MAKING OF

MAKING OF How That Famous Scene Was Made

How did they make that famous scene at the end of the movie where Pikachu thinks of Satoshi and starts sobbing? We'll reveal the production process (storyboard, key animation, etc.) and also give you some exclusive behind-the-scenes secrets from the movie's production staff.

Storyboard



In order to portray what Pikachu's feeling here more clearly, Makoto's and Souji's reaction shots from the script were cut. But assistant director Yajima had the idea of adding drawings to the storyboard that weren't in the script of Pikachu clutching onto Satoshi's hat. Thanks to this later addition, Pikachu's strong feelings toward Satoshi could be conveyed to the audience.



Script



Here's what's written in the script for this scene:
Pikachu weakly says "Pikapi..."
before falling over. But...
Satoshi isn't coming back.
Makoto, Souji: "Pikachu!?"
Pikachu uses everything it's got to sit up, look toward the sky, and scream "Pikapi~!"

Layout



Key Frames



Betweens

Finished Cut



Pikachu's movements, the camerawork, and other parts of the scene are pieced together to make an image based on the storyboard.



The backgrounds and animation are created to match what's in the layout. The backgrounds are purposefully made to be out of focus in order to make Pikachu stand out more. Finishing touches, like the special lights added to the highlights of Pikachu's tears, all come together to complete a memorable scene.



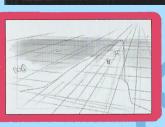
The small stuff the staff sweated over to make this scene the best it can be

Assistant director Mr. Yajima was in charge of this series of cuts. The animation supervisor Mr. Mogi says he was moved to tears when he was checking over this scene. If you look closely at the uppermost image in the layout printed below, you'll notice that Pikachu's fangs are drawn on the side facing Satoshi's hat. While Pikachu's teeth being clenched as tears pour down its face certainly conveys just how upset it is at this particular moment, it seems that both director Yuyama and chief animation director Ms. Ichi'ishi talked it over and got rid of its teeth in order to make this scene more Pikachu-like. Ms. Ichi'ishi says "Mr. Yajima and Mr. Mogi got too excited and almost lost sight of what they were doing."









Various weather effects take place during this series of cuts so there were more than six pages made for the background art board. The backgrounds were created in 3D in order to make the scene more impactful.



