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# Divergent

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Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*. New York: Harper Collins, 2012. PZ7.R7375 Di 2011.

“But our minds move in a dozen different directions. We can’t be confined to one way of thinking, and that terrifies our leaders. It means we can’t be controlled. And it means that no matter what they do, we will always cause trouble for them.” – page 442

After the war, society divided into five different factions: Abnegation, Amity, Candor, Dauntless, and Erudite. Each faction is unique, but the key difference between factions is that in attributing the war to a specific – and in every faction, a different – character flaw, each faction now values the opposing virtue above all else. The Abnegation faction values selflessness, Amity values kindness, Candor values truthfulness, the Dauntless faction values bravery, and Erudite values knowledge.

To determine in which faction they best fit, sixteen-year-olds of every faction take an aptitude test before attending the Choosing Ceremony, where they must decide if they will become an initiate of their home faction or forsake it by permanently transferring to become an initiate of another. Beatrice Prior has recently turned sixteen. She is torn between staying with her family in Abnegation and choosing a different faction where she can be true to herself. But when her aptitude test results are inconclusive, Beatrice realizes that her problem may be more serious than she realized: Beatrice is Divergent.

*Divergent* is the first book in Veronica Roth’s dystopian trilogy. Set in a future Chicago, the story follows Beatrice, also known as Tris, as she struggles to determine who she is, who her friends are, what her relationship is to her initiate instructor, Four, and what she ultimately wants from life. As if that weren’t enough, Tris’s problems continue to increase: powerful people are hunting the Divergent, while life within and between the factions may not be as ideal as it seems. Roth easily combines a quick pace and a range of characters – and consequently, a range of relationships – with a central theme applicable to all readers, making *Divergent* a book that is very hard to put down.