Century.jpg))

**PAGE TWELVE** (three panels)

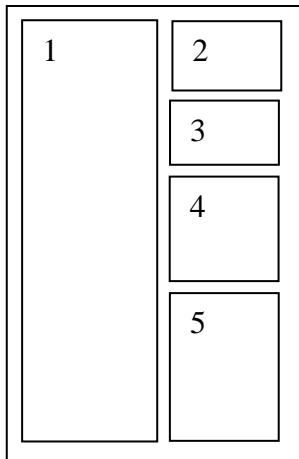


Panel 1. Jiro is now waist deep in the water. He walks towards one of the girls and the other moves behind him. They giggle and the first girl teases him by splashing water on him.

Panel 2. As he wades towards the first girl, the girl behind him rises out of the water, revealing a snake body from the waste down.

Panel 3. A shot of Jiro from the second girl's point of view, looking down on him. He is in her shadow. He looks up in panic.

**PAGE THIRTEEN** (five panels)



Panel 1. A long shot of Jiro hanging naked, upside-down from a tree (either he is facing away from us or his nudity is blocked by a tree branch or one of the naga) The naga sisters are propped up to the same height as him on their tails.

1 NAGA A            Let him hang a while after we slit his throat. I'd hate for him to lose his flavour.

Panel 2. Close up of one of the sister's hands holding the sword and scroll. She is holding the sword out towards the other naga.

1 NAGA B            Use this. It will give a good clean cut. As a kindness I'll read his love letter to him as he bleeds.

Panel 3. A close shot of the rope that ties him to the tree. The branch and his foot can be seen. An arrow has sliced through the rope.

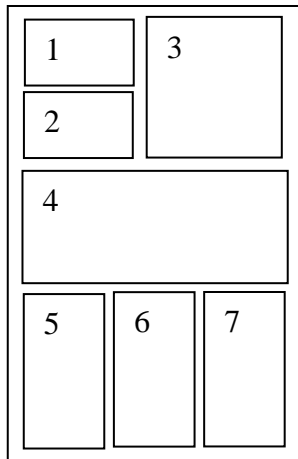
1 SFX                SCHLUCK!

Panel 4. A close shot of the two sisters as they turn in shock to see where the arrow came from, their faces filled with anger. Behind them Jiro can be seen falling.

Panel 5. Zenshin's troops, now on foot. They have bows trained on the naga. The man who fired is reloading his bow. Zenshin himself stands at the front and holds no bow.

1 ZENSHIN           Hand over the ronin and the scroll, naga witches.

**PAGE FOURTEEN** (seven panels)



Panel 1. Jiro crashes into the ground.

1 SFX                      THUD!

Panel 2. The two sisters look at each other deciding what to do.

Panel 3. They charge forward, towards Zenshin's men.

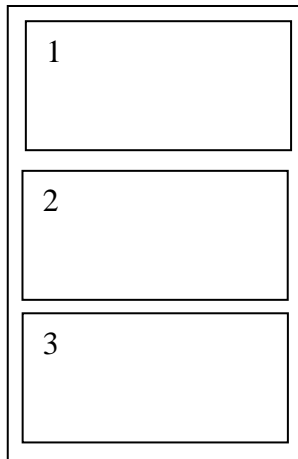
Panel 4. Zenshin's men (left of frame) fire a volley of arrows at the sisters (right of frame). Zenshin is giving a forward gesture with his hand while drawing his sword.

Panel 5. A closeup of the sister carrying Jiro's gear getting hit. Her hand is in frame so we can see her grip loosen on the sword and scroll. They should be towards the top of the frame.

Panel 6. The sword and scroll falling – halfway down frame now.

Panel 7. Jiro's hand in the bottom of the frame grabs the sword and catches the scroll with the tip.

**PAGE FIFTEEN** (three panels)



Panel 1. Zenshin and his men are in the background fighting the naga (left of frame). She is crushing one of his men in her tail. Jiro is on the right of frame running away for dear life. He is jumping over a fallen trunk – his right leg covering his man-shame.

Panel 2. A shot from behind Jiro. We can see the edge of the forest and in the distant is a rolling landscape with long grass.

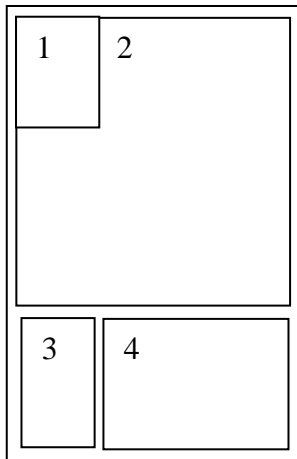
Panel 3. He is standing in the long grass. It is about 3 feet high. He has stopped running and is catching his breath.

1 SFX

Huff huff



**PAGE SIXTEEN** (four panels)



Panel 1. Insert. A low angle shot of a ninja jumping out of the long grass.

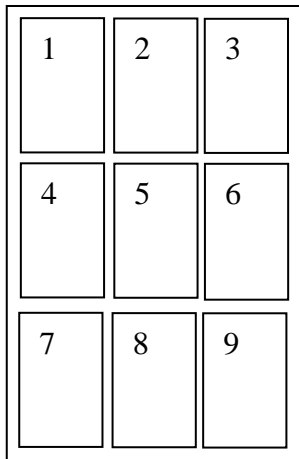
Panel 2. An isometric view. Jiro stands in the centre of frame. Five ninjas surround him.

1 JIRO                      ...seriously?

Panel 3. A medium close up of a ninja as they fling ninja stars at Jiro.

Panel 4. Jiro, left of frame, deflects the star into one of the other ninjas (right of frame).

**PAGE SEVENTEEN** (nine panels)



Panel 1. Jiro flings his sword towards the ninja who threw the star at him.

Panel 2. His sword connects with that ninja, killing them.

Panel 3. Jiro narrowly dodges beneath a blade as it swings over him.

Panel 4. from his crouched dodge position he thrust upwards, connecting the palm of his hand with his attacker's nose. A cracking noise and blood gushing out.

Panel 5. Jiro grabs the second last ninja by the lapels.

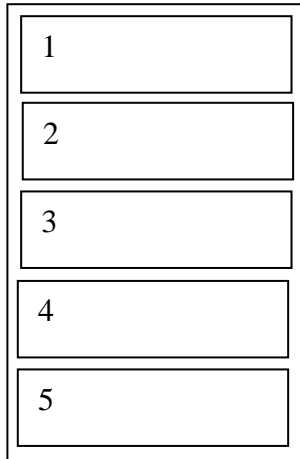
Panel 6. He swings around that ninja and kicks the final one in the jaw. A snapping sound and the body goes limp.

Panel 7. Behind him now, Jiro grabs the lapels of the ninja's kimono. (the ninja he swung off in panel 5.)

Panel 8. while still holding the kinomo's lapels, Jiro kicks the ninja in the spine, pulling the kimono off him. There is a crunching sound as he cracks the ninja's spine.

Panel 9. Jiro casually swings the ninja's jacket around himself, sliding one arm into it.

**PAGE EIGHTEEN** (five panels)



Panel 1. Jiro's sword is in the front of the frame, on the right. He is finishing putting on the new kimono while looking behind himself.

1 JIRO                      Crap...

Panel 2. Same layout as above. Jiro has now moved out of frame, his hand on the hilt of his sword which is being lifted out of frame.

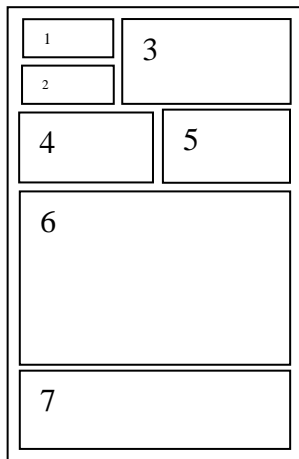
Panel 3. An overhead shot. Jiro is in centre frame, running through the long grass.

Panel 4. An overhead shot. Jiro has run to the edge of a cliff. He is on the edge and trying to regain balance so he doesn't fall over. Bits of debris crumble from the edge.

Panel 5. The same overhead shot. Zenshin and his men enter frame left. Jiro has turned to face them.

1 ZENSHIN                      You gave good chase Ronin, but it is over now. Step forward and I will grant you an honourable death.

**PAGE NINETEEN** (seven panels)



Panel 1. Extreme closeup of Jiro as his eyes glance back towards the ledge.

Panel 2. Extreme closeup of Jiro's eyes as he glances back at Zenshin.

Panel 3. Jiro dives off the edge of the cliff.

Panel 4. As Jiro falls, he grits his teeth and buries his blade deep into his skin where the dragon tattoo begins.  
If the ledge can be seen behind him, two of Zenshin's men have run to it to look over.

Panel 5. The dragon begins to burst free from his wound, the tattoo moving along his skin and coming out of the wound as a living beast.

Panel 6. An aerial shot. The dragon flies high, Zenshin and his men are left far below on the ledge. Jiro holds onto the creature's tail with one hand, his sword and scroll held tightly in the other.

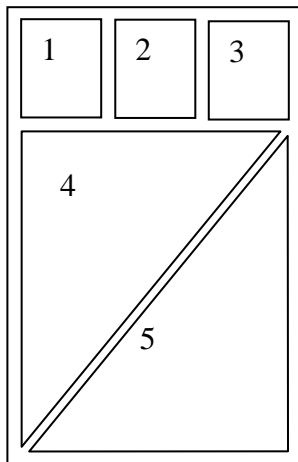
Panel 7. Over Zenshin's shoulder: He is left of frame. In the distance the Dragon and Jiro can be seen flying away. On the left of frame, facing towards Zenshin, is a man playing a flute.

1 ZENSHIN                                    *(small, to self)* Well played, Ronin.

2 ZENSHIN                                    *(louder)* Summon Lord Karasu.

3 MAN WITH FLUTE                        Yes, my lord.

**PAGE TWENTY** (five panels)



Panel 1. Jiro hangs on to the dragon's tail, while he looks at the ground down. In the distance some dots can just about be made out.

Panel 2. He places the scroll between his teeth.

Panel 3. He slides his sword into his Obi (sash/belt)

Panel 4. With both hands now free, he climbs up onto the dragon's back. The far off shapes are closer now, but still in the background. It appears to be a flock of birds.

Panel 5. The shapes in the distance are here now. They are Tengu (<http://images.wikia.com/15r/images/7/7f/Kenku.jpg>). Lord Karasu is leading them. He is a more powerful Tengu than the rest. Model him on an Eagle, rather than Crows for the rest of them. Also, arm him with two blades.

They fly around the dragon's body as Jiro crouches to maintain balance. He begins to draw his blade.

The tengu who talks should be at the bottom of the frame and should be moving in to attack as he talks.

1 KARASU

You must have been an almighty pain, human.  
DESTROY HIM! LEAVE NOTHING!

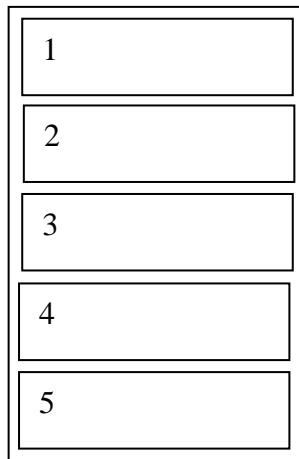
2 JIRO

\*sigh\* Tell me your name, Tengu, so I may claim my  
glory once you are done...

3 TENGU

Insolent man! You do not talk to Lord Karasu this way!

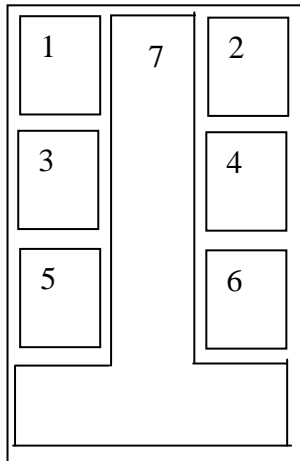
**PAGE TWENTY-ONE** (five panels)



Panels 1 – 5. Jiro runs along Dragon, fighting Tengu as he gets closer to the head. Jumping over some, avoiding others, cutting down those he can. Karasu is attacking him at this stage too, but is the only one to survive.

As he runs we should get a real sense of scale – both how big this beast is, and how high off the ground he is. He should be passing by scales, limbs, wisps of smoke and tufts of hair, not to mention clouds, birds, mountaintops, etc

**PAGE TWENTY-TWO** (seven panels)



Panel 1 – 5. Jiro fights Lord Karasu around the Dragon’s head. Karasu is gaining the upper hand.

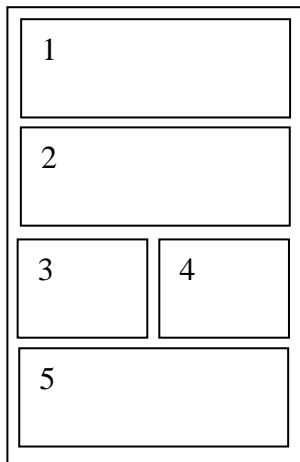
Panel 5. Jiro is on the Dragon’s snout, badly wounded. He is down on one knee. In his hand he has grabbed one of the Dragon’s whiskers.

Panel 6. As Karasu flies forward for his final strike, Jiro rolls forward and, using the whisker, pulls the beast’s maw up towards Karasu.

1 KARASU                      NNNNOOOOOO!!!!

Panel 7. Jiro stands proudly atop the Dragon’s head. Its body snakes behind it from the top of the panel. At the bottom of the panel it is flying towards the reader. Karasu is being crushed in the beast’s mouth.

**PAGE TWENTY-THREE** (five panels)



Panel 1. Over Jiro's shoulder as he rides on the Dragon. On the ground can be seen Tokugawa's command tent.

([http://www.thefightschool.demon.co.uk/The\\_SHOGUN\\_Tent\\_Guide.htm](http://www.thefightschool.demon.co.uk/The_SHOGUN_Tent_Guide.htm))

A number of samurai are guarding it and they are pointing to the Dragon.

Panel 2. As it nears the ground, the Dragon begins to dissipate into an inky mist which is returning to Jiro's wound. His tattoo reappears.

Panel 3. With the Dragon all gone, Jiro combat rolls past the confused guard, the final trails of wisp following him.

Panel 4. He rolls onto one knee, his sword at his side, pointed away from Tokugawa Ieyasu. The scroll held out in front of him, his head bowed.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa\\_Ieyasu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa_Ieyasu))

Many swords are pointed at Jiro.

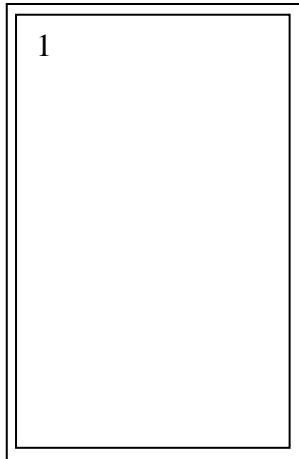
1 JIRO                      My Lord Tokugawa. I bring you news.

Panel 5. Tokugawa takes the notice and waves his samurai to put their swords away.

1 TOKUGAWA              Just in time, Nobunaga's forces have begun to assemble...



**PAGE TWENTY-FOUR** (one panel)



Panel 1. A single panel. The lower quarter is pure black and is the hill that Tokugawa and Jiro stand on as they over look the Nobunaga camp. They are silhouetted. Before them are thousands of samurai, some Oni (demons), naga warriors, the undead, more tengu, a dragon or two and any other terrible things that you can think of to populate Nobunaga's demon army with.

1 TITLE (placed in the bottom left on the black)

[GAME NAME!]

on [platforms] from mid-2015.