

Dear Educator,

Jump-start your language arts activities in the new year with the *Divergent* series by Veronica Roth. These #1 bestsellers and the films based on the first two books are favorites among teens and adults alike, and the films based on the first two books in the series were both blockbusters. Now buzz is building for the third movie, *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*, based on the third book in the series, which premieres in March 2016.

You can tap into your students' excitement about this upcoming film by reading the *Divergent* series together, before the film's premiere, with these thought-provoking, standards-based activities developed by curriculum specialists Young Minds Inspired (YMI) in cooperation with HarperCollins Publishers.

Share this program with other teachers in your school. The materials are copyrighted, but you may make as many copies as necessary.

Please comment online at ymiclassroom.com/divergentseries. We depend on your feedback to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

 Questions?
Contact us
toll-free at 1-800-859-8005
or by e-mail at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

THE DIVERGENT SERIES



FROM BOOKS TO THE BIG SCREEN

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is designed for English language arts students in grades 6-8.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To use bestselling young adult books and an upcoming film release to encourage reading and imagination.
- To familiarize students with elements of fiction such as plot, character traits, and development.
- To encourage students to practice reading comprehension strategies such as comparing, contrasting, and predicting.

Common Core Alignment: The activities align with Common Core Standards for English Language Arts. For details, visit ymiclassroom.com/divergentseries.

ABOUT THE SERIES

Divergent: 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). She must choose between staying with her Abnegation family or transferring factions. 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*.

Insurgent: Tris's initiation day should have been marked by celebration and victory. Instead, it ended with unspeakable horrors. Conflict between the factions grows. Sides must be chosen, secrets emerge, and choices become even more irrevocable — and even more powerful. Transformed by her own decisions, Tris must fully embrace her Divergence, even if she does not know what she may lose by doing so.

Allegiant: When offered a chance to explore the world past the limits they've known, Tris and Tobias (also known as Four) are ready to find a new, uncomplicated life together. But Tris's new reality is even more alarming than the one she left behind. And once again, Tris must battle to comprehend the complexities of human nature while facing impossible choices about courage, allegiance, sacrifice, and love.

Four: A Divergent Collection: A companion volume, told from the perspective of Tobias, give readers a fascinating glimpse into the history and heart of Tobias, and sets the stage for the epic saga of the *Divergent* trilogy.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

First, read the short plot synopses to students to familiarize or remind them of the story. The first activity focuses on *Divergent*, the second on *Insurgent*, and the third on *Allegiant*. Schedule the activities during the weeks leading up to the opening of the film *The Divergent Series: Allegiant* in March 2016. Offer extension activities that challenge students to compare and contrast the books and the films.

ACTIVITY 1 THE FIVE FACTIONS

This activity centers on the first book and focuses on identifying and sorting character traits found in specific personality types, based on the factions in *Divergent*. Ask students to choose only one of the following adjectives to describe themselves: selfless, peaceful, honest, brave, or intelligent. Explain that in *Divergent*, society is divided into five factions, and then write a persuasive essay describing which faction would fit their personality best.

Then have students imagine they are the author, Veronica Roth, and have them come up with more character traits for people in each faction. Have students write a persuasive paragraph or essay about which faction would fit them best, based on their own personality traits.

Extension Activity: Ask the students to work in groups to create scripts for a movie trailer, focusing on the two prominent themes in *Divergent*: social class and personal identity.

ACTIVITY 2 CONFLICT AND CHANGE

In this activity, students will focus on how the main characters change over time. Begin by discussing character arcs. Remind students that as a plotline progresses, some events strengthen character, other events change it entirely. Often, it's a combination of both.

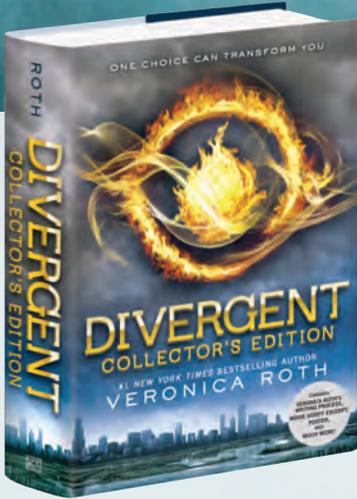
Ask the students to read quotes from Tris and Tobias, taken from *Divergent* and *Insurgent*. Then, based on the quotes, have students write a descriptive paragraph about Tris's or Tobias's character development, comparing and contrasting his or her character traits from one book to the other.

Extension Activity: Ask the students to work in groups to create and act out scripts for a movie trailer, focusing on the two prominent themes in *Insurgent* — betrayal and sacrifice.

ACTIVITY 3 YOU ARE THE DIRECTOR

After reading a plot summary of *Allegiant*, have students focus on point-of-view as they consider how to create a film featuring two different characters' versions of events. Tell them that in the third book, the author switches point of view from Tris to Tobias on an alternating basis. What are the ramifications of this technique? Suggest that students read *Four* — the book from Tobias's point of view.

Then have students answer the questions as if they were going to direct a movie based on *Allegiant*. Remind them that the third movie is being released on March 2016, so they can see how well their predictions match up with the actual director's choices.



THE FIVE FACTIONS

In *Divergent*, Veronica Roth's mesmerizing debut novel, Tris Prior is turning 16 — but she's not having a party. Instead, she's forced to make a devastating choice that will either transform her or destroy her. And the consequences make for a gripping, electrifying tale of a dangerous, dystopian society.

In Tris's world, society is divided into five factions based on five dominant personality traits. Fill in the boxes on the chart with adjectives that further describe the members of each faction.

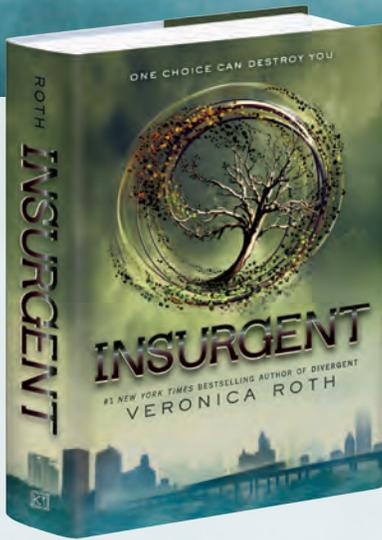
				
ABNEGATION	AMITY	CANDOR	DAUNTLESS	ERUDITE
SELFLESS	PEACEFUL	HONEST	BRAVE	INTELLIGENT

TM & © Veronica Roth 2012

Now imagine that you are about to be assigned to a faction. Where would you fit in? What would you choose to do with your life? What kind of people would you want to live with? On a separate sheet, write about which faction would be best for you based on your dominant personality traits.



ONE CHOICE CAN TRANSFORM YOU
 READ THE ENTIRE DIVERGENT SERIES
 TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO EPICREADS.COM/DIVERGENT.
SEE THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT,
 OPENING IN THEATERS MARCH 2016.



CONFLICT AND CHANGE

In the first book of the *Divergent* series, Tris made the life-changing choice about which faction to join, but now she's realized that that choice could destroy her. As friends betray her and war rages between the factions, Tris isn't sure whom to trust, including her friend Tobias (also known as Four), who works in the Dauntless (brave) faction and trains initiates. All she knows is that she has to try to save those she loves — and in doing so, save herself.

Here are quotes from Tris and Four, taken from *Divergent* and *Insurgent*. What do their statements tell you about their character traits? How have they changed over the course of the two books? How have they stayed the same?

DIVERGENT TRIS

"People tend to overestimate my character," I say quietly. "They think that because I'm small, or a girl, or a Stiff, I can't possibly be cruel. But they're wrong."

"Can you be a girl for a few seconds?"
"I'm always a girl," I frown.

"I am selfish. I am brave."

"I will save my family. And whatever happens after that doesn't matter."

INSURGENT TRIS

"I don't really understand why he likes me so much. I'm not very nice, am I?"

"Don't call me little girl."

"[Tobias] still believes that I am strong. Strong enough that I don't need his sympathy. I used to think he was right, but now I am not sure."

"I thought I had gotten to the point where I didn't need my brother anymore, but I don't think such a point actually exists."

DIVERGENT FOUR

"... I am deeply suspicious of people in general. It is my nature to expect the worst of them."

"I want to be brave, and selfless, and smart, and kind, and honest."

"Becoming fearless isn't the point. That's impossible. It's learning how to control your fear, and how to be free from it."

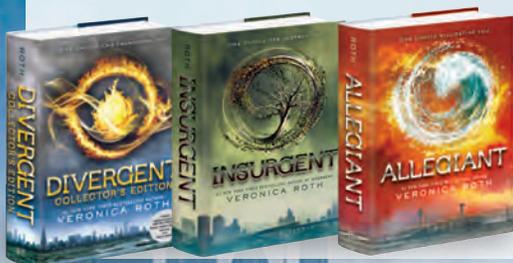
INSURGENT FOUR

"Sleep," he says. "I'll fight the bad dreams off if they come to get you."

"I'll be your family now," he says.

"I can't be in anyone's debt. Okay? The idea that I owed you something made me sick."

Now, on a separate sheet, write a descriptive paragraph about Tris's or Tobias's character development, comparing and contrasting their character traits as the story progresses. Support your writing with quotes from this sheet.



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