# Experts urge parents to decode teenage emoji language amid rise of Netflix series



In the wake of the recent Netflix drama series "Adolescence," experts including police officials are urging parents to become more aware of the hidden meanings behind emojis and other symbols used by teenagers in their online communications. The series, which has quickly ascended to the top of Netflix's viewership charts since its weekend release, prominently features a storyline that touches on serious themes, including teenage violence and the potential influence of social media.

"Adolescence" focuses on a 13-year-old character named Jamie Miller, played by Owen Cooper, who is arrested for the murder of a female classmate. The narrative includes a powerful scene where Jamie explains to his father, a police officer portrayed by actor Stephen Graham, the implications of various emojis. This exchange is indicative of a growing concern regarding how social media and digital communication tools can sometimes facilitate harmful behaviours among youths.

Stephen Graham shared his motivation for participating in the series, stating, "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." His involvement reflects a desire to address contemporary societal issues that resonate with audiences.

Experts are now emphasising the necessity for parents and guardians to educate themselves about the codes and emojis their children might be employing. Certain emojis, such as the red pill and the dynamite emoji, can carry significant connotations related to inceldom—a term denoting individuals who identify as involuntary celibates and generally align with radical ideologies. In "Adolescence," the character Adam explains these associations to his father, stating, "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."

Further complicating the emoji language are colour-coded hearts, each delivering specific messages that extend beyond simple expressions of affection. Adam elucidates this in the series, indicating that: "Red means love, purple horny, yellow 'I'm interested, are you interested?', pink 'I'm interested but not in sex', orange 'you're going to be fine'." Each colour conveys a distinct emotion or intent, which can often be misinterpreted without proper context.

Commonly recognised emojis also have layered meanings; for example, the aubergine and peach are frequently associated with sexual contexts. Various facial emojis can signal different states or intentions—an upside-down face may communicate annoyance, while a side-eye might hint at discussions around sensitive topics like sexting.

With these revelations about emoji meanings gaining traction, the appeal of "Adolescence" reflects broader societal conversations around adolescent behaviour, the implications of digital communication, and the potential perils that lie within. As the show continues to draw viewers and generate dialogue, the intersection of entertainment and education regarding youth culture remains a critical focus for both experts and families navigating these complex issues.

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

## References

* <https://blavity.com/entertainment/adolescence-ending-explained> - This article explains the plot and themes of 'Adolescence,' including its exploration of social media's impact on teenagers and the societal issues it addresses, such as toxic masculinity and bullying.
* <https://time.com/7267884/adolescence-netflix-explained/> - This piece breaks down the series 'Adolescence,' highlighting its focus on themes like social media dangers and societal expectations, particularly in how emojis are used to convey complex messages.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides context on the societal impact of 'Adolescence,' emphasizing the need for parents to understand the hidden meanings behind emojis and symbols used by teenagers.
* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10311201/> - While not directly related to 'Adolescence,' this article discusses the increasing role of digital evidence in criminal investigations, which aligns with the series' themes of digital communication and its implications.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - This document does not directly support the claims about 'Adolescence' but represents a broader context of digital and societal regulations, which can indirectly relate to the themes of digital communication and youth behavior.