Feat Liar Game (Root of A)

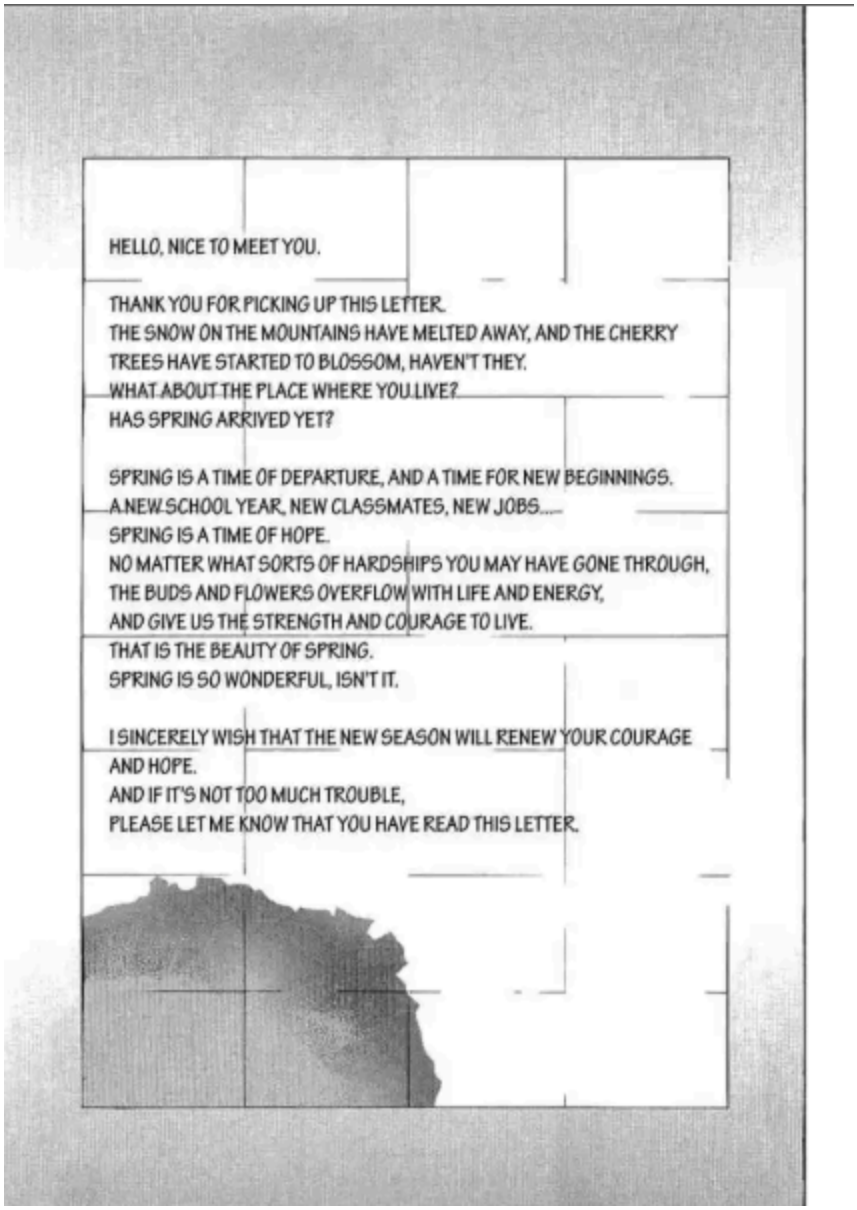
1. Story Overview
    - Five years before Akiyama and Nao got involved in the Liar Game, a younger Akiyama (22 years old) was studying at Teito University, the most selective elite institution in Japan. At that time, Akiyama was a fourth-year student and held a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Because of this, Akiyama decided to take a class taught by Professor Okabe, a teacher who always exuded a gloomy, depressing atmosphere and had an indifferent, laid-back, and creepy personality.

Expecting a lecture on criminal psychology in the first session, Akiyama and the others were instead given an assignment by Professor Okabe called “Profiling: Information Retrieval.” Okabe wanted his students to use deduction to figure out the identity of the sender of a letter, even though the name and address had been smudged. The letter had been tied to a balloon and released into the sky, a method known as a balloon letter.

Akiyama's group consisted of four other people: Natsuki, Hitoshi, Jiro, and Masami.





2. Analyses by the Psychology Student Group
    - Jiro analyzed the letter and noted that the writer used the word “Bokutachi” (a masculine form of “us” in Japanese). Based on this, Jiro concluded that the person who wrote the letter was a male.
    - Natsuki narrowed down the time the letter was written, from spring to a specific range: March 24th to March 31st. This deduction was based on the fact that the graduation ceremony had already taken place (between March 10th and March 24th), and from the letter’s content, it was clear the writer was still a student.
    - Hitoshi, Jiro, and Masami discussed and concluded that the location where the letter was written was in the northern region.


BUT YOU CAN NARROW IT DOWN EVEN FURTHER.
IT SAYS THE SEASON IS SPRING...
FINE, THEN YOU DO IT.
FROM MARCH 24TH TO MARCH 31ST.
MOST LIKELY,
OH YEAH.
BUT NO MEN-TION OF "GRAD-UA-TION."
THE LETTER LISTS ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN SPRING ...
"SPRING IS A TIME OF DEPARTURE, AND A TIME FOR NEW BEGIN-NINGS. A NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW CLASS-MATES, NEW JOBS..."
FROM THE "CHERRY TREES HAVE STARTED TO BLOSSOM," PART?
WHOA, THAT'S PRETTY SPECIFIC.
THAT TOO, BUT MAINLY...

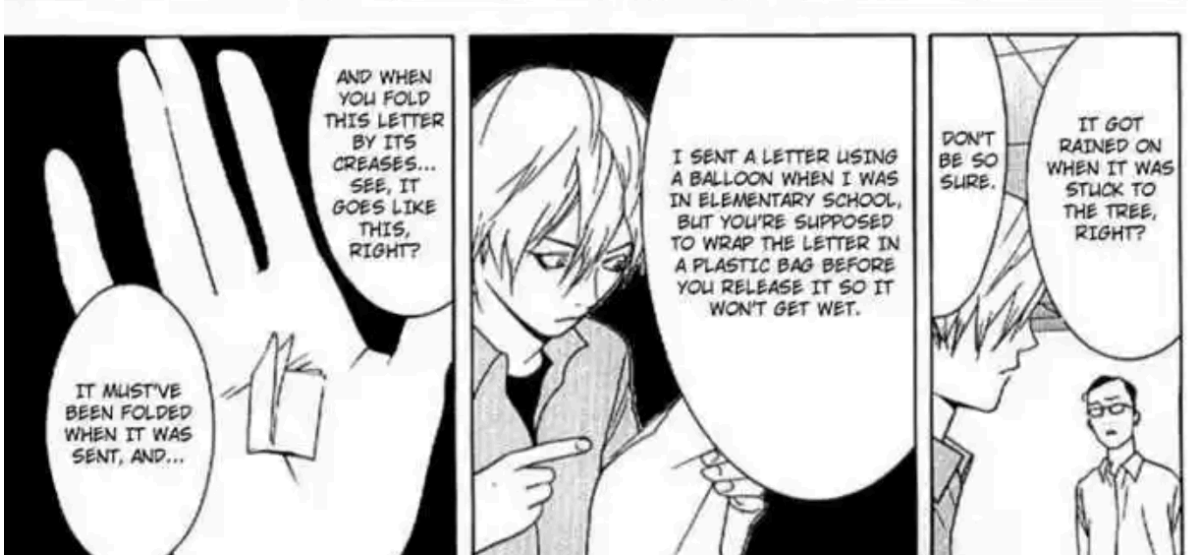


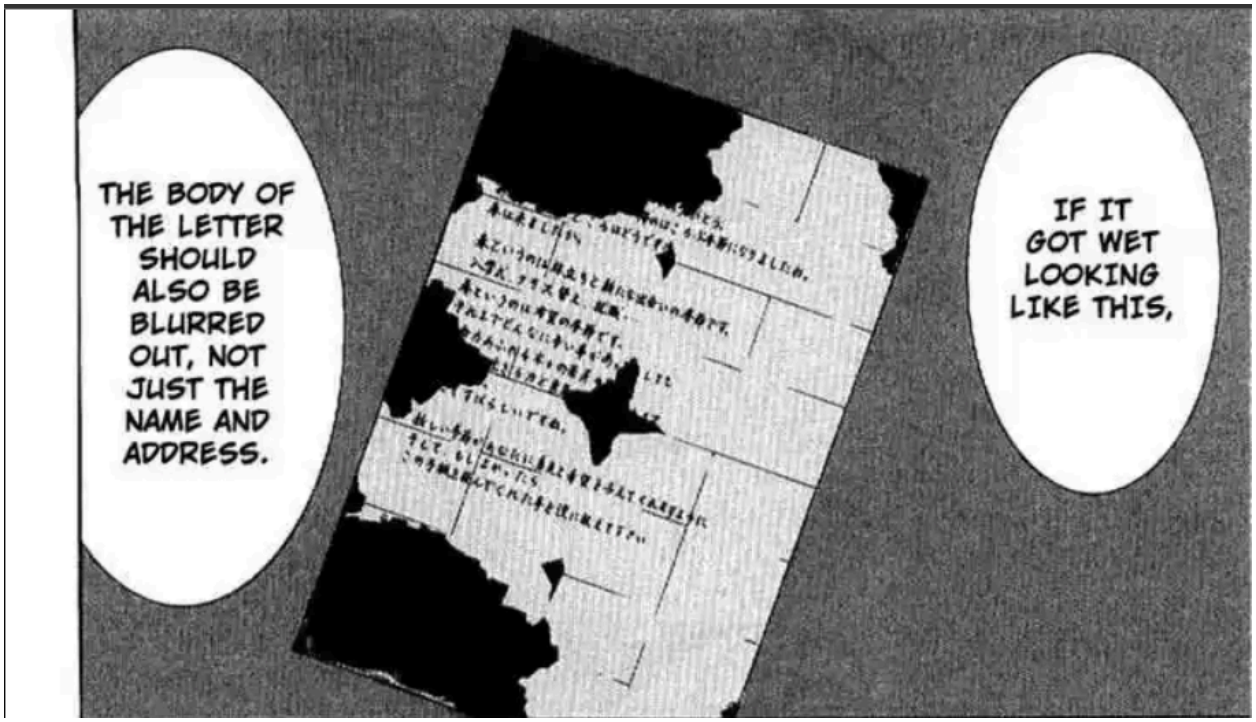
=> In the end, the whole group concluded that the sender of the letter was a male student living in the north, he wrote the letter around the end of March, and... that was it, the entire group hit a dead end. :)))

- Since Akiyama hadn't spoken the whole time, Jiro decided to ask for his opinion. Akiyama thought their reasoning wasn't bad, but he had another question: "Is there a right answer to this?"
- Akiyama guessed and deduced that:
  The letter was found on top of a tree in a house in Setagaya, and the professor also lives in Setagaya. → The professor may have found the letter at his own house, saw that the name and address were smudged, and thought: "This would be a perfect assignment to give to my students."
  → So, the professor doesn't actually know the correct answer.

[=> Guesswork, Deduction, Cold Reading]
– Although the other members believed that, Akiyama didn't completely trust that idea. Right when he ran into the professor in the hallway, Akiyama asked: "Are you aware of the correct answer to this profiling?"
The professor replied that he knew exactly who sent it.
From there, Akiyama decided to investigate the letter more deeply on his own:

- Earlier, everyone reasoned that the letter got wet when it got caught in the tree. Akiyama refuted this, saying that when he played the "balloon letter" game back in middle school, if the letter was placed inside a plastic bag, there's no way it would get wet before being sent.
  And when the letter is folded up (as shown in the image), if it had been wet, the entire body of the letter should have been smudged as well.
  → So the name and address were blurred only after the letter was opened.
  → Therefore, it's not surprising that the professor knows the name and address of the sender.





+Earlier, when Akiyama asked the professor about the letter, the professor responded that he knew exactly who sent it. This indicates a special relationship between the professor and the sender.



+At the same time, Aki also discovered a contradiction in the letter:
If someone were to write a letter to a person they had never met, they would normally begin with a greeting, followed by an introduction about themselves.
However, this letter contained no such self-introduction
→ Aki reflected: “Why didn’t the person who wrote this letter say anything about himself?”, “Did he not want to?”
→ If the sender truly didn’t want to introduce himself, then the use of positive words like “Hope”, “Courage”, etc., must have come from a desire to escape his current situation
→ Perhaps the sender is going through a very difficult circumstance.
If all of this is correct
→ Then there must be something that caused the professor to know about the sender.



+Out of curiosity, Akiyama played dirty and asked the professor's wife :)))
And Okabe's wife told Aki everything about the sender.
And we find out that the sender was seriously ill (the latter part isn't included because there's no relevant feat, so I won't mention it).

Summary:
Akiyama's feat: Cold reading, Deduction, Guesswork, Logical Reasoning, EQ
The rest of the psychology group members (excluding Aki) feat: Deduction, Guesswork.