

A Silent Voice (聲の形)

We explore three distinct themes on how *A Silent Voice* can make our campus a better place

Eric '23, Economics, loves to make music
Richard '23, Geography, enjoys photography
Devon '25, CS, loves playing/making video games

Preventing Bullying

- Usually direct “don’t bully” messages are not effective - manga is a good way to create emotional responses to make people more empathetic, and less likely to bully others
- Can help point to the causes that create bullying, so we can act faster to prevent it
- Shows the aftermath of bullying and the harm it causes to deter bullying

Representations of Non-verbal Communication

- Shoko, the female protagonist who is deaf, is not reduced to stereotypes attributed to deaf people by being portrayed as able to communicate effectively through various channels and struggling with the same issues her non-deaf peers struggle with
- Manga as a medium highlights Shoko’s complexity through conveying non-verbal details in her expressions, depicting sign language, and avoids coming off as “preachy”

Mental Health Awareness

- Contrary to common depictions of a lack of help-seeking among depressed people, this manga portrays characters receiving emotional support from close friends, which ultimately makes them happier, showing the importance of healthy relationships in improving mental health
- Emotional support shown towards characters like Shoko can induce a sense of hope among readers who struggle with their own mental health
- Portraying these themes can reduce the social isolation commonly felt by people with depression by suggesting they are not alone.

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