



Divergent by Veronica Roth

About the author:

Veronica Roth is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Divergent*, *Insurgent*, *Allegiant*, and *Four: A Divergent Collection*. Now a full-time writer, Ms. Roth and her husband live near Chicago.

Source: HarperCollins Canada (<http://www.harpercollins.ca/>)

About this book:

This first book in Veronica Roth's #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Divergent* trilogy is the novel that inspired the major motion picture starring Shailene Woodley, Theo James, and Kate Winslet. This dystopian series set in a futuristic Chicago has captured the hearts of millions of teen and adult readers.

Perfect for fans of the *Hunger Games* and *Maze Runner* series, *Divergent* and its sequels, *Insurgent* and *Allegiant*, are the gripping story of a dystopian world transformed by courage, self-sacrifice, and love. Fans of the *Divergent* movie will find the book packed with just as much emotional depth and exhilarating action as the film, all told in beautiful, rich language.

One choice can transform you. Beatrice Prior's society is divided into five factions—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). Beatrice must choose between staying with her Abnegation family and transferring factions. Her choice will shock her community and herself. But the newly christened Tris also has a secret, one she's determined to keep hidden, because in this world, *what makes you different makes you dangerous.*

April 2016



Source: HarperCollins Canada (<http://www.harpercollins.ca/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. What purpose does each of the five factions serve in society? What personality types are drawn toward each faction? Do you think these factions represent every basic personality type and fulfill all the basic needs of people? If not, what faction(s) would you create to fill in any gaps?
2. What was the reason behind the creation of the factions? Do you think the factions are working “toward a better society and a better world” (p. 44) as they say they are? What about the structure seems to be working for Tris’s society? What doesn’t seem to be working at all?
3. What faction do you think you would have been born into, given your family and its values? Which faction would you select at your Choosing Ceremony? Why? How would you feel about making a decision that would determine your life’s course at the age of sixteen?
4. What choices have you made that have changed you? What future choices will you also make, and how do you think that they will change you?
5. How does the idea of “faction before blood” come into play throughout the book? Do you think this idea has a place in today’s society, or is it contrary to what most people believe? In our society, what ideas and beliefs are people loyal to in the way Tris’s society is loyal to the concept of the factions?
6. Why is Tris’s government run only by members of Abnegation? Do you think this is a good idea? Do you agree with her father’s statement that

April 2016



“valuing knowledge above all else results in a lust for power, and that leads men into dark and empty places” (p. 35)? Why or why not?

7. What does it mean to be factionless in Tris’s society? How does a person become factionless?

8. Tris says about Candor, “It must require bravery to be honest all the time”. Do you agree? Which do you think is a braver faction, Dauntless or Candor? Would you like to live in a society like Candor, where everyone tells the truth no matter how hard it is to hear?

9. During initiation, is it selfish of Tris to crave victory, or is it brave? Do Tris’s friends have a right to be jealous when she’s ranked above them? If you were Tris, would you forgive them for their reactions?

10. How does initiation change and transform Tris? Do you think she made the right faction choice? How do you think she might have changed if she had chosen one of the other factions?

11. What is the difference between being fearless and learning to control your fears? Do you believe anyone can be truly fearless? What does Tris mean when she says that “half of bravery is perspective” (p. 458)?

12. Is Four’s desire to be “brave, and selfless, *and* smart, *and* kind, *and* honest” (p. 405) realistic in the society in which he lives? Think of examples of people in our own world who successfully bridge different cultures, perspectives, or ways of living.

13. Tris’s mom says, “Human beings as a whole cannot be good for long before the bad creeps back in and poisons us again” (p. 441). Do you



agree or disagree? Why?

14. At the beginning of the book, Tris does not understand what it means to be Divergent. How do you think she would explain it by the end of the book?

Source: HarperCollins Canada (<http://www.harpercollins.ca/>)

Other formats available at Halifax Public Libraries:

- Audiobook (on CD and as digital download)
- DVD (Adaptation)
- eBook