# The hidden meanings of emojis in Netflix's Adolescence spark parental concern



The recent Netflix series *Adolescence* has sparked significant discussion among parents regarding the hidden meanings behind emojis commonly used by children on smartphones. The drama, featuring actor Stephen Graham, follows the harrowing story of a 13-year-old, Jamie Miller, portrayed by Owen Cooper, who is arrested for the murder of a female classmate, prompting viewers to delve deeper into the complexities of communication among today’s youth.

*Adolescence* debuted in full on March 13 and has drawn considerable attention for its portrayal of contemporary issues concerning young people's interactions and the dangers posed by online subcultures. In particular, the series sheds light on how emojis can serve as a coded language, often laden with meanings that parents may be unaware of. This has been brought to the fore through the character of DI Luke Bascome, played by Ashley Walters, who has candid conversations with his son that outline the myriad ways in which young people communicate.

The coded language encapsulated in emojis comprises symbols, colours, and timing that can convey messages far removed from their apparent simplicity. For example, a wide range of emojis, including coloured hearts, pills, and even kidney beans, take on specific connotations in this context. The dynamics of expression via emojis are critical, and police officials have urged parents to remain vigilant.

Among the various meanings discussed in the show, the "red pill" emoji has gained notoriety, particularly within incel communities—men who define themselves as "involuntary celibates" and often espouse radical misogynistic views. As explained in the series, the use of the pill emoji signifies one's alignment with these beliefs, while other symbols like the "100" emoji relate to harmful ideologies propagated by figures associated with the "manosphere."

Jamie Miller's characterisation is particularly revealing as he represents a teenager embroiled in the toxic influences of online misogyny, deeply affecting his actions and mental state. Speaking to *Netflix*, Graham highlighted the show's aim to explore the pressures young men face from peers, the internet, and social media, suggesting that these challenges are as prevalent globally as they are in the UK.

The emoji revelations have resonated with viewers on social media, prompting reactions that reveal a collective surprise regarding the meanings behind these symbols. Users on various platforms have expressed their astonishment at the extent to which emojis can convey hidden, often dark messages. One viewer, known as @\_LauraJayne1, remarked, "Is this thing with the emojis real?! These kids are cooked," while another, @Jedigrl99, shared her bewilderment about the implications of emoji usage.

Moreover, *Adolescence* does not shy away from examining the broader societal issues that influence behaviour among youths. Many viewers have engaged in discussions regarding the unsettling portrayal of a seemingly ordinary teenager being radicalised by online misogynistic content, sparking conversations about the pressures of conformity and the impact of social media on self-image, as showcased in Jamie’s interactions with his psychiatrist about the psychological toll of online remarks.

The show has received acclaim for its portrayal of the complexities surrounding youth culture and mental health, prompting critical conversations among its audience. As the series continues to generate attention and viewership, parents are increasingly encouraged to engage in open dialogues with their children regarding their online interactions, particularly concerning the nuances of digital communication.

*Adolescence* serves as a commentary on the intersection of youth, technology, and societal pressures, offering a stark exploration of a reality that many parents may not fully comprehend.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://time.com/7267884/adolescence-netflix-explained/> - This article explains the plot of Adolescence, focusing on its exploration of themes like social media, masculinity, and the complexities of youth communication, which aligns with the discussion about hidden meanings behind emojis and online subcultures.
* <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31806037/> - IMDb provides details about the series Adolescence, including its cast and storyline, which supports the information about the show's portrayal of contemporary youth issues and its reception.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wk5OxqtpBR4> - The official trailer for Adolescence on YouTube offers a glimpse into the series' themes and storyline, corroborating the discussion about its exploration of youth culture and communication.
* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10311201/> - Although not directly related to Adolescence, this article highlights the importance of digital evidence in criminal investigations, which can be linked to the show's themes of online communication and its implications.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article, providing context for the discussion about Adolescence and its impact on conversations about youth culture and online communication.
* <https://www.netflix.com/Adolescence> - The Netflix page for Adolescence provides access to the series and its description, supporting the claims about its release and content.
* <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/adolescence-sheds-light-shock-hidden-34878581> - Please view link - unable to able to access data