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Where do I start with *Dragon Ball*? There's just so much to talk about. The lovable characters, recognizable artwork, life lessons, and some of my best memories growing up.

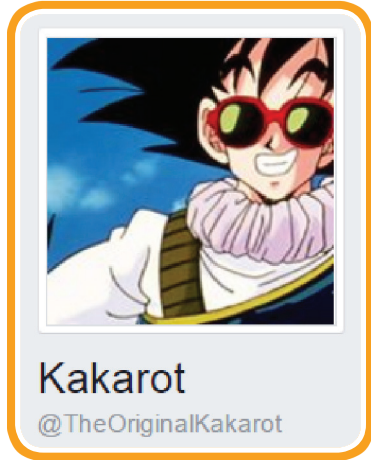
I started watching *Dragon Ball* at the age of 3, in 1997, so I'm a part of the first wave of American fans. As a kid I was amazed by the feats these characters could pull off, but as I got older, I noticed details in the show that spoke to me, and that I didn't understand the first time around. This series is much more than a simple fighting anime, and it saddens me when fans who enjoyed the show as children don't take the time to appreciate it as adults with a more mature perspective.

My love for Son Goku and his friends has remained strong since I first became a fan. I've spent years playing *Dragon Ball Z* games and collecting the figures, and I can't count how many times I've gone through the manga and anime. This love for the series motivated me to create a *Facebook* fan page in 2011, which I named "Kakarot."¹ It's a dedication to Son Goku, and a platform that enables me to speak to other *Dragon Ball* fans.

It grew fast. On Valentine's day of 2012 it gained over 35,000 likes after an image went viral. Once I saw the crowd I had, I decided it was time to talk about the life lessons I learned from the show. I often post about how Goku and Krillin taught me the meaning of an unconditional friendship, and that I should never throw in the towel if something is important to me. I also love talking about the theme of redemption, such as the relationship between Gohan and Piccolo. Although I must confess I do throw in a lot of crude *Dragon Ball* humor as well as the occasional pun for a good laugh. King Kai would be proud.

The fans enjoy those posts, and every day I receive messages telling me one of the posts cheered them up, talked them out of doing something stupid, or just made them want to rewatch the anime. *Dragon Ball* has effected my life and those I've met while running this page over the last 3 years.

Even now at the age of 21, I still look up to Son Goku just like I did when I was a little boy. 🌟



1 Alex's *Facebook* page: [/TheOriginalKakarot](https://www.facebook.com/TheOriginalKakarot)