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From 1989-1995, this legendary shonen manga, that can almost introduce itself, Dragon Ball Z ran its course globally, through pop, American, Japanese, hip-hop, and more cultures. Its mangaka, or artist, known only as Akira Toriyama produced the renowned manga. The manga gained its popularity through the way it incorporated action, adventure, humor, and meaningful themes.

The manga's storyline centers around the main character Goku. The story takes place on Earth but its main character Goku is an alien from outer space; he's known as a saiyan warrior. Goku, who grew up on Earth, didn't have too much trouble adapting to life on Earth, but trouble ensued when demons from his past crept up on him. Aliens from other planets decide to attack Earth to conquer it; humans have never seen these aliens before, but with Goku's unique powers and the bond he created with his friends, Goku, and his friends defend the Earth from future invaders. Although the conflict engages readers with intense combat, Dragon Ball Z's success comes from much more than action. Akira Toriyama's ability to combine the intensity of combat with relatable and emotionally resonant themes of camaraderie.

Along with the engaging story, Akira Toriyama's style of art supplemented Dragon Ball Z's story. Before the creation of Dragon Ball Z, Akira Toriyama already had a successful manga called Dr. Slump. His creativity along with his recognizable brand of art, Akira Toriyama was able to create a visually appealing novel with designs that hold up today. Toriyama's distinct brand of art included intricate battle choreography, expressive faces, and a vividly imagined fantasy world. Although Toriyama specialized in creating vivid worlds, his most popular design

was the Super Saiyan design (a transformation characters perform). Super Saiyan has become not only popular in mangas, it has become popular in pop and meme culture globally. His art has been able to resonate with both the youth and the older generation that read the manga when it first came out.

Akira Toriyama's effect on the world previously and now can be seen in the number of awards and accolades he has achieved. Toriyama achieved the Shogakukan Manga Award for the Shonen category in 1988. Although important, the award underscores his impact. The award underscores his impact because mangakas did not receive many awards during the 1980s-1990s. Toriyama's impact can mainly be seen from the numerous spinoffs, video games, adaptations, and a dedicated fanbase that grew more prominent in the future. Dragon Ball Z's influence transcends what was expected. The manga's ability to resonate across generations cements its position as a work of art with enduring influence.

In conclusion, the Dragon Ball Z manga can capture the energy of both storytelling and visual expression. With its flawless blend of action, emotion, and universal themes, Akira Toriyama's masterpiece continues captivating and motivating audiences worldwide. As we follow Goku and his friends on their journey together, we are taught timeless themes of the limitless potential of the human spirit and the lasting power of true connections

Sources Cited

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