

Name: Dhrumil Patel

Text	Andrew Cohen: How Bad Apples Spoil the Whole Bunch https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/09/27/how-bad-apples-spoil-the-whole-bunch
Synthesis	<p>Andrew Cohen's article, <i>How Bad Apples Spoil the Whole Bunch</i>, explores the dangers of willfully ignoring systemic issues in policing. The dangers of such a solution are made painfully clear throughout <i>Somebody</i>, as an attitude of hiding systemic issues from the public further drives racial disparities in law enforcement with black citizens in Chicago.</p> <p>In one of Shapearl's interviews with the police, Shapearl asks, "Did my son call 9-1-1?", and the officer yells back, "You tell me!". While his reply could be attributed to incompetence or willful ignorance, it instead points to a larger attitude of defending, justifying, and excusing the actions of other officers, no matter how egregious. Cohen explains the invalidity of these differing positions by stating how "so many 'good apples' spend so much time defending the 'bad apples' that it becomes hard to tell which apples are which." The focus of defending other officers' actions, regardless of how much collateral damage it does to the perception of law enforcement and the consequent erosion of public trust, makes it clear to Shapearl that she is not exactly fighting an institution of unaccountable officers, so much as she is fighting an ethos of anti-black sentiment held by those with power. Shapearl knows first hand why "the average black family trying to fight against the city in every way [they] can" is unsuccessful because they "hear the doors being slammed in [their face]" when they seek justice and fairness in the systems that govern them. It is exactly this division that encourages an "us vs. them" mentality within black communities against law enforcement.</p> <p>Initially, I believed that an approximate answer to a question from one of our conversations, "why might police officers stand by while their superiors abuse their power?", was that, in high-danger situations like shootings, officers must be efficient about executing a strategy and cannot afford to waste time questioning orders when they can be saving lives. After listening to the <i>Somebody</i> podcast and reading <i>How Bad Apples Spoil the Whole Bunch</i>, I realize that the answer is, as it often is, far more nuanced than I realized. If "bad apple" officers can expect to be defended when abusing their power with citizens, they can likely expect to face very little resistance mistreating other officers, which turns the discussion from one about morality to one about personal safety. In a moment in which a superior is abusing his/her power as a state agent, a police officer may feel pressured to do nothing to guarantee his/her own safety, possibly at the cost of another's life. The phrase "bad apple" is in itself a willful admission of a system that excuses this behaviour - it's a misnomer that distracts from the meaningful conversations that broken families like Shapearl's deserve.</p>

Evaluation Rubric

Reading Mark: 20/20

Criteria	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four
Content – K/U Accurately understands the theme of the media text. Uses specific examples to illustrate understanding.	Inaccurate understanding of theme. Limited support offered. Little to no connection between examples and theme. Choice of secondary text is unrelated.	Some understanding of theme. Examples are not specific. The connection between examples and theme is vague. Choice of secondary text is superficial.	Considerable understanding of theme. Examples (quotes) are well chosen. There is a clear relationship to theme. Choice of secondary text is solid and expands understanding.	Insightful understanding of theme. Examples (quotes) are well chosen and unique. There is a clear relationship to theme. Choice of secondary text is thoughtful and extends understanding.
Text-to-text Connections and Synthesis – T/I Clearly connects the media text to the novel. Synthesis is insightful and clearly worded.	Connection is weak or unclear. Synthesis is off topic or too vague.	Some connections are made but they may be off topic. Some attempt at synthesis is made but it needs clearer definition.	Connections are clear and on topic. Synthesis is concise, supported and specific.	Connections are clear and strong. Insightful information is revealed. Synthesis is concise, insightful, sup/ported and specific.