

## **Chapter 4**

### ***Divergent* Trilogy and Popular Culture**

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#### 4.1. Introduction

Veronica Roth is a very young author. She was born in 1988 and began writing from a very young age. Her vast reading of literary works shaped her interest in writing and she was highly inspired by Lois Lowry, especially from Lowry's young adult dystopian novel *The Giver* (1993). *The Giver* is considered by many writers and critics as a prototype or the first original young adult dystopian novel. Roth completed her graduation in 2010 from Northwestern University. It is to be noted here that Roth studied creative writing at the University. She was able to publish her first novel *Divergent* in 2011, when she was just 23 years old. It was during the winter break of her senior year that Roth had written the first draft of *Divergent*. Along with *The Hunger Games* trilogy, Roth's *Divergent* trilogy is the most well-known series in the young adult dystopian category.

Roth was born on August 19, 1988 in New York. She grew up as the youngest of three children in Barrington, Illinois, which is an affluent suburb situated northwest of Chicago. Her parents were separated when she was five, and she describes herself as a serious and intense child. After the divorce of her parents, Roth lived with her mother, an artist and painter who read books to Roth every night. Roth acknowledges that this creative environment shaped her creativity as a writer. As Roth grew older, she began writing and took the craft seriously, which eventually led her to pursue a creative writing degree from Northwestern University. Her life and experiences in the Chicago and nearby places prompted her to place *Divergent* in a futuristic version of the Midwest City.

Roth was taking classes in psychology when the idea for *Divergent* first came to her. In these classes, she learned about exposure therapy, a phobia treatment that involves the process of confronting your fears regularly, and the well-known Milgram experiment, which tested the loyalty of people to figures of authority. The influence of these studies can be seen in her emphasis on personality traits, phobias, rankings, and hierarchies as described in the novels. Roth's personality also influenced her decision to make Tris, protagonist of the *Divergent* series, some sort of daredevil. In contrast to the character of Tris, Roth suffers from the problem of anxiety disorder and does not take physical risks. However, in an interview with the *Chicago Tribune*, she says she stepped out of her comfort zone by temporarily relocating to Romania, getting married young and cutting her hair short.

Roth's mother grew up feeling oppressed by the religious beliefs of her parents, who were Polish concentration camp survivors, so she raised her own daughter non-religious. However, after Roth joined a Bible study group during high school, she became an ardent and devout Christian. She wrote from a religious perspective throughout her time at Northwestern University, and some critics read *Divergent* through that framework. In the book, Tris mentions that she was baptized as an infant and implies that she believes in God, suggesting that she is a Christian. Additionally, Roth's first acknowledgment at the end of *Divergent* thanks God for his son and blessings. She also notes that certain scenes were inspired by songs of Flyleaf and Evanescence, both popular bands in the Christian rock community. Still, Roth makes it clear in interviews and on her blog that *Divergent* has no intention of preaching any particular message, Christian or

not. Rather, she hopes to encourage readers to reflect on the meaning of virtue and whether being good should be an important goal in life.

When Roth started *Divergent*, she wanted to write a utopian novel. However, she soon realized that a world where everyone strives to be perfect could actually be an unsettling, even terrifying place. The book thus became a dystopian novel, a popular genre in contemporary young adult literature. As we have discussed before, Dystopian Fiction deals with themes like understanding oneself and protesting against totalitarian governments and regimes, this turns the genre into an intriguing format for young readers in general. Though Roth says she was unaware of Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games series when she wrote *Divergent*, the two trilogies share many themes. Both the novel series are set in futuristic societies. *Divergent* is set in an alternate Chicago, while Panem in *The Hunger Games* is a fictional country in North America. Both series feature capable teenage female protagonists struggling against the limitations society has placed on them as individuals. Both these novel series also have a common bird motif: crows and bird tattoos in the *Divergent* series are reminiscent of the mockingjay bird in *The Hunger Games*' series.

The aim of this chapter is to have a look at the multifaceted inculcation of the *Divergent* trilogy in popular culture. The chapter concentrates on the importance of dystopian fiction, especially young adult dystopian literature as a literary subgenre at present. This chapter focuses on the close analysis and cross examination of the novel series and its tremendous and continuing impact on the society which includes a number of factors ranging from the book sales, film adaptation and the exhibition exclusively based on the novel and film series.

#### 4.1.1. Divergent and the Publisher: Harper Collins

All the books in the Divergent series are published by Harper Collins publishers. HarperCollins Publishers LLC is one of the largest English-language publishing companies in the world. The headquarters of the company is in New York and is a subsidiary of News Corp. News Corp or News Corporation is an American media and publishing company operating across digital real estate information, news media, book publishing, and cable television. Harper Collins has regional offices in several countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and India. The publisher also has many imprints like Amistad, Anthony Bourdain Books, Dey Street Books, Harper Perennial, Harper Voyager, Katherine Tegen Books, and William Morrow Books.

*Divergent* was first published by Katherine Tegen Books in April 2011. *Insurgent* was first published by Katherine Tegen Books in May 2012 and *Allegiant* was released in October 2013. Before the release of *Allegiant*, a companion book to the trilogy titled *The World of Divergent: The Path to Allegiant* was released online. As the follow up to the series, a short story collection titled *Four: A Divergent Collection* was released in July 2014 by HarperCollins. This collection serves as the prequel to the Divergent novels. Roth concluded the series with the short story, “We Can Be Mended” (2018), also published by HarperCollins.

Harper Collins/ Katherine Tegen Books also published Roth’s latest young adult science fiction novels: *Carve the Mark* (2017) and its sequel *The Fates Divide* (2018). Roth’s collection of science fiction short stories for young adults *The End and Other*

*Beginnings* was also published by Harper Collins in October 2019. Her upcoming dystopian novel, *Poster Girl*, is also under the banner of Harper Collins.

#### 4.1.2. Bestseller List and Copies Sold

The book debuted at number six on *The New York Times* Children's Chapter Books Best Seller list on May 22, 2011, and remained on the list for 11 weeks. It also spent 39 weeks on the Children's Paperback list in 2012, reaching number one. The Times changed its Children's Best Seller lists in December 2012, eliminating the Children's Paperback list and recognizing "middle grade" and "young adult" books separately; *Divergent* continued its run on the new Young Adult Best Seller list. The novel stayed on the list for 47 weeks until November 3, 2013. According to *Publishers Weekly*, the combined three volumes of the Divergent series sold over 6.7 million copies in 2013 (three million hardcovers, 1.7 million paperbacks, and just under two million e-books). In the lead-up to the release of the film adaptation, Roth's novel topped *USA Today's* Best-Selling Books list in January 2014.

Angela Chen from *The Wall Street Journal* reports that the Divergent trilogy sold more than thirty two million copies as of March 2015. Natalie Robehmed from the *Forbes* Magazine placed Veronica Roth as the sixth top earning author of the financial year 2013-14. She writes: "Young adult author Veronica Roth ranks 6<sup>th</sup> on account of her "Divergent" trilogy which sold a combined 6.7 million copies in 2013, earning her around \$17 million from print and ebook sales between June 2013 and June 2014. She also benefited from the book's 2014 film adaption, which grossed \$270 million at the

global box office. At just 26, Roth is the youngest newcomer on the ranking, and one of seven women on the 17-person list.”

Veronica Roth is one of three newcomers to the highest earning authors list in 2014, alongside Gillian Flynn and John Green. She joins the rankings thanks to the runaway success of "Divergent", a young adult trilogy which propelled her to \$17 million in earnings. The dystopian novels have sold more than 7 million copies in the U.S. over the last 12 months alone. "Divergent"'s 2014 film adaption grossed more than \$270 million worldwide. Roth penned the trilogy's first novel, "Divergent," while on winter break during her senior year at Northwestern University. The 26-year-old is also the youngest author on the ranking; she boasts 350,000 Twitter followers.

Forbes ranked Veronica Roth as the second best earning author of the year 2015. Both John Green and Roth were newcomers to the Top-Earning Authors ranking in 2014. Green's income leaped \$17 million on last year's \$9 million paycheck, while Roth's earnings increased \$8 million. All told, Young Adult (YA) authors pocketed a combined \$83 million this year, up 53% from the \$54 million haul top-earning YA authors recorded in 2014. “When a great book finds a new life on the big screen, it drives people who have never discovered them from movies to the books,” explained Ellie Berger, president of Trade Publishing at Scholastic, the house responsible for Harry Potter and The Hunger Games series. According to Berger, publishers can see more than a 10 percentage increase in book sales around the time a movie version is released. “Once the movie comes and goes, we are still able to sell strongly as we do now with the Hunger Games,” Berger said earlier this year.



Hunger Games author Suzanne Collins banked an estimated \$13 million in the last 12 months, thanks in part to the success of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*, which grossed \$752 million worldwide. Though the Hunger Games trilogy no longer records the riotous sales it once did -- 27.7 million copies in 2012 alone -- Collins' earnings are bolstered by the movie versions of the novels. In fact, three of the four authors on the ranking saw adaptations of their books hit the silver screen during our scoring period. *The Fault in Our Stars* grossed \$307 million worldwide on a \$12 million budget last year, helping shift 3.5 million copies of the book domestically. (Its movie tie-in version sold some 900,000 copies alone.)

Roth, the youngest author on the list, had a similarly stellar run at the box office. The \$110 million adaptation of her second book, *Insurgent*, grossed \$295 million at the global box office in 2015, while 2014's *Divergent* clocked \$288 million. The 26-year-old's 2014 book sales saw a lift, too: The *Divergent* trilogy shifted 3.9 million units in 2014. The multi-million dollar publicity budgets swirling around these films boosts awareness for the books, which already have a die-hard fan base. That youthful crowd aligns with frequent moviegoers: people aged 12-17 is just 8% of the population but represent 14% of tickets sold in 2014 according to the MPAA. Consider the built-in PG rating, which appeals to risk-averse studios, and you've got a cinematic winner that aids print sales. At 26, Roth is the youngest member of Hollywood's power-authors club, with her *Divergent* trilogy inheriting the YA mantle from *Hunger Games* and *Twilight*.

*The Hollywood Reporter* magazine prepared a list of Hollywood's 25 Most Powerful Authors in 2014. These writers were ranked on the basis of their influence on films and media until that time. J.K. Rowling was ranked first in this list and it contained

the names of pioneering writers like Stephen King, George R.R. Martin, Hilary Mantel, and Cormac McCarthy. *The Hunger Games'* author Suzanne Collins, whose works are also crucial to this thesis, is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in this list. The 26 year old Veronica Roth is the youngest writer of this influential Hollywood authors list with her *Divergent* trilogy pursuing the steps of *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight* series.

#### **4.1.3. Book Reviews and Ratings**

*Divergent* trilogy received positive reviews from most of the critics. More than the critics, famous authors like James Dashner and Melissa Marr who praised the series on various platforms. James Dashner, author of *The Maze Runner* series wrote that “DIVERGENT is a captivating, fascinating book that kept me in constant suspense and was never short on surprises. It will be a long time before I quit thinking about this haunting vision of the future.” Melissa Marr, bestselling author of young adult fantasy series *Wicked Lovely* described *Divergent* as “A taut and shiveringly exciting read! Tris is exactly the sort of unflinching and fierce heroine I love. I couldn’t turn the pages fast enough.”

Sandra Scholes in her review for the *Fantasy Book Review* website writes: “With over four-hundred-and-eighty pages *Divergent* and its later novels in the series are something to invest time in, like the Harry Potter and *The Hunger Games* series. Tris, like Katniss, is the sort of heroine teens will warm to as there is something of her in all of us.” She gave the series a rating of 9 out of 10. Susan Dominus from the *New York Times* says that “*Divergent*” holds its own in the genre, with brisk pacing, lavish flights of imagination and writing that occasionally startles with fine detail.

Hans Han from *The Guardian* reviewed *Divergent* like this: “The book was very intriguing from the very start to the end. The plot line was unique and kept me reading. Many people say it is just like *The Hunger Games*, but I have read and enjoyed both books and I can tell you they are very different. I would recommend this book to people who enjoy adventure books and love books like *The Hunger Games*.” Sandie Angulo Chen in her review for the book, films and entertainment review website *Common Sense Media* calls *Divergent* an exciting, violent dystopian thriller which is original, addictive. She also gave the book a rating of 5 out of 5. Again, Sandie Angulo Chen writes about *Insurgent* as an excellent dystopian sequel is terrifically twisty, intense. She once again gives *Insurgent* a rating of 5 out of 5.

AT Ross writes in the *Fantasy Book Review* writes: “*Insurgent* is a remarkable adventure which I enjoyed almost more than *Divergent*. Roth's terse and clipped writing style keeps the story ripping along at breakneck speed, a prose style as utilitarian and unadorned as the world it describes.” Ross also says that *Insurgent* and gives it a rating of 9 out of 10. When it comes to the last part of the trilogy *Allegiant*, Sandie Angulo Chen from the *Common Sense Media* calls the book as the “Controversial finale to a thrilling dystopian trilogy”. Chen gave the book a rating of 4 out of 5. Nicole B. for the *Pikes Peak Library District* reviews *Allegiant* saying that “Overall, it is a very good book”. She gives the book a four star rating indicating that the novel is really good.

From the part of Indian writers, Mumbai based novelist, journalist and book reviewer Kankana Basu describes the *Divergent* trilogy as “An exceptionally well-written trilogy that is an ode to people who dare to be different and refuse to be pigeonholed”.

We can have a look at the reviews provided by readers on online shopping sites and social cataloging sites. These ratings and reviews help us understand the reception of the books by reading public and their impact on popular culture. Let us go through the ratings on amazon, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, and Goodreads.

*Divergent* has a rating of 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon from 22,991 global ratings from all around the world. It is quite an interesting fact to note that 72 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 18 percentage gave it a four star rating. This proves to us how popular the book is among the reading public. On Amazon, *Insurgent* is having a rating of 4.6 out of 5 from 19,320 ratings. Again, seventy two percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and eighteen percentage gave it a four star rating. *Allegiant* has a rating of 3.9 out of 5 on Amazon from 24,386 ratings. Fifty one percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and seventeen percentage gave it a four star rating.

On the social cataloging website Goodreads, *Divergent* has a rating of 4.16 out of 5 based on the ratings from 3,478,902 readers. *Insurgent* has a rating of 3.99 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 1,350,374 readers. *Allegiant* has a rating of 3.61 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 952,136 people. On the online bookstore Barnes & Noble, *Divergent* has a rating of 4.6, *Insurgent* has a rating of 4.6, and *Allegiant* has a rating of 3.4.

From the Indian perspective, *Divergent* has a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on the Indian shopping site Flipkart. *Insurgent* has a rating of 4.4 out of 5 on the website. *Allegiant* has been given a rating of 4.6 by the customers.

#### 4.1.4. Editions and Reprints

The first edition of *Divergent* was published in the USA on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011. This was followed by several editions and reprints. Only the important editions and reprints are discussed here. *Insurgent*'s first edition was published on May 1, 2012 by Katherine Tegen Books. The first edition of *Allegiant* was published by HarperCollins and Katherine Tegen Books on October 22, 2013. Joel Tippie was the cover artist for all the first editions of the *Divergent* trilogy.

The second paperback edition of *Divergent* was published in the UK on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 by HarperCollins Children's Books. First edition of *Insurgent* was published in the UK by Harper Collins Children's Books on May 1, 2012. *Allegiant*'s edition in this series was published in the UK by Harper Collins Children's Books on October 22, 2013. A new Black Paperback Edition of the Divergent Trilogy was released on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 by HarperCollins UK.

The Movie Tie-in Edition of *Divergent* with photographs taken by Nicolas Delort was first published in the US by Katherine Tegen Books on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014. In relation with this edition, the Film Tie In edition of *Divergent* was published in the UK on the same date by HarperCollins UK. The Film Tie In edition of *Insurgent* was published on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 in the US by Katherine Tegen Books and in the UK by HarperCollins UK respectively. The Movie Tie-In / Film Tie In edition of *Allegiant* was published by HarperCollins and Katherine Tegen Books on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2016.

A four book box set of the Divergent series including the short story collection *Four: A Divergent Collection* was released specially in India by Harper Collins on

November 1, 2015. A new paperback edition of *Divergent* with red cover and the illustrations of crows was published on December 31, 2015 by HarperCollins Children's Books. Editions of *Insurgent* and *Allegiant* in this series was also published on the same date. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the series including *Four: A Divergent Collection* was released by HarperCollins Children's Books on September 2, 2021. This is the latest edition of the series published to this date.



Divergent series 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition (Copyright: HarperCollins Publishers,  
<https://www.harpercollins.com/pages/childrens-divergent-10-anniversary-event>)

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#### 4.1.5. Official Websites, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook Pages

Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation owns the digital rights of the film series and the official movie and novel merchandise. This media corporation handles the official website of the Divergent franchise. The website provides comprehensive information about the series and features the “Dauntless Fear Simulator” which is an open-world VR experience that invites fans of the Divergent franchise to take on their fears. Lionsgate also manages attractions based on the Divergent franchise in different

parts of the world including China and Dubai. Links to the Facebook, twitter and instagram pages are also provided in the website.

Divergent movie has a website on its own. The website is with the domain name [divergentthemovie.com](http://divergentthemovie.com). All the factions from the novel like Abnegation, Dauntless and Erudite are explained effectively on the website. The website also has subsections including a gallery, link to the books and an about the film section.

Veronica Roth has a dedicated website to promote her works. The website is called [veronicarothbooks.com](http://veronicarothbooks.com) and it features detailed information of all the books written by Roth from *Divergent* to the upcoming novel *Poster Girl*. In a special section of the website named classroom, PDF copies of discussion guides on *Divergent* and *Insurgent* are provided for school teachers and librarians. The website also provides the links to Veronica Roth's official social accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

Divergent series has an official twitter account which is named Divergent Series itself. It is the exclusive account for the book series. This verified twitter account was created on April 2014. It features the images of the three novels and the short story collection *Four*. The account is having 107K followers as of now.

The Divergent film series has a separate twitter account which goes by the name TheDivergentSeries @Divergent. It features the film poster showing the main cast of the film series. This verified account was created on February 2011 and it is followed by 533.7K followers.

Divergent@ DivergentSeries is the official Facebook page of the book series. This Facebook page is liked by 2,880,181 people and followed by 2,844,054 people. The

Divergent movie trilogy has an official Facebook account named Divergent Series @TheDivergentSeries. This page is liked by 5,377,364 people and followed by 5,342,401 people. It also features 146,598 reviews which rated the films with five stars.

The official Instagram account of the Divergent franchise is named thedivergentseries. This instagram account has shared 1,140 posts and has a number of 584K followers. It features the images of the books, cast of the film series, quotes from the books and films, and images of Veronica Roth.

<https://divergentofficial.tumblr.com/> is the official tumblr account of the Divergent series. This account is not active currently but it features detailed information of the series and provides links to the Facebook and the twitter accounts of the series.

#### **4.1.6. Fan Sites, Groups, and YouTube Channels / Videos**

The Divergent Life is a specialised fan site dedicated to the fandom of the Divergent series. This website provides extensive information about the series and is divided into sections like the books, the movie, the author, the factions, and the music. In addition, the fan site provides information about the companion books to the series including *Divergent: Official Movie Companion* and *Inside Divergent: The Initiate's World*. It also provides the links official websites of the Divergent series including the Divergent Series Facebook Page and the page of Divergent on HarperCollins website.

There is an official fan group of the series on Facebook. This group is called Divergent Series: Official Fan Group and is public (open for anyone to join). The group includes 2.8k members and it has several features like the community home and an



events section. Divergent fan club is another fan group of the series on Facebook and it has 10 members and 10 likes.

Divergent Wiki is a Wikipedia like website which provides the most comprehensive information available on the internet about the Divergent series. The website includes 29 sections on *Divergent* and one of these sections is about the differences between the novel and film adaptation of *Divergent*. Detailed descriptions of all the characters in the series are also provided on the website. This page also discusses the themes in the series and the reception of the book series by the public including the awards it received and the film adaptations.

Divergent series also has a fan group on the book review site Goodreads. This fan group is titled the DIVERGENT FAN CLUB. This is a public group and it has a number of 2178 members. There are also other Divergent fan clubs on Goodreads and the most popular among these are the Diverge into Divergent group and the Divergent Series (Veronica Roth) group.

Lauren Levitt from the Department of Communication, Tulane University conducted a wonderful thematic research on the reception and political discussions based on the Divergent series on fan forums titled “Divergent Fan Forums and Political Consciousness Raising”. Let us have a look at her conclusion from the study:

A thematic analysis of a selection of threads about sociopolitical issues on the Divergent Fans and Divergent Wiki forums reveals that discussion on these two forums does allow fans to talk about political issues raised in the content world, and it sometimes enables the civic imagination through a

dialectical response to the dystopian world. However, it does not conclusively raise political consciousness among fans. How, then, can we account for these civic successes and failures? Because shared knowledge, trust, and spaces are relatively strong in online fan communities, and fans may experience their identities as relatively fixed, if we want to improve the consciousness-raising potential of YA dystopian fan forums, we should focus on values and skills. Cultivating democratic values in young people and teaching them political skills could empower them to take advantage of the political opportunities offered by YA dystopian texts and fandoms. ....Young people need to practice these skills for their participation in YA dystopian fan forums to lead to civic outcomes (336).

This particular study throws light into the relevance of Young Adult dystopias including *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* series and how these books facilitate discussions from the readers just like how it is explained in the theories of reader response criticism and reception theory as these argue that the reader is a producer rather than a consumer of meanings.

#### **4.2. Film Adaptations**

Inspired from the success of the young adult fantasy series *Twilight*, Summit Entertainment purchased the rights for the film adaptation of *Divergent* with the production company Red Wagon Entertainment in March 2011. Neil Burger was officially selected as the director of *Divergent* in August 2012. The Film series is produced by Lucy Fisher, Douglas Wick, and Pouya Shabazian. Red Wagon

Entertainment and Summit Entertainment are the production companies of the film series and the series was distributed by Summit Entertainment and Lionsgate. The films had a total budget 305 million US dollars and they earned 765 million US dollars from the worldwide box office collection.

Kate Egan explains this in detail in her *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion*:

Red Wagon Entertainment producers Doug Wick and Lucy Fisher came upon the manuscript before it was published and were smitten with what they read. They immediately brought the book to Gillian Bohrer, Executive Vice President of Production and Development at Lionsgate. Gillian remembers reading *Divergent* for the first time one weekend in January 2011. As the book wasn't published yet, she was reading photocopied pages in a coffee shop, and the page that described Tris's decision at the Choosing Ceremony was . . . missing. "I had to know what happened!" says Bohrer. "I read ahead and figured it out. And then I couldn't stop reading. I just couldn't put it down."

That Monday morning, she started spreading the word at Summit. "I knew the story would break through to a movie audience," Bohrer remembers. "It had so many themes that would resonate with teens, from challenging your limits to finding your own family. Plus it had these amazing set pieces, from the Choosing Ceremony to the Ferris wheel and the zip lining. . . . I could see them in my head, just when I was reading, and I knew they would make for a fantastic film." (22)



(Copyright: Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation)

The Divergent trilogy of films released from 2014 to 2016. Films in this trilogy have exactly the same names as the novels, which are: *Divergent* (2014), *Insurgent* (2015), and *Allegiant* (2016). An interesting trivia about the films is that Veronica Roth had also starred in them. The cast of the film series include Shailene Woodley and Theo James in the lead, supported by famous actors like Kate Winslet, Miles Teller, Ansel Elgort, Zoë Kravitz, Ashley Judd, Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer, Jai Courtney, and Ray Stevenson. The details of these films that seemed important to me are discussed in the following section.

### ***Divergent* (2014)**

The first movie in the series with the same name of the novel was released on March 21, 2014 in the United States. The film premiered or had the first screening at Los Angeles. *Divergent* is directed by Neil Burger and the screenplay is written by Evan Daugherty and Vanessa Taylor. It stars Shailene Woodley as the protagonist Tris Prior

and Theo James as the male protagonist of the series Tobias “Four” Eaton. The cast includes Ashley Judd, Zoë Kravitz, Ansel Elgort, Miles Teller, Jai Courtney, Ray Stevenson, Tony Goldwyn, Maggie Q, and Kate Winslet. Production of the film took place mostly in Chicago where the novel is also set.

### ***Insurgent (2015)***

*Insurgent* or *The Divergent Series: Insurgent* was released on March 20, 2015 in the United States. Before its official release, the film premiered in London on March 11, 2015. The film is directed by Robert Schwentke. Brian Duffield, Akiva Goldsman, and Mark Bomback wrote the screenplay of the film. Additional cast of the film include Octavia Spencer, Naomi Watts, Daniel Dae Kim, Rosa Salazar, and Suki Waterhouse. Filming of *Insurgent* took place mostly in Atlanta, Georgia.

### ***Allegiant (2016)***

*The Divergent Series: Allegiant* (also known as *Allegiant*) is the third and final film in the Divergent trilogy and it was released in the United States on March 18, 2016. The film premiered in Bangkok on March 8, 2016. *Allegiant* is directed by Robert Schwentke and the screenplay is written by Noah Oppenheim, Adam Cooper, and Bill Collage. Additional cast of the film include Jeff Daniels, Bill Skarsgård, Jonny Weston, Rebecca Pidgeon, Xander Berkeley, and Keiynan Lonsdale. Filming took place in Atlanta, Georgia and some scenes were shot at the Lindale Mill in Lindale, Georgia.

#### 4.2.1. Celebrities: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Ansel Elgort

Shailene Woodley plays the role of Beatrice “Tris” Prior, the female lead and the main protagonist of the series. She was not that much famous before acting in the Divergent series. Shailene started her acting career as a child artist and acted mostly in TV shows until 2011. Her first major role was in *The Descendants* (2011) alongside George Clooney. Then she acted in movies like the critically acclaimed *The Spectacular Now* (2013), and *White Bird in a Blizzard* (2014). For her performance in *The Descendants*, Shailene won a Cannes Trophée Chopard and received nominations for the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress and for three Critics’ Choice Movie Awards. She won a special jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival for her acting role *The Spectacular Now* (2013). Shailene’s most important acting credit other than Tris is the role of Hazel Grace Lancaster in the young adult romance film *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014) based on John Green’s 2012 novel of the same name. *The Fault in Our Stars* is also of special importance in my work because it is also a popular young adult novel with a popular film adaptation and also starring Shailene’s costar Ansel Elgort from the Divergent series.

British actor Theo James portrays the role of the male protagonist Tobias “Four” Eaton. He was rather unknown as an actor before the Divergent series and acted small roles in movies and TV shows. His first major film role was in *Underworld: Awakening* (2012) with the famous British actress Kate Beckinsale. He is still busy with his film and TV series schedule and his latest noteworthy role is that of Henry DeTamble in HBO series *The Time Traveler’s Wife*.

Ansel Elgort started his acting career with a supporting role in the Stephen King adaptation *Carrie* (2013) and has acted in a number of coming of age and well received films including *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014) *The Divergent Series*, *Baby Driver* (2017), and *The Goldfinch* (2019). He is also the main lead actor in the latest Steven Spielberg film *West Side Story* (2021).

#### 4.2.2. Critical and Commercial Success

*Divergent* (2012) received mixed reviews and ratings from the film critics. Shailene Woodley's performance was well received as well as the action sequences of the film. Shailene and Theo James won the MTV Movie Awards, People's Choice Awards, and the Teen Choice Awards. At the 2014 MTV Movie Awards, Shailene Woodley won the Favorite Character award for her portrayal of Beatrice "Tris" Prior. The film also won the 2014 Teen Choice Awards in the categories of Choice Movie: Action, Choice Movie Actor: Action for Theo James and Choice Movie Actress: Action for Shailene Woodley. At the 41<sup>st</sup> People's Choice Awards, *Divergent* bagged the awards for the Favorite Action Movie and the Favorite Movie Duo for Shailene Woodley and Theo James.

Considering the reviews of the film critics, *Divergent* has a rating of 41% on the movie review website Rotten Tomatoes from 237 critics' reviews. Rotten Tomatoes also provided an Audience Score which is 69% calculated from more than 100,000 ratings. Critics consensus of Rotten Tomatoes for the film is "With an adherence to YA formula that undercuts its individualistic message, *Divergent* opens its planned trilogy in disappointingly predictable fashion". Christy Lemire from the film review website Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of 2.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common

Sense Media gave the film a rating of three out of five. Helen O'Hara from the Empire movie magazine gave the movie a rating of three out of five. From our Indian perspective, Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from *The Times of India* rated *Divergent* with 3.5 out of 5. The movie was very well received by the audience in North America as indicated by TIME and the movie rating system CinemaScore. Richard Corliss from TIME writes: "The early audience — 59% female, 50% under the age of 25 — awarded *Divergent* a golden "A" in the CinemaScore survey of first-nighters. Those under 18 gave the movie a giddy A-plus".

*Divergent* collected approximately 288.9 million US dollars worldwide against a budget of 88 million dollars and it was a box office success. On its opening weekend in North America, *Divergent* earned 54.6 million US dollars and its final domestic (North American) box office collection stands at an impressive 150.9 million. The film is ranked 18 in the list of highest grossing films in North America in 2014 and 28 in the 2014 worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

*Insurgent* also received mixed reviews from the critics. Again, performance of Shailene Woodley was well received as well as the visual appeal and the action scenes of the film. The film was nominated for and won several awards including the MTV Movie Awards, Teen Choice Awards, and the People's Choice Awards. At the 2015 Teen Choice Awards, Shailene Woodley won the Choice Movie Actress award in Action category. Again, Shailene won the Favorite Action Movie Actress award at the 42<sup>nd</sup> People's Choice Awards.



Considering the reviews of the film critics, *Insurgent* has a rating of 28% on Rotten Tomatoes from 209 reviews of critics. Audience Score of the movie on Rotten Tomatoes is 58% calculated from more than 50,000 ratings. Their Critics consensus of the movie is: “Shailene Woodley gives it her all, but *Insurgent* is still a resounding step back for a franchise struggling to distinguish itself from the dystopian YA crowd”. Susan Wloszczyna from the film review website Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of 2.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of three out of five. Helen O’Hara from the Empire movie magazine also gave the movie a rating of three out of five. Indian film critic Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from *The Times of India* rated *Insurgent* with 3 out of 5. Bryan Alexander from the *USA TODAY* writes: “*Insurgent* overcame tough reviews, earning a lowly 32% critical rating on RottenTomatoes.com. Audiences were far kinder, giving it an A-minus on CinemaScore.”

*Insurgent* grossed approximately 297.3 million US dollars worldwide against a budget of 110 million and it was also a box office success like its predecessor. The film collected 52.2 million on its opening weekend and was number one at the domestic box-office at that time. *Insurgent* made 130.2 million from North America alone 166.8 million from the rest of the world. The film is ranked 22 in the list of highest grossing films in North America in 2015 and 26 in the 2015 worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

*Allegiant* generally received negative reviews from the audience and critics alike. It is the film with most unfavourable reviews in the *Divergent* series. Because the film was not a success as the producers intended, they decided to cancel the sequel titled *The*

*Divergent Series: Ascendant*. Anyways, the film was nominated for and won awards as its predecessors. *Allegiant* was nominated for the Hollywood Music in Media Awards, 37th Golden Raspberry Awards and the 2016 Teen Choice Awards. Shailene Woodley won the Choice Movie Actress in Action category at the Teen Choice Awards.

When it comes to the reviews from the Hollywood critics, *Allegiant* has a rating of 11% on Rotten Tomatoes from 199 critics' reviews. Audience Score of the movie on Rotten Tomatoes is 41% calculated from more than 25,000 ratings. Critics consensus of Rotten Tomatoes for the movie is: "Allegiant improves on previous entries in The Divergent Series on a few superficial levels, but they aren't enough to counteract a sense of growing boredom with a franchise that's gone on too long".

The film has a rating of 5.6 out of 10 on the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) from 121,322 ratings. Susan Wloszczyna from the film review website Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of 1.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of two out of five. James Dyer from the *Empire* movie magazine also gave the movie a rating of two out of five. Indian film critic Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from *The Times of India* rated *Allegiant* with 1.5 out of 5. North American audience gave the film a CinemaScore of B on an A+ to F scale. Pamela McClintock and Rebecca Ford from *The Hollywood Reporter* writes: "Allegiant, costing north of \$100 million to make, is projected to gross \$30 million for the weekend; *Insurgent* debuted to \$52.3 million, and *Divergent*, \$54.6 million. The third installment is likely getting dinged by poor reviews and a B CinemaScore".

*Allegiant* is the least successful movie in the *Divergent* series at the Box office. The film has a collection of 179.2 million at the worldwide box office against a production budget between 110–142 million US dollars. On its opening weekend, *Allegiant* collected 29 million from 3740 theaters in North America, second at the box office right after *Zootopia* (2016). *Allegiant* made 66.2 million in North America and 113.1 million from the rest of the world at the end of its theatrical run. The film is ranked 46 in the list of highest grossing films in North America in 2016 and 52 in the 2016 worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

In total, films in the *Divergent* series collected an amount of more than 765 million US dollars at the worldwide box office against the production budget of 330 million. This makes it clear that the film series was moderately successful at the box office. As we have discussed here, the series also received mixed or moderate reviews while the audience were more in favour of the film than the critics. We have to also consider the fact that several other young adult adaptations were also made at the same time following the success of *The Hunger Games* series, especially *The Maze Runner* series (2014-2018) and *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014), also starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort in the lead. These films were also successful at the box office as young adult adaptations were particularly popular in the last ten years.

#### **4.3. Parody or Spoof Literature, Movies based on *Divergent* Series**

Like we had discussed before, *Divergent* series also have several parodies and spoofs owing to its influence on popular culture much like *The Hunger Games* and *The Maze Runner* series.

*Divergent Parody: Detergent* is the most relevant direct parody book aimed at the novel *Divergent*. The book is written by Reid Mockery which is a pen name and the real name of the author is unknown. Reid Mockery has also written the parodies of *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green titled *The Fault in Our Stars Parody: The Fault Is All Yours* and E. L. James' *Fifty Shades of Grey* series. It is provided on the author's Amazon page that this fellow is currently working on the parody that makes fun of Delia Owens' novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

As we had discussed before, *Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death* is a parody play or drama written by Don Zolidis. The play was published on 29th May 2015. The title of the play is an amalgamation of the names of highly successful young adult dystopian novel and film series including Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* and *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner. This play was performed by various high school students and theatre companies in the United States.

*Divergent*, especially the movie has been parodied by a number of YouTube channels. Filmd2bEpic made a video titled *Divergent Spoof* which is the spoof of the *Divergent* trailer. *Convergent (Divergent Parody)* is the video created by the channel ripster478. Pegg Krrromuch channel produced a video titled *Divergent Parody* which is approximately six minutes in length. Allyson King made a video titled *Divergent Series Parody* on her YouTube channel.

*Allegiant* was parodied by Free Beer Productions and JustBecause channel on YouTube. Free Beer Productions made a video titled *The Divergent Series: Allegiant Full Movie Parody* and it features the performances of Georgette Brotherson and Joshua

Hinson. This video was uploaded on YouTube on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016. JustBecause channel on YouTube produced a video titled *The Divergent Series: Allegiant Parody – DETERGENT*. The video was uploaded on YouTube on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

In this context, it is also necessary to discuss the parodies based on *The Maze Runner* series by James Dashner, another young adult dystopian novel series released and adapted into films almost at the same time of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent Series*. The most notable parody work of the series is titled *Maze Runner: Parody - The Dazed Runner* written by The Parody Brothers and illustrated by Online Monkeys both with unknown real names. This book is particularly relevant here because its description from Amazon sums up the popularity of young adult dystopian novels efficiently: “Oh, the modern young adult dystopian novel. From The Hunger Games to Divergent to The Giver this is a genre that is hot as it can get. Fans of all ages love to read these tales of plucky teenagers fighting an unjust system and coming out on top. The latest example of this genre to explode onto the public consciousness is James Dashner’s *The Maze Runner*. Is it ripe for the Parody Brothers treatment? We think so, and here it is!”.

Another parody of *The Maze Runner* is titled *The Maze Bummer: A Parody of The Maze Runner*. The book is written by Steve Lookner and it was published by Sfuzzi Publishing on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Steve Lookner has also written parodies of other influential young adult fantasy/ science fiction novels like *City of Boneheads: A Parody of City of Bones (The Mortal Instruments Book 1)*, parody of the *Mortal Instruments* series by Cassandra Clare.

#### **4.4. Influence on other works / films**

Much like The Hunger Games series and all the other popular book series, Divergent series also played an important role in the the development of a wide variety of cultural byproducts. This includes a VR game, attractions in theme parks located at different parts of the world, influence on other works and events, and the list goes on.

##### **4.4.1. Lionsgate Entertainment World**

Lionsgate studios opened a theme park with the name Lionsgate Entertainment World in Hengqin Island in Zhuhai, a city and special economic zone in the Guangdong Province of the People’s Republic of China. The theme park features attractions based on well-known Hollywood film franchises: *The Hunger Games*, *The Twilight Saga*, *Divergent*, *Now You See Me*, *Gods of Egypt*, and *Escape Plan*.

There are two attractions based on the *Divergent series* here according to the *Variety* website: First one is the “Fear Simulator,” a Virtual Reality walk-through which tests experience, bravery, and willpower as participants navigate precarious passageways and traps; and the second attraction is called “The Chasm Climbing Course,” in which players climb walls, suspended bridges and vertical drops in a zig-zag path.

##### **Dauntless Fear Simulator**

The ‘Dauntless Fear Simulator’ at Lionsgate Entertainment World is an open-world VR experience that invites fans of the Divergent franchise to take on their fears. Immersed in a completely computer generated world created by Framestore’s immersive

team for Thinkwell Group, visitors are challenged to see if they are worthy to be a member of the Dauntless faction.

The widest brief that Framestore got for an attraction at Lionsgate Entertainment World was for this fear-based VR experience that takes place within the world of the Divergent film series. As the Writer and Director of the media, Jason Fox created the concept for the “Dauntless Fear Simulator”, a location-based attraction that gives participants agency to progress through the world however they choose. This means they can repeat the experience but get different outcomes each time. Jason Fox describes it like this: “What we’ve created is a terrifying VR environment designed to put visitors on edge. It’s tied to the physical world so if someone reaches out to touch an object or a textured surface, it’s really there”.



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<https://www.framestore.com/work/lionsgate-entertainment-world>

#### 4.4.2. University of Missouri Free Outdoor Movie Event: *Insurgent*



This was a free outdoor movie screening of *Insurgent* organised by the University of Missouri. The event took place on Friday, June 26, 2015 at 8pm at the Lowry Mall. This event also included food, drink and *Insurgent*-themed activities.

#### 4.4.3. DIVERGENT: Choose Your Faction

This is a roleplaying fan fiction game inspired by the *Divergent Series*. The game was created by the user KatnissD12 for the online story games website [chooseyourstory.com](http://chooseyourstory.com). KatnissD12 created the game in June 2016. In the game, we are provided with instructions to respond with intimidating situations in life in order to determine the faction to which the player belongs to. This procedure corresponds with the faction test all the characters in the *Divergent Series* have to take as they choose their path in life. The game is still being played by members and non-members of the gaming platform as it is free to play.



#### **4.4.4. Novels written by Roth after the *Divergent Series***

After the success of her first novel series, Veronica Roth dedicated her time to a writing career and she wrote another series with the name *Carve the Mark* and is still busy with writing new books. Let us have a look at her new and upcoming works:

##### ***Carve the Mark***

This is Roth's first novel to be published after the *Divergent Series*. This novel requires special mention here because it also belongs to the category of young adult science fiction. *Carve the Mark* was published on January 17, 2017 by HarperCollins Publishers. The book received mostly positive reviews and ratings. It has a rating of 3.8 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.4 out of 5 on Amazon, and 4.3 out of 5 on the bookseller website Barnes & Noble.

##### ***The Fates Divide***

This novel is the second part of the book *Carve the Mark*. It was first published on April 10, 2018 by HarperCollins. As usual for the books of Veronica Roth, this novel also received highly positive reviews and ratings. The novel has a rating of 3.9 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon, and 4.3 out of 5 on the Barnes & Noble website. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the book a rating of 4 out of 5.

##### ***The End and Other Beginnings***

Veronica Roth's next book is titled *The End and Other Beginnings*. The book contains illustrations by Ashley Mackenzie. It is a collection of young adult science fiction short stories. The book contains six short stories in which two of these belong to the *Carve the Mark* universe. It was first published on October 1, 2019 by HarperCollins.

The book also received positive reviews and it has a rating of 3.5 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.5 out of 5 on Amazon, and 5 out of 5 on Barnes & Noble.

### ***Chosen Ones***

Veronica Roth's latest novel to be published is titled *Chosen Ones*. The novel was published on April 7, 2020 by William Morrow Books. *Chosen Ones* is described as Roth's first novel for adults as all her previous works were aimed at young adults. This novel also belongs to the dystopian subgenre and it received positive reviews mostly. The book has a rating of 3.6 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.2 out of 5 on Amazon, and 4 out of 5 on Barnes & Noble.

### **Upcoming Works**

#### ***Poster Girl***

Roth's upcoming novel is titled *Poster Girl*. This novel also has a dystopian setting and is expected to be published on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 by HarperCollins. Elena Nicolaou from the *TODAY* website writes about the book: "Veronica Roth, author of the *Divergent* series, made a name for herself writing dystopian novels. Her upcoming mystery novel, *Poster Girl*, almost falls within the dystopian genre. "Poster Girl is about what happens after a dystopian regime falls," Roth told *TODAY* in an email interview".

#### ***Arch-Conspirator***

Veronica Roth has already completed her next novel after *Poster Girl*. The novel is titled *Arch-Conspirator* and it is said to be a reimagining of *Antigone* by Sophocles. The book is expected to be published on February 21, 2023 by Tor Books.

#### 4.5. Books about *Divergent Series*

We can see a number of books centered on *Divergent Series* published officially and unofficially about the series, author Veronica Roth and about the film adaptations. In this subchapter, we will discuss the content of some books which are referred by me as hard copies and all the other soft copies which I downloaded from the Internet which ultimately discuss the same thing: *Divergent Series* and everything related to it.

The first book discussed here is *The Divergent Companion: The Unauthorized Guide to the Series* by Lois H. Gresh. It was published on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 by St. Martin's Griffin Books. Lois Harriet Gresh is the author of several science fiction books, short story collections, and popular culture reference guides and companions. She is the author of several children's, young adult science fiction and fantasy reference books like *The Unauthorized Eragon Guide*, *The Unauthorized Guide to His Dark Materials*, *The Fan's Unauthorized Guide to the Spiderwick Chronicles*, *The Unauthorized Guide to Artemis Fowl*, *The Twilight Companion - The Unauthorized Guide to the Series*, *The Mortal Instruments Companion*, and *The Hunger Games Companion*. *The Divergent Companion* comprises of nine chapters on different themes like factions and free will, authoritarian rule and prejudices, and a description of what is a Utopia.

The *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion* is a companion book by Kate Egan about the *Divergent* movie adaptation. Kate is the editorial director of KCP (Kids Can Press) Loft. She has edited a good number of young adult and children's books. Kate has also written several children's books, most notably a picture book with the title *Kate and Nate Are Running Late* and book series for children named *The Magic*

*Shop*, co-authored with magician Mike Lane. She is also the author of *The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire: The Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The World of Hunger Games*, *The World of A Wrinkle in Time: The Making of the Movie*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: The Movie Storybook*. *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion* was published on March 4, 2014 by Katherine Tegen Books. This is an illustrated guide to the novel series and the *Divergent* film and it provides us insights into the story, interviews with the author Veronica Roth, actors Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Miles Teller, director Neil Burger, co-screenwriter Evan Daugherty, sketches of costume designers and the 3D concept art, and comprehensive details of the film production.

Next book for discussion here is *Inside Divergent: The Initiate's World* by Cecilia Bernard. The book was published on February 11, 2014 by Katherine Tegen Books. Victor Joseph Ochoa is the designer of this movie companion book. The book comprises of more than a hundred photographs from the movie *Divergent*. Chapters of the book extensively discuss the characters, the factions and the dystopian setting of the movie and the novel.

*Divergent and Philosophy: The Factions of Life* is a collection of critical essays edited by Courtland Lewis. Court Lewis is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville, Tennessee in the United States. This book is a part of the Popular Culture and Philosophy series. This series also consist of the critical readings of several other popular children's and young adult literature like *Harry Potter*, *Ender's Game*, and *The Catcher in the Rye*. It was published on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 by the Open Court Publishing Company in the United States. As the name suggests,

*Divergent and Philosophy* investigates the series using the methodology of philosophy. The book is divided into five parts and nineteen essays. These parts deal with various themes and ideas like divergent behavior, compassion and peace, wisdom, courage, and political philosophy.

*Divergent Thinking: YA Authors on Veronica Roth's Divergent Trilogy* is a collection of twelve articles about the *Divergent* trilogy edited by Leah Wilson. Leah Wilson is Editor-in-Chief of the Smart Pop imprint of Dallas-based publisher BenBella Books. The book was originally published on March 4, 2014 by Smart Pop/ Benbella Books. Smart Pop published several relevant criticism books on young adult literature including *The Girl Who Was on Fire: Your Favorite Authors on Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games Trilogy*, *The Panem Companion: An Unofficial Guide to Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games*, *From Mellark Bakery to Mockingjays*, *Demigods and Monsters: Your Favorite Authors on Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, *A New Dawn: Your Favorite Authors on Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Series*, *Ender's World: Fresh Perspectives on the SF Classic Ender's Game*, *Through the Wardrobe: Your Favorite Authors on C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia*, *Mind-Rain: Your Favorite Authors on Scott Westerfeld's Ugliers Series*, and *Shadowhunters and Downworlders: A Mortal Instruments Reader*. The book features the articles written by Elizabeth Wein, Maria V. Snyder and Jenna Snyder, V. Arrow, Jennifer Lynn Barnes, Mary Borsellino, Rosemary Clement-Moore, Debra Driza, Julia Karr, Dan Krokos, Elizabeth Norris, Janine K. Spendlove, and Blythe Woolston. The essays in the book indulge in and explore almost everything about the *Divergent* trilogy like the personality traits in psychology and the

novels, choices and life decisions of young adults, the futuristic Chicago as the setting for the trilogy, and the resistance against the dystopian regime.

*Divergent Series: The Ultimate Quiz Book* is written by Sarah Davids and it was first published on May 19, 2014 by Get Publishing. This quiz book covers all the three novels in the *Divergent* series and it features questions and answers about the characters, factions, and settings of the series. It is especially aimed at the hardcore fans of the *Divergent Series*.

*Divergent Quiz Book* by Wayne Wheelwright is written by Wayne Wheelwright and it was first published on 22 July 2014 by Andrews UK Limited. Wayne Wheelwright is also the author of several other quiz books and Trivia books based on popular novels, films, and TV shows like *The Da Vinci Code Quiz Book (Novel Trivia 1)*, *Game of Thrones the Quiz Book - Season One*, *The Walking Dead Quiz Book*, *The Supernatural Quiz Book - Season 1*, *American Horror Story - Murder House Quiz Book*, *American Horror Story - Asylum Quiz Book*, *50 Quick Facts About the Walking Dead*, and *50 Quick Facts About Game of Thrones*. *Divergent Quiz Book* includes questions on the novel and its film adaptation, the characters, factions, locations and all other important details about *Divergent*.

*DIVERGENT - Ultimate Trivia Quiz Book* is written by T.D. Cleary and it was first published on 18 April 2014 as an eBook and the publisher's details are unavailable. T.D. Cleary is also the author of some very interesting trivia books based on *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* series and other popular young adult series. He or she has authored books like *JENNIFER LAWRENCE - The Hunger Games KATNISS: With J-Law's Own*

*Words*, SHAILENE WOODLEY – *Divergent's Tris: 101 Facts with Shailene's Own Words*, THEO JAMES – *Divergent's FOUR: 101 Facts with Theo's Own Words*, *The Fault in Our Stars - Ultimate Quiz Book*, and *THE MAZE RUNNER - Interactive Quiz Book*. This quiz book contains 30 rounds of questions with ten questions in each round.

*Divergent Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know-it-All from the Hit Movie and Book?* is an eBook edited by Ann Perth and it was first published on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 by R & J Publishing. Ann Perth is also the editor of several other quiz and trivia books on influential young adult novels, films, and TV shows like *The Hunger Games Movie Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know-it-All about the Hunger Games Movie?*, *The Hunger Games Movie Catching Fire Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know-it-All About The Hit Sequel?*, *The Maze Runner Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You "Know it All" About the Critically Acclaimed Series?*, *The Fault in Our Stars Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know it All About the Hit Film?*, and *Teen Wolf Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You "Know it All" from the Hit TV Show?*. *Divergent Trivia Quiz Book* contains 175 questions about the novel and the film. It is written in the book that it is dedicated to all the fans of *Divergent*.

*Divergent Film Quiz: Amazing Facts and Trivia about Divergent* is written by Nyesha Watson and was published on 21 October 2021 by Macmillan Books. Nyesha Watson has also authored several books on popular culture like *The Good Place Film Trivia: Facts and Quizzes about Film Series for Fans*, *Firefly Facts and Quizzes: Trivia about Space Western Drama TV Series*, *Lost in Space Trivia Challenge: Quizzes about Science Fiction Series*, *The Umbrella Academy Quizzes: Fun Facts and Trivia about Superhero Streaming TV Series*, and *Downton Abbey Trivia Quiz: Fun Facts and*

*Questions about Downton Abbey*. This book *Divergent Film Quiz: Amazing Facts and Trivia about Divergent* includes 24 facts about the Divergent film series. The book also features quizzes and fun facts about the film series.

*The Unofficial Divergent Aptitude Test: Discover Your True Faction!* is written by Noel St. Clair and was published on 15 March 2015 by Adams Media. Noel St. Clair is an experienced writer of real life themes like personality and relationships. This book is all about taking the aptitude test and discovering the faction of the reader on the basis of the factions or the grouping based on personality traits as described in the *Divergent series*.

#### **4.6. Translations**

##### **German Translation**

The German Translation of *Divergent* is titled *Die Bestimmung*. It was translated into the German language by Petra Koob-Pawis. *Insurgent* is translated into German under the title *Tödliche Wahrheit* (Die Bestimmung, Band 2). This book is also translated by Petra Koob-Pawis. *Letzte Entscheidung* (Die Bestimmung, Band 3) is the German translation of *Allegiant*. Once again, this book is translated to German by Petra Koob-Pawis. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into German under the title *Die Bestimmung – Fours Geschichte: Die packende Fantasy-Dystopie aus Fours Perspektive* (Die Bestimmung-Reihe 4). This collection is translated by Michaela Link. All these books are published in Germany by the publisher cbj: C. Bertelsmann Jugendbuchverlag (C. Bertelsmann Youth book publishing). CBJ publishes fiction and non-fiction books for children and young adults as well as illustrated children's books. The film adaptation of



*Divergent* is dubbed into German also under the title *Die Bestimmung – Divergent*. All the German translations of the *Divergent* series have a minimum rating of 4.2 out of five on Amazon.

### **Spanish Translation**

The Spanish Translation of *Divergent* is titled *Divergente*. *Insurgent* is translated into the Spanish language under the title *Insurgente*. *Leal* (Divergente) is the Spanish title of *Allegiant*, the third book in the trilogy. The short story collection set in the *Divergent* universe, *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Spanish under the title *Cuatro: una historia de la saga Divergente*. Pilar Ramírez Tello translated all the books of the series into Spanish. Tello is also known for his translations of *The Hunger Games* series into Spanish. All the Spanish translations of the *Divergent* series are published by Molino RBA. All the Spanish editions of the *Divergent* series have more than 4.3 star rating out of five on Amazon and this is indicative of the significant influence of the series on popular culture around the world.

### **French Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into French under the title *Divergente*. *Divergente 2: L'insurrection* is the title of the French translation of *Insurgent*. *Divergente 3: Au-delà du Mur* is the French title of *Allegiant*, the third book in the trilogy. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into French under the title *Divergente raconté par Quatre*. Anne Delcourt translated all these books into the French language. All these books are published by the French publishers Pocket Jeunesse and Nathan. As usual, all the French translations of the *Divergent* trilogy have a minimum rating of 4.5 out of 5 on Amazon.fr.

### **Portuguese Translation**

The Portuguese Translation of *Divergent* is titled *Divergente, Uma Escolha Pode Te Transformar* (Trilogia Divergente Livro 1). *Insurgente, Uma Escolha Pode Te Destruir* - Trilogia Divergente. Livro 2 is the title of the Portuguese translation of *Insurgent*. *Convergente, Uma Escolha Vai Te Definir* (Trilogia Divergente Livro 3) is the Portuguese title of *Allegiant*, the third book in the trilogy. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Portuguese under the title *Quatro: Histórias da Série Divergente*. All these books are translated into Portuguese by Lucas Peterson. *Divergent* series is published in Portugal and Brazil by Porto Editora and Rocco Jovens Leitores respectively. All the Portuguese translations of Divergent trilogy have a minimum rating of 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon.co.br., and this is quite remarkable.

### **Italian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into Italian with the same title *Divergent - Una Scelta può Cambiare il tuo Destino*. *Insurgent - Una scelta può Annientarti* 2 is the title of the Italian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Italian under the title *Allegiant - Una Scelta può Segnarti*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Italian under the title *Four: Una Scelta può Liberarlo*. All these books are translated into Italian by Roberta Verde. Italian editions of the *Divergent* series are published by De Agostini. All the Italian translations of the *Divergent* series have a minimum rating of 4.4 out of 5 on Amazon.it.

### **Dutch Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into Dutch under the title *Inwijding: Haar keuze verandert alles*. *Opstand: haar keuze kan alles vernietigen* is the title of the Dutch translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Dutch under the title *Samensmelting: haar keuze bepaalt alles*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Dutch with this title: *Het verhaal van Four*. All these books are translated into the Dutch language by Maria Postema. All the Dutch versions of the series are published by Van Goor.

### **Danish Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into Danish under the title *Divergent: Afvigeren*. *Divergent 2: Oprøreren* is the title of the Danish translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Danish under the title *Divergent 3: Fornyreren*. *Divergent Four: Tobias' fortællinger* is the title of the Danish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. The series is translated into Danish by John Lysmand. John Lysmand also translated Cecilia Bernard's *Inside Divergent: The Initiate's World* into Danish with the title *Divergent - Den Officielle Guide*. All these books are published in Danish by Forlaget Alvilda.

### **Finnish Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into Finnish under the title *Outolintu*. *Kapinallinen* is the title of the Finnish translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Finnish under the title *Uskollinen*. *Neljä* is the title of the Danish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. All these books are translated into the Finnish language by Outi Järvinen. Otava Publishing Company Ltd (Finnish: Kustannusosakeyhtiö Otava) is the publisher of all these books in Finnish.

### **Norwegian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into Norwegian with the same title *Divergent* itself. *Insurgent* is translated into Norwegian under the title *Divergent: Opprøreren. De Lojale: Allegiant* is the title of the Norwegian translation of *Allegiant*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Norwegian with the title *Divergent: Four – Tobias' Historie*. Torleif Sjøgren-Erichsen translated all these books into the Norwegian language. Lydbokforlaget and Vigmostad & Bjørke published the Norwegian editions of the *Divergent series*.

### **Icelandic Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into Icelandic under the title *Divergent Bók 1: Afbrigði*. *Divergent Bók 2: Andóf* is the title of the Icelandic translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Icelandic under the title *Divergent Bók 3: Arfleifð*. Magnea J. Matthíasdóttir translated the *Divergent* trilogy into the Icelandic language. Björt bókaútgáfa published the trilogy in Iceland.

### **Swedish Translation**

*Divergent*, *Insurgent*, and *Allegiant* are translated into the Swedish language under their same titles. Katarina Falk translated the *Divergent* trilogy into Swedish. The trilogy is published in the Swedish language by Modernista Group AB. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Swedish with the title *Four: en Divergent-samling*. Helena Stedman translated the short story collection into Swedish and it was also published by Modernista Group.

### **Hungarian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Hungarian language under the title *A Beavatott*. *A Lázadó* is the title of the Hungarian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Hungarian under the title *A Hűség*. *Négyes: A Beavatott Trilógia Kiegészítő Kötete* is the title of the Hungarian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. *Divergent series* is published in the Hungarian language by Ciceró Könyvstúdió Kft. and translated by Logos.

### **Polish Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into Polish under the title *Nieznodna*. The novel is translated into Polish by Daniel Zych. *Zbuntowana* (*Nieznodna*, #2) is the title of the Polish translation of *Insurgent*. *Insurgent* is translated into Polish by Marta Czub and Ewa Ratajczyk. *Allegiant* is translated into Polish under the title *Wierna* (*Nieznodna*, #3). *Cztery* (*Nieznodna*, #0.1 - 0.4) is the title of the Polish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. Marta Czub translated *Allegiant* and *Four: A Divergent Collection* into Polish. All the Polish language editions of the *Divergent series* are published by Wydawnictwo Amber.

### **Czech Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Czech language under the title *Divergence*. *Rezistence* is the title of the Czech translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Czech under the title *Aliance*. *Čtyřka: Divergentní povídky* is the title of the Polish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. All the books of the series are published in

the Czech language by CooBoo publishers and translated by Radka Kolebáčová. Linda Marečková designed the covers of all the Czech editions of the *Divergent series*.

### **Romanian Translation**

*Divergent* and *Insurgent* are translated into the Romanian language with the same titles. *Allegiant* is translated into Romanian under the title *Experiment. Four: o Antologie*. *Divergent* is the title of the Romanian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. Shauki Al-Gareeb and Adrian Deliu translated the *Divergent series* into the Romanian language. Editura Leda is the publisher of the Romanian editions of the *Divergent series*.

### **Estonian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Estonian language under the title *Lahkulööja. Mässaja* (Lahkulööja, #2) is the title of the Estonian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Estonian under the title *Murdmatu* (Lahkulööja, #3). Pille Kruus translated the *Divergent trilogy* into the Estonian language and the books are published in Estonian by Pegasus.

### **Slovak Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Slovak language under the title *Divergencia. Rezistencia* (Divergencia, #2) is the title of the Slovak translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Slovak under the title *Experiment* (Divergencia, #3). *Štyri – Zbierka poviedok k megaúspešnej sérii* is the title of the Slovak translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. All these books are translated into the Slovak language by Elena Guričanová and the books are published in Slovak by Vydavateľstvo SLOVART.

### **Slovenian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Slovenian language under the title *Razcepljeni*. *Neupogljivi* is the title of the Slovenian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Slovenian under the title *Povezani*. *Divergent trilogy* is translated into the Slovenian language by Darja Marinšek and the books are published in Slovenian by Učila International.

### **Croatian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Croatian language under the title *Različita*. The novel is translated into Polish by Ivana Šojat-Kuči and Tomislav Kuzmanović. *Pobunjena* is the title of the Croatian translation of *Insurgent*. Slaven Lendić translated *Insurgent* into Croatian. *Allegiant* is translated into Croatian under the title *Odana*. Ela Varošaneć translated *Allegiant* into the Croatian language. *Four: priče o različitim* is the title of the Croatian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection* and it was translated by Slaven Lendić. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Croatian language by Naklada Ljevak (Ljevak Publishing house).

### **Serbian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Serbian language under the title *Divergentni*. *Pobunjeni* is the title of the Serbian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Serbian under the title *Odani*. *Četiri: Zbirka priča o Divergentima* is the title of the Serbian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. *Divergent series* is translated into the Serbian language by Jasmina Marković Karović and the books are published in Serbian by Urban Reads.

### **Latvian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Latvian language with the name *Citādie: Divergent*. *Dumpinieki: Insurgent* is the title of the Latvian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Latvian under the title *Sabiedrotie: Allegiant*. *Divergent trilogy* is translated into the Latvian language by Laura Dreiže and the books are published in Latvian by Zvaigzne ABC.

### **Lithuanian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Lithuanian language with the name *Divergentė*. *Insurgentė: Antra Divergentės Knyga* is the title of the Lithuanian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Lithuanian under the title *Lojalioji: Trečia Divergentės Knyga*. *Divergent trilogy* is translated into the Lithuanian language by Aušra Kaziukonienė. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Lithuanian with the name *Ketvertas: Divergentės Rinkinys* and it was translated by Daumantas Gadeikis. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Lithuanian language by Alma littera.

### **Albanian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Albanian language with the name *Divergjentja*. *Kryengritësja* is the title of the Albanian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Albanian using the title *Besnikja*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Albanian with the name *Katra: Seria Divergjentja*. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Albanian language by Morava publishers and translated by Taulant Hatia.



### **Bosnian Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Bosnian language with the name *Različiti*. *Pobunjeni* is the title of the Bosnian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Bosnian using the title *Odani*. *Divergent* trilogy is translated into the Bosnian language by Jasmina M. Karović and the books are published in Bosnian by Biblioteka Neverland.

### **Turkish Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Turkish language with the name *Uyumsuz*. *Kuralsız* is the title of the Turkish translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Turkish using the title *Yandaş*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Turkish with the name *Dört - Bir Uyumsuz Koleksiyon Kitabı*. All the books in the *Divergent* series are translated into the Turkish language by Uğur Mehter. İlgin Sönmez edited the Turkish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. Artemis Yayınları is the publisher of the Turkish editions of the *Divergent* series.

### **Vietnamese Translation**

*Divergent* is translated into the Vietnamese language with the name *Divergent - Những kẻ bất khả trị*. *Insurgent - Những kẻ nổi loạn* is the title of the Vietnamese translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Vietnamese using the title *Allegiant - Những kẻ trung kiên*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Vietnamese with the name *Số Bốn: Divergent Ngoại Truyện*. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Vietnamese language by NXB Trẻ publishers and translated by Phạm Nữ Hồng Quyên.

## Chinese Translation

*Divergent*, *Insurgent*, and *Allegiant* are translated into the Chinese language with the same titles by Wang Mingda. Sichuan Literature & Art Publishing House published the *Divergent trilogy* in Chinese.



*Divergent series* is also translated into Russian, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, Persian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Thai, and most of the major languages of the world. The series can be placed among the books which are translated to the most number of languages. In this aspect, the series can be compared to the highly popular and well-known young adult literature in the Science Fiction and Fantasy genre like Harry Potter, The Hunger Games trilogy, The Twilight Saga, and the Percy Jackson series.

#### 4.7. Awards and Honours

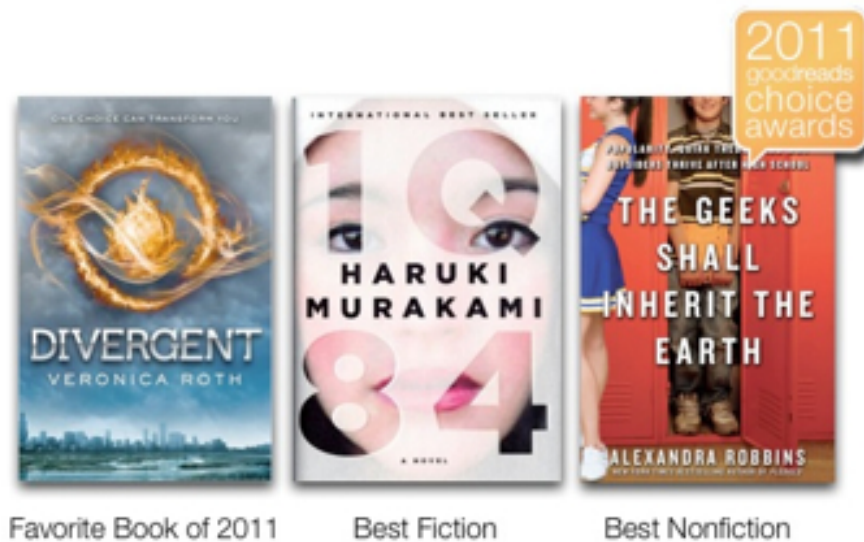
*Divergent series* was nominated for and received a good number of well-known awards and honours. The books were featured in several lists for children's literature, young adult literature, science fiction and fantasy literature lists. Owing to the trilogy's popularity, the books were added to different library collections and recommended by librarians and library associations. *Divergent* comes at the top of this list in the series.

##### ***Divergent: Awards, Honours and Book Lists***

The first book in the series, *Divergent* won and was nominated for several prestigious awards. *Divergent* was also featured in book lists of literary importance. Let us start this discussion by examining the website of the American Library Association (ALA), which hosts and manages various book awards and lists. *Divergent* was included in the 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults List administered by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association. The novel was also featured in the Amelia Bloomer Book List, a prestigious annual annotated book list (or bibliography) of well-written books with significant feminist content, intended for young readers administered by the Amelia Bloomer Project of the ALA. *Divergent* was also a part of the ALA 2012 Teen's Top Ten Book List. The novel was also included in the 2012 Readers' Choice List prepared by the YALSA. 2012 Quick Picks Nominations by the YALSA also featured *Divergent* in the list.

*Divergent* won the awards like the Goodreads Award for the Favorite Book, Goodreads Choice Award for the Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction and Veronica

Roth was a Nominee for the Goodreads Author Awards in the year 2011. Roth's novel also secured the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award for the Young Adult Protagonist. The book was also featured in the list curated by Barnes & Noble Booksellers as the Best Books of the Year 2011.



(Picture Courtesy: Goodreads, Inc.)

In 2012, *Divergent* successfully claimed and was nominated for several awards including the Georgia Peach Book Award, Soaring Eagle Book Award, Isinglass Teen Read Award for Grades 6-8, Nominations for the Milwaukee County Teen Book Award and the Children's Choice Book Award in the Teen Choice Book of the Year category, DABWAHA Romance Tournament Award in the category of Best Young Adult Romance. The novel was also a Finalist in the Children's Book Council (CBC) Children's & Teen Choice Book Awards list the in 2012.

*Divergent* bagged the awards like the Rhode Island Teen Book Award and the Green Mountain Book Award in the year 2013. The novel also received impressive

awards like Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award -- Grades 9-12, South Carolina Book Award in the Young Adult category, New Mexico Land of Enchantment Award in the Young Adult category, Gateway Readers Award in the High School category, Green Mountain Book Award for Grades 9-12, Iowa High School Book Award for Young Adult Books, Kentucky Bluegrass Award for Grades 9-12, Nevada Young Readers' Award in the Young Adult category, Rhode Island Teen Book Award for Ages 12 and up, all in the year 2013.

In 2014, *Divergent* won a good number of awards including the, Connecticut Nutmeg Children's Book Award, Evergreen Teen Book Award, Sakura Medal (selected by the students from international schools in Japan each year), Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award, California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult books, The Magnolia Award for readers for grades 6-8, Louisiana Teen Readers' Choice Award, Gateway Readers Award, and the Oklahoma Sequoyah Award in the High School section. The list of awards for *Divergent* in 2014 also include the Colorado Blue Spruce Award in the Young Adult category, Evergreen Young Adult Book Award, Garden State Teen Book Award for Fiction (Grades 9-12), Young Reader's Choice Award in the Senior category(Grades 10-12), and the Grand Canyon Reader Award in the Teen category. *Divergent* was also nominated for a Lincoln Award in 2014.

*Divergent* also won several other awards from the United States including the Florida Teens Read Award, Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Awards, Tennessee Volunteer State Book Awards, and the novel was also featured in the educational book lists like the CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison) Choices, SLJ (School Library Journal) Best Books. The book was also included in the

book lists from the state of Texas like the Texas Tayshas Reading List, and the Texas Lone Star Reading Lists.

*Divergent* also won and was nominated for foreign book awards like the Sakura Medal from Japan in 2014, and was nominated for the Premio El Templo de las Mil Puertas Magazine Award in the category of Mejor novela extranjera perteneciente a saga in the year 2011.

### ***Insurgent*: Awards, Honours and Book Lists**

The second novel in the *Divergent Trilogy*, *Insurgent* had also won and was nominated for several important awards. The list includes the 2012 Goodreads Choice Award in the category Goodreads Author for Veronica Roth (for *Insurgent*), 2012 Goodreads Choice Award in the category of Young Adult Fantasy, and the 2012 RT Reviewers Choice Award in the Young Adult Futuristic Fiction category. *Insurgent* was also included in the esteemed book lists like the 2013 Teens' Top Ten List of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), 2013 Readers' Choice List also prepared by the YALSA, Finalist in the Children's Book Council (CBC) Children's & Teen Choice Book Awards list, Barnes & Noble Best Books of the Year 2012 list, and as a Top Pick in the 2012 RT Book Reviews list. *Insurgent* was also nominated for the 2013 Buckeye Children's Book Award in the Teen category and the 2015 Sequoyah Book Award in the High School category. Veronica Roth was also nominated for Author of the Year Award given by the Children's Book Council (for *Insurgent*).

### ***Allegiant*: Awards, Honours and Book Lists**

*Allegiant*, the final part of the *Divergent Trilogy* had also won and was nominated for a number of awards as usual. The novel was the winner of the Children's Book Council (CBC) Teen Book of the Year 2014. *Allegiant* also won the 2013 Goodreads Choice Award in the category of Young Adult Fantasy. The book was also a part of the list curated by Barnes & Noble Booksellers as the Best Books of the Year 2013. *Allegiant* also earned a Starred Review in the 2013 School Library Journal. The novel was also nominated for the 2014 Buckeye Children's Book Award in the Teen category. Veronica Roth was also nominated for Author of the Year Award given by the Children's Book Council (for *Allegiant*).



(Picture Courtesy: The Divergent Life; <http://www.divergentlife.com/2014/05/allegiant-wins-ccba-teen-book-of-year.html>)

Finally, *Divergent* series won 5 awards in the 2013 Epic Reads Book Shimmy Awards namely the Most Emotionally Crippling Ending for *Allegiant*, Tris as the Most Badass Heroine, World Series Champion award for the *Divergent Series*, and The Best Author or Pagemaster award for Veronica Roth, and the Best of Shelf - Overall best book of 2013 Award for *Allegiant*.

#### **4.8. Artifacts and Games based on the *Divergent Series***

*Divergent series* also culminated in the production and business of merchandise including artifacts, toys, action figures, video games and notebooks. Many of these items are available to purchase offline and from popular online shopping sites including Amazon, Flipkart and eBay. These artifacts are highly popular in North America and Europe, especially among women and kids. People from India have also purchased several of these items from the online shops as evident from the ratings and reviews provided on the Amazon and Flipkart product pages. This section explores a number of the above mentioned artifacts, games and other merchandise based on the *Divergent series*.

#### **Unofficial Coloring Books**

*Divergent Film Series* inspired designers and stationery manufacturers to develop coloring books for children. There numerous unofficial coloring books available on the *Divergent series* with pictures and themes from the films. These books include *Divergent Coloring Book: Relaxation Nice Books for Adults, Boys, Girls Unofficial Unique Edition*, *Divergent Coloring Book: Premium Fantastic Fun High-quality Adult Books*, *Divergent Coloring Book: Perfection Nice Books High Quality Unofficial For Kids And*



Adults, Divergent Coloring Book: The Unofficial Illustrations Stunning Relaxing Activity Pages Books For Women And Men Paperback, Divergent Dots Lines Spirals Coloring Book: Divergent Great Gift Dots-Lines-Spirals Activity Books For Kid And Adult, Divergent Color By Number: Divergent Book An Adult Coloring Book For Stress-Relief, Insurgent Dots Lines Swirls Coloring Book: High-Quality Color Dots Lines Swirls Activity Books, Allegiant Dots Lines Swirls Coloring Book: Allegiant Perfect Book Activity Color Puzzle Books For Adults, Teenagers, and many more.

### Divergent and Insurgent Calendars

The film series also inculcated in Calendars from every year since the films were released. It is interesting to state here that the Calendars based on the series are still available in the market for the current year 2022. The calendars include Divergent 2022 Calendar: OFFICIAL Divergent calendar 2022 Weekly & Monthly Planner with Notes Section for All Divergent Fans!, Insurgent 2021 Calendar released on January 12, 2021, and many other versions.



## Toys, Action Figures and Collectibles

Divergent series also inspired the manufacturing of toys, stickers, action figures, magnets, bookmarks and similar merchandise especially aimed at children and young adults. Most of these collectible items are still available for purchase in all the major online shopping platforms like Amazon, Flipkart and eBay. All the important merchandise currently available on the market is included in this research.



## Video Games based on the Divergent Series

### LEGO Divergent Series: The Video Game

Divergent Series inspired the development of a video game by LEGO. LEGO is a line of plastic construction toys that are manufactured by The Lego Group, a privately held company based in Billund, Denmark. As of 2021, Lego was the largest toy company in the world. This video game includes most of the characters, themes, and features levels based on the series. The Divergent part of the game consists of the levels The Faction Test, Capture the Flag, The Four Fears, The Simulation Test, and Attack on Abnegation. The Insurgent part of the game consists of the levels The Amity Farm, The Candor

Courts, House Flies, The City Crumbles, and The Message. The game also features most of the characters from the series including Tris Prior, Tobias “Four” Eaton, Christina, Will, Caleb Prior, Marcus Eaton, Peter, Uriah, Natalie Prior, Evelyn, Molly, Jeanine Matthews, Andrew Prior, Jack Kang, Johanna, Tori Wu, and Edith Prior.

### **Divergent Mobile Game**

A Video Game for Mobile Phones based on *Divergent* was developed by the Canadian video game developer Ludia Inc. The game was released on January 25, 2018 and it was available to download from the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.



### **The Divergent Series: Insurgent – Shatter Reality (Virtual Reality Experience)**

This is a fully-immersive 3D Virtual Reality video game based on the *Insurgent* novel and film. The video game is directed by Cory Strassburger and it features the cast from the film: Kate Winslet, Miles Teller, Mekhi Phifer, and Patrick Cronen. The VR game was developed by ReelFX and published by Lionsgate. It was released on March 10, 2015 and is available on platforms like Google Play, LG 360 VR, Samsung Gear VR, and Google Cardboard VR.



### **The Divergent Series: Allegiant VR Experience**

Allegiant's immersive VR experience was released on 18th March 2016. The VR game was developed by Wevr Inc, Big Red Button Entertainment and published by Summit Entertainment LLC, a subsidiary of Lionsgate. The game also features most of the cast from *Allegiant*. The VR experience is available on platforms like Google Play, LG 360 VR, Samsung Gear VR, and Google Cardboard VR.



## 4.9. Conclusion

*Divergent* series has been highly influential in almost all the criteria a book series is supposed to excel. It produced a separate fan base following the footsteps of Young Adult Dystopian, Science Fiction, and Fantasy predecessors like the Harry Potter series, Twilight series, Percy Jackson series, and *The Hunger Games* trilogy. Official website of HarperCollins publishers confirm that more than thirty two million copies of the series have been sold all over the world. When *Divergent* was first released in 2011, it was positioned at number six on the New York Times best-seller list. But the second book in the series, *Insurgent* climbed up to the first spot of the same book seller list in 2012. *Allegiant* became the most most-preordered book ever published by HarperCollins when it came out in 2013. The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the novel series was released in June 2021 to celebrate the immense success of the series. It is also noteworthy that the *Divergent* series is published from India for sale only within the subcontinent, which is different from the editions of the English speaking countries.

The novel and film both have a setting of the dystopian and post-apocalyptic Chicago. Veronica Roth was raised in Barrington, Illinois. *Divergent* is set in the futuristic dystopian Chicago because of the author's fondness of Chicago and its surrounding places. In Roth's own words: "I wrote the rough draft and I felt like it needed a more grounded sense of place, and I looked at the city I had described, which is all these trains constantly moving, and this lake marsh, and these rivers. And I realized it was Chicago already, and that was just because it's the city I've known and loved the longest." Certain prominent contemporary Chicago landmarks are noted throughout the series. For example, portions of the important Chicago streets, State Street, Michigan

Avenue, and Lake Shore Drive are all mentioned in the series. Millennium Park in Chicago is described as a barren pile of grass and a large steel beam. In this future Chicago, Lake Michigan has dried up, becoming a marsh rather than a lake. In short, Chicago is one of the most important characters in the series which plays a good part in shaping the lives of characters. Even though Divergent series depicts most of the city of Chicago uninhabitable, the landmarks are still pretty prominent and easily distinguishable. Some landmarks worth mention are, The Sears/Willis Tower, The 'L' train system which connects the entire city, The Merchandise Mart, The Navy Pier, The John Hancock Center, and The Bean.

Veronica Roth is an alumna of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She majored in the creative writing program and graduated from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University. Roth was able to impress the students and faculty of Northwestern including her MFA supervisor. Joseph Diebold, Editor of *The Daily Northwestern* reports: "English Prof. Averill Curdy, who directed the honors seminar for creative writing majors when Roth was graduating from the program, said Roth's work stuck with her".

The novel series was translated into most of the major languages from around the world. Roth was also able to win several prestigious awards in young adult and teenage category for the book series. The film series based on the books were also successful at the box office as these films collected an approximate total of 765 million US dollars against the budget of 305 million. As evident from the film market research firm CinemaScore, the films received positive scores between A and B from the audience who



watched these in theatres. Merchandise and artifacts based on the films are still available for sale online and especially the *Divergent* Calendar is there for the year 2022-2023.

Veronica Roth wrote several other books for children and young adults following the immense success of the *Divergent* franchise. Her books in the Carve the Mark duology, *Carve the Mark* was released in 2017 and *The Fates Divide* was released in 2018. *Carve the Mark* was Roth's first novel to be published after *Allegiant* (2013). She repeated her success with these novels and also wrote a short story collection *The End and Other Beginnings* and it was published in 2019. Roth's first novel aimed at adults, *Chosen Ones* was released in 2020. She is still quite busy with writing and her two latest novels, *Poster Girl* and *Arch-Conspirator* are expected to be released very soon.

Harper Collins publishers put together a list of 200 books they had published from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to present. This collection consists of fiction and non-fiction books that had a significance influence on literary and popular culture. This list includes classics of literature like *Moby Dick*, *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Brave New World*, and winners of prestigious literary awards and prizes such as the Booker Prize and the Pulitzer Prize like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Hours*, *The God of Small Things*, and *The White Tiger*, and children's classic novels like *The Hobbit*, *Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* and *Bridge to Terabithia*. It is very important from my perspective of research that *Divergent* is a part of this collection.

In conclusion, *Divergent* series has been highly influential in all the ways a bestselling novel series is expected to be. After *The Hunger Games* series, it is the most successful and popular young adult dystopian/ post-apocalyptic franchise with a female

lead. Veronica Roth also inspired several young writers and women novelists to take creative writing more seriously with her success. The franchise still remains as relevant in popular culture as more works from Veronica Roth and the adaptations of her works like *Chosen Ones* are on their way. The series continues to be globally popular as the books, films, and the merchandise are still at large on websites and shopping sites including the market of India.