

Deciphered Divergent

Divergent

By Veronica Roth

Harper Collins

Science Fiction

487 pages

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By Julia S

Where will she go? Will she belong? Who will she become?

In Veronica Roth's novel *Divergent*, the protagonist, Tris, asks herself these questions as she chooses the path that will determine the rest of her life. Tris was born into a society known as the faction Abnegation but never felt like she belonged. Now, it is time for her to decide to stay or move, which will change who she is.

Tris has a choice between five different factions and to determine the best fit she takes a simulation. "Beatrice [Tris] your results were inconclusive," she is told after the simulation. "In your case, only two have been ruled out," is an unusual case when four of the factions are usually eliminated. At this moment Tris discovers that she is Divergent and she must lie to protect herself from others who think Divergence is a disease.

Tris chooses a new faction at the choosing ceremony. It ends and Tris will no longer see her family ever again. She will live in a separate society and must go through training until she fits in. Her first task is to jump onto a moving train.

"Welcome to Dauntless," are the first words she hears to start the beginning of her new life with the name Tris. It all starts here but does she belong?

Throughout the rest of the book Tris tries to find who she is and if she will ever belong in this new world. The motivation Tris gets from her trainer leads her to the top of the initiation class. Unfortunately for Tris, this causes her to lose the only friends she made and have enemies that hate her. Therefore, Tris's enemy, Peter, and his gang take Tris and hang her over the railing protecting people from the deadly chasm. Tobias, her trainer, saves her and helps her get back to a stable state of mind after she is traumatized by the event. Throughout the remainder of the novel Tris knows she belongs due to the connection with Tobias.

Veronica Roth wrote two more novels in the trilogy, called *Insurgent* and *Allegiant*. In addition to these books based on *Divergent*, she also wrote four short stories from the point of view of Tobias that take place in the same time as *Divergent*. She also has the film rights for the movie *Divergent* that will be coming out on March 21, 2014.

Although *Divergent* is an amazing book it is not a stellar book. One problem about the book was that it jumped to conclusions too quickly or just left conclusions open ended with no possible inference to be made. This was not great because when someone asked me what happened in a chapter; I couldn't finish the thought because there is no distinct ending to the chapter. Another weakness is the book is an easy read. This is a weakness because it left little room for amazing details and explanations where they needed.

The fact that *Divergent* is an easy read is also a strength because I was able to enjoy the content of the novel to the fullest. While reading the novel I felt like I couldn't stop because it was so enticing with the feeling of having many different genres mixed into one. My favorite aspect of *Divergent* was that I felt like the entire book was a metaphor for finding oneself. Tris finds out who she is and where she is supposed to belong.

Divergent is an outstanding book to read on your own but I think it is an even better book to read in class. There is so much meaning behind the words that are important when growing up that might be hard to find reading the novel alone. I definitely recommend this book to students from 6th – 12th grade. All of them will enjoy *Divergent* due to the mature concepts of finding the meaning of the book and the fun of just enjoying the book.