

Komi Can't Communicate V. 1

by Tomohito Oda

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Grade level: High school

Warning: Some crude humor

In this manga series, teenager Shoko Komi navigates a new high school while managing serious social anxiety. There is also an anime series on Netflix based on the book series. Use the following questions to facilitate discussion about the book with your students.

In the Introduction, a description is given for "communication disorders." Have you ever felt like you have difficulty communicating with others? How does it make you feel? Do you think others might think you are "unfriendly?"

In Ch. 1, Hitohito Tadano is described as timid. Is he? What other words could you use to describe him? How could you describe Komi?

Komi is unable to introduce herself in Ch. 2. Can you relate to how it might feel to be Komi? How would you help her if you were in the class?

Do you think Komi dropped the eraser on purpose in Ch. 3? What could be her reason for doing so?

Tadano says multiple times that his goal in high school is to be "normal." In Ch. 4, he describes that as "to not make waves." Is there a such thing as *normal*? What does that look like?

What does Tadano discover about Komi in Ch. 5? How do they find a way to communicate?

In Ch. 6, Komi tells Tadano that her goal is to make 100 friends. Is this a realistic goal? How does Tadano propose she start? How will he help? Why does Tadano think it will be hard for her to make friends? What would you do if you were Tadano?

In Ch. 7, Tadano classifies his own communication skills as average. How would you rate your communication skills? Why?

In Ch. 8, Tadano says he can visualize his success. What does that mean? Have you ever visualized success?

Tadano has a hard time communicating himself! In Ch. 8, it's with Yamai. What happened?

How is Najimi Osana described in Ch. 9? What is their superpower?

Why does Najimi say they can't be friends with Komi in Ch. 10? Is this fair? Has anyone ever judged you unfairly? Have you ever judged anyone else unfairly? Why was it difficult for Tadano to ask Najimi to be Komi's friend?

In Ch. 11, Komi finally gets her second friend. How does she feel? How do you know?

Komi and Tadano turn in the key that they bad guys dropped at the end of Ch. 11. What does this tell us about them?

In Ch. 12, Komi is asked to read aloud. She is unable to complete the task. How does her teacher react? Do you think it's an appropriate reaction? How does Komi feel when her new friend asks her to eat lunch with her? Najimi asks Komi to do something. What is the reason for the request? Would you do it?

Does Komi manage to complete the task? Why are Najimi and Tadano apologetic at the end of Ch. 13?

How does Himiko Agari describe Komi in Ch. 14? How would you describe Agari? Agari describes her "personal space." What is it, and what's your personal space?

In Ch. 15, we are introduced to Komi at home. What do you notice about the communication skills of the people in her family? Does Komi have issues communicating at home, too?

What does Komi get in Ch. 16 that she never had a need for before? Why is Tadano "screaming from the inside?"

What happens to Komi in Ch. 17? What's Najimi's unorthodox way of helping Komi?

Komi hits a major milestone in Ch. 18. How does she feel? How would you feel?

What does "execrable communication skills" mean? Why are Najimi and Komi embarrassed in Ch. 19? Would you be? Why is Tadano stressed?

Does Komi make her goal?