



Divergent

by Veronica Roth

Katherine Tegen Books, 2011

Book Synopsis: A futuristic Chicago is struggling to meet the needs of its population. The citizens remaining in the crumbling city have divided themselves into five like-minded groups, referred to as factions. These factions focus on different personality traits. The Abnegation faction contains selfless and giving members. Amity is the group for the peacekeepers. Candor's members are truthful while the Dauntless are extremely brave. The Erudite are intelligent and academic. Sixteen-year-old Beatrice "Tris" Prior must choose the faction that will define the rest of her life. Her choice becomes complicated and dangerous when a placement test reveals that Tris is unique. Her multiple talents allow her to fit in several factions. She is a "Divergent" and the ruling powers consider this to be a danger to society. For her own safety, Tris must keep her test results secret when she joins the Dauntless Faction. Here she makes friends and enemies, hones her skills, and becomes the catalyst of a situation that may cause the collapse of the current social structure.

Lesson I

Strong Female Characters Match & Patch

Introduction:

Sixteen-year-old Tris Prior is strong, complex, and brave. When she goes against family tradition and joins the Dauntless Faction, she sets into action a chain of events that initiate a destructive power play by the brilliant Jeanine Matthews, the leader of the Erudite Faction.

Suggested Grade Level: 6-9

Time Allocation: 30-35 minutes

Materials:

- Activity Sheet- Strong Female Characters Match & Patch
- Optional- Copies of listed titles for student reference
- Optional- Availability of the library card catalog for student reference

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate knowledge of characters, book titles, and authors in selected literary works.
- The students will work in groups to use collected knowledge to complete an informational grid.

Procedure:

1. Prepare and collect materials prior to class.
2. Introduce the lesson by telling the students that today's activity will feature books that have strong female main characters.
3. Ask the students if they are familiar with the book *Divergent* by Veronica Roth. Students who have read the book or seen the movie will be able to share that the protagonist and narrator of the story is a sixteen-year-old girl named Tris Prior. She joins the Dauntless Faction that thrives on taking risks. The antagonist is also a strong female. Her name is Jeanine Matthews. She is the brilliant leader of the Erudite Faction and is using her power to destroy the Abnegation Faction.
4. Explain that today's lesson is a combination of prior knowledge, logical reasoning and good guessing. (Allowing the students to use reference tools is at the teacher's discretion.)

5. Distribute activity sheets. Students should work in pairs or small groups. Note: Through the process of elimination even students who are not avid readers should be able to be successful in this exercise. All of the referenced titles have been made into movies. Plus, logical thinkers will quickly recognize that the book titles are listed in alphabetical order. The main purpose of this activity is to encourage making connections in various pieces of literature as well as spurring an interest in reading.
6. Check for understanding. The completed activity sheet should look like this:

	Protagonist	Antagonist	Title	Author
1	Alice	The Queen of Hearts	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	Lewis Carroll
2	Lina Mayfleet	Mayor Cole	<i>The City of Ember</i>	Jeanne DuPrau
3	Lyra Belacqua	Mrs. Coulter	<i>The Golden Compass</i>	Phillip Pullman
4	Hermione Granger	Lord Voldemort	<i>The Harry Potter Series</i>	J.K. Rowling
5	Katniss Everdeen	President Snow	<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins
6	Lucy Pevensie	The White Witch	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>	C.S. Lewis
7	Wendy Darling	Captain Hook	<i>Peter Pan</i>	J.M. Barrie
8	Violet Baudelaire	Count Olaf	<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i>	Lemony Snicket
9	Mallory Grace	Mulgarath	<i>The Spiderwick Chronicles</i>	Toni DiTerlizzi & Holly Black
10	Dorothy Gale	The Wicked Witch of the West	<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i>	L. Frank Baum

Strong Female Characters

Match & Patch

Directions: Using the words listed in the box below, fill in the missing spaces on the grid. Be prepared to discuss your choices.

	Main Character Protagonist	Main Character's Adversary Antagonist	Book or Series Title	Written by Author
1	Alice			
2			<i>The City of Ember</i>	
3				Phillip Pullman
4		Lord Voldemort		
5			<i>The Hunger Games</i>	
6				C.S. Lewis
7			<i>Peter Pan</i>	
8		Count Olaf		
9	Mallory Grace			
10				L. Frank Baum

WORD BOX

<p><i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i></p> <p>Captain Hook</p> <p>Dorothy Gale</p> <p><i>The Golden Compass</i></p> <p><i>The Harry Potter Series</i></p> <p>Hermione Granger</p> <p>J.K. Rowling</p> <p>J.M. Barrie</p> <p>Jeanne DuPrau</p> <p>Katniss Everdeen</p> <p>Lemony Snicket</p> <p>Lewis Carroll</p> <p>Lina Mayfleet</p> <p><i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i></p>	<p>Lucy Pevensie</p> <p>Lyra Belacqua</p> <p>Mayor Cole</p> <p>Mrs. Coulter</p> <p>Mulgarath</p> <p>President Snow</p> <p>The Queen of Hearts</p> <p><i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i></p> <p><i>The Spiderwick Chronicles</i></p> <p>Suzanne Collins</p> <p>Toni DiTerlizzi & Holly Black</p> <p>Violet Baudelaire</p> <p>Wendy Darling</p> <p>The White Witch</p> <p>The Wicked Witch of the West</p> <p><i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i></p>
--	--