

Divergent



AUTHOR Veronica Roth

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LA BOOKSHELF KH500

VOICETEXT Yes

LEXILE LEVEL 700L

GRADE EQUIVALENT 5.3

OVERVIEW

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is — she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles to determine who her friends really are — and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes infuriating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers a growing conflict that threatens to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves... or it might destroy her. Debut author Veronica Roth bursts onto the literary scene with the first book in the *Divergent* series - dystopian thrillers filled with electrifying decisions, heartbreaking betrayals, stunning consequences, and unexpected romance.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Plot Diagram
- Character Map
- Character Traits Worksheet

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Unlike most authors, Veronica Roth had a relatively quick journey to literary stardom, with her debut novel *Divergent* landing her on the New York Times best sellers list at the tender age of 22. Roth attended Minnesota's Carleton College for one year before transferring to Northwestern and graduating from the university's prestigious writing program. Literary agent Joanna Stampfel-Volpe of Nancy Coffey Literary recognized potential in Roth and signed her to a contract, securing a publishing deal with HarperCollins only four days after sending out the *Divergent* manuscript.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

• What is a faction?

A small, organized, dissenting group within a larger one, especially in politics.

The five factions in *Divergent*:

Abnegation – The Selfless People in this faction feel that being selfish is what was to blame for the war. They would rather sacrifice their own happiness than see others suffer. They wear plain grey clothing, do not look in mirrors, celebrate birthdays, or show affection in public. They are referred to by other factions as “Stiffs”. The enemy of Erudite.

Amity – The Peaceful/Kind People in this faction feel that war and fighting was to blame for the war. They live in peace—free from sadness and conflict. They are kind to everyone and would never say or do anything to break peace. They wear yellow or red clothing. The enemy of Candor.

Candor – The Honest/Truthful People in this faction feel that dishonesty was to blame for the war. They would rather tell the truth above anything else. They speak their minds, and do not hide their feelings or thoughts, no matter what they are. They wear black and white--a symbol of truth. The enemy of Amity.

Dauntless – The Brave/Courageous People in this faction believe that it is most important to be brave, fearless, and have courage. They blame fear and cowardice for the war. They regularly face their fears, and are not afraid of fighting or being in dangerous situations. They are true thrillseekers. They wear black, provocative clothing and generally have many piercings and tattoos.

Divergent

Erudite – The Intelligent People in this faction are dedicated to knowledge, intelligence, and learning. They blame ignorance (lack of knowledge) for the war. They spend all their time reading and learning new things. Most members wear glasses no matter how perfect their vision is, and each member must wear at least one piece of blue clothing. The enemy of Abnegation.

Have students study these five factions and pick which one they believe they would pick, or be assigned based on their personality traits.

• What is propaganda?

Propaganda is a form of communication that is aimed at influencing the attitude of a community toward some cause or position by presenting only one side of an argument.

Have students look at the following propaganda posters in history and try and determine their meaning. Students may do this in groups.



VOCABULARY

Abnegation (*noun*): renunciation of your own interests in favor of interests of others

Amity (*noun*): a state of friendship and cordiality

Candor (*noun*): the quality of being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech

Dauntless (*adj*): invulnerable to fear or intimidation erudite: having or showing profound knowledge

Divergent (*adj*): going in different directions; differing from each other

Faction (*noun*): a group or clique within a larger group, party or government

Simulation (*noun*): the technique of representing the real world by a computer program

Rebellion (*noun*): refusal to accept some authority or code or convention

Insurgent (*noun*): a person who takes part in an armed rebellion against the constituted authority (especially in the hope of improving conditions)

Sentry (*noun*): a guard, particularly a soldier, posted at a certain spot to keep watch

WRITING PROMPTS

- What purpose does each of the five factions serve in society?
- Do you think these factions represent every basic personality type and fulfill all the basic needs of people?
- What was the reason behind the creation of the factions?
- What does it mean to be divergent? How does Tris encompass these qualities?
- If you were to pick one of the factions to be a part of, which one would you pick and why?

LITERARY DEVICES

Setting

The novel describes the modern day city of Chicago, but as a futuristic, dystopian city where buildings have crumbled, a fence keeps all citizens inside the city, and Lake Michigan has become a swamp.

Symbolism

The members of each faction are dressed in different kinds of clothing:

- Abnegation dresses all in gray to not stand out, and to prevent individualism.
- Amity dresses in red and yellow to support the image of friendliness and happiness.
- Candor dresses in black and white as they see things are one way or another, and never in between.

Divergent

- Dauntless dresses in black and white, and have piercings and tattoos to represent individuality and rebellion.
- Erudite wears blue to represent a cool mind, and rational mind. They are said to put others at ease.

Conflict

Our protagonist, Tris feels many conflicts as she has been taken out of her childhood faction, Abnegation. She is torn between the memories of her childhood in her native faction versus her new position as “Divergent”.

SUPPORTING MEDIA (graphic novels, movies, video clips)

Essay on Defining Dystopia

1984 by George Orwell (Shelf # HV801)

1984 Movie

A Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (Shelf # KM515)

An Introduction to Dystopian Literature

Divergent movie

COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS

- Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS

- Allow students to use audiobooks to read literature
- Allow kinesthetic and tactile learners to produce collage, art piece, play, or song to represent writing prompts (students will then present to class)
- Allow students to work in groups or pairs on one large project with each student working on their individual strength for each aspect of project
- Allow speech to text technology for essays
- Read questions aloud during any type of examination or worksheet
- Use audiobooks or reading aloud to class while students follow along

RESOURCES

www.lee.k12.nc.us/cms/lib03/NC01001912/Centricity/Domain/1777/DivergentBackgroundInformation.pdf

www.shmoop.com/divergent/symbolism-imagery.html

www.epicreads.com/authors/veronica-roth/327/