# Parents warned about hidden emoji meanings following Netflix drama



Parents are being warned about the hidden meanings behind emojis commonly used by teenagers in online communications, following the release of the Netflix drama Adolescence. This four-part series centres around the harrowing story of a 13-year-old boy, Jamie Miller, who is accused of murdering a female classmate. The show, which features prominent actor Stephen Graham, has quickly ascended to become the most-watched program on the streaming platform since its release over the weekend.

In the narrative, a significant scene highlights a teenager explaining the nuances of emoji language to his police officer father. Experts, including police officials, have emphasised the importance of parents understanding these codes, which may relate to serious issues such as drug use or the incel community, defined as individuals who feel they are unable to attract romantic partners.

Stephen Graham, who portrays Jamie's father, expressed his motivation for joining the project was rooted in real-life tragedies. He stated, "I just thought, what's going on in society where this kind of thing is becoming a regular occurrence? I just couldn't fathom it. So I wanted to really have a look and try and shine a light on this particular thing."

One key aspect discussed in the series is the symbolism of specific emojis. For instance, the red pill emoji is linked to the "manosphere," a term that includes networks of influencers like Andrew Tate, who are known for promoting overtly misogynistic ideologies. A pivotal scene reveals the teenager Adam explaining to his father, “The red pill is like 'I see the truth'. It's a call to action by the manosphere. She's saying he's an incel dad. She's saying he always will be. That's why they say you're an incel, they're saying you're going to be a virgin forever.”

Moreover, experts have uncovered a range of meanings attributed to other emojis. For example, the presence of the pill, the 100% symbol, and even the kidney bean emoji can indicate a connection to incel identification. They caution parents to be observant regarding these symbols.

The series also elaborates on the significance of coloured hearts in emoji communication. Adam's explanation includes colourful interpretations: red signifies love, purple is associated with sexual desire, yellow indicates interest, pink suggests romantic but non-sexual interest, and orange conveys reassurance. Each colour holds a specific message, revealing layers of meaning that may be overlooked by those unfamiliar.

In addition to sensational emojis, various familiar symbols convey sexual undertones, with icons such as the aubergine and peach often infused with sexual connotations. Simple expressions such as smiley faces or certain hand gestures can carry secret implications depending on context; for instance, the upside-down face might signal annoyance, while the side-eye could suggest illicit behaviour, potentially indicating the transmission of nude images.

In parallel news, Jack Thorne, co-creator of Adolescence, has addressed claims circulating on social media following the show’s unprecedented success. He shared with BBC Two's Newsnight the bizarre questions regarding his masculinity and personal background that he has received, stating, "It's very interesting... it’s been very odd, and it's given me a taste of something that's very strange."

The series has sparked broader discussions, included in debates in Parliament regarding the impact of social media on youth. Thorne expressed a desire to leverage the show's popularity to encourage governmental changes to protect young individuals from harmful online influences. He drew attention to examples such as legislative measures proposed in Australia that seek to hold social media platforms accountable for the underage use of their services.

The ongoing discussions highlight the convergence of social media culture, mental health issues, and real-world violence, as illustrated in the gripping narrative of Adolescence.

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

## References

* <https://www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/entertainment/g64229221/adolescence-emojis-hidden-meaning-explained-netflix/> - This article explains the hidden meanings behind emojis used in Netflix's Adolescence, including the red pill and kidney bean emojis linked to incel culture.
* <https://www.businesstoday.in/visualstories/news/red-pill-100-kidney-bean-netflixs-adolescence-reveals-sinister-emojis-parents-should-know-217979-19-03-2025> - It highlights the sinister meanings of emojis like the red pill and kidney bean, warning parents about their connection to incel culture and drug use.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl_OxVP_fCw> - This video discusses the use of emojis in Netflix's Adolescence, focusing on their hidden meanings and the broader societal implications of such secret languages.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides background information on the Netflix series Adolescence and its impact on discussions about social media and youth safety.
* <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 include analyzing online communications and symbols.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl_OxVP_fCw> - This video also touches on the broader societal issues addressed in Adolescence, such as radicalization and violence, and how these are reflected in real-life events.