Divergent Study Questions

Chapter 1:

1. What is the point of view of the novel?
2. Name the five factions. Describe each of them.
3. What is the Choosing Ceremony? How does the narrator feel about it?
4. What are the Aptitude Tests? How does the narrator feel about them?
5. The narrator is fascinated or intrigued by the individuals from which faction? Why?

Chapter 2:

1. The administrators are mostly from which faction? But there are two administrators from different factions, from which factions do they come from?
2. “Faction customs dictate even idle behaviour and supersede individual preference” (9). What does this mean?
3. What is the name of the narrator/protagonist of the story?
4. What do the narrator’s decisions during the Aptitude Test indicate about her personality? Based on her decisions and what you know about the factions – from which two factions can she be eliminated?

Chapter 3:

1. Who is Tori and what advice does she give the narrator about her test results?
2. How are Aptitude Test results and the Choosing Ceremony connected? How does the test affect the Ceremony?
3. Who are the factionless? What jobs do they hold?

Chapter 4:

1. What does Beatrice have to suppress if she decides to stay in Abnegation (p.28)?
2. While she is speaking with Caleb about the test, Beatrice hears a train horn in the distance; how does she feel about the sound?
3. Describe the passage in which Beatrice and Caleb discuss the test results – how does Caleb feel about Beatrice’s unwillingness to discuss the results?
4. What irritates Beatrice the most about Caleb?
5. Explain how the city is governed.
6. Why were the factions created in the first place? Why does this system continue?
7. What is Beatrice’s father’s reasoning for why Erudite has been writing reports attacking Abnegation?
8. When Beatrice looks into Caleb’s room, she sees an unmade bed and stacks of books on his desk, what could this indicate about Caleb’s character?
9. Beatrice has narrowed her choices down to which two factions? And why has she left the third on out?

Chapter 5:

1. On the way to the Choosing Ceremony Beatrice is convinced that Caleb is calm because he knows what faction he will choose – what faction does she believe it to be?
2. Why do Beatrice and her family take the steps to the top of the Hub? Why do you think Abnegation members are the only people using the stairs?
3. Who is in charge of running the Choosing Ceremony this year? From which faction is he?
4. Explain the process of the Choosing Ceremony.
5. According to Marcus, why were the factions formed? Explain the belief of each faction as to why society failed.
6. What is the motto Beatrice remembers reading in her history textbook? Why is this significant?
7. What faction does Caleb choose? Is this surprising? Why or why not?
8. What faction does Beatrice choose? Why does she say, “I am selfish. I am brave” (47)?

Chapter 6:

1. As Beatrice leaves the Choosing Ceremony with her new faction, how does her father feel about her decision based on the way he looks at her? How does her mother feel based on the way she looks at her?
2. Why has Beatrice not run anywhere in a long time?
3. What is the first task Beatrice has to complete as a new Dauntless initiate? What happened to the boy who didn’t make it?
4. When meeting Christina, what does Beatrice do that makes her feel uncomfortable?
5. On her way to Dauntless headquarters, Beatrice thinks about her family – how does she feel about Caleb? Explain.
6. On her way to Dauntless Headquarters, Beatrice says she would rather be dead than what? Explain.
7. After jumping from the train, what lesson does Beatrice learn about Dauntless initiation?
8. Once landing on the rooftop, what is the first official task the initiates are asked to do? Who volunteers first? Why is this surprising?
9. How does Beatrice introduce herself at the end of the chapter? Why do you think she does this?
10. Who does Beatrice meet at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 7:

1. How many Dauntless initiates are there? From which factions did they transfer?
2. Who is Four? How does Tris feel about him and why?
3. What is the Pit?
4. What is the chasm? What does Four say the chasm reminds the Dauntless of? Why?
5. Who is Eric? What does Tris think of him?
6. What is the relationship like between Eric and Four? What does Tris think about their interaction?
7. When talking to Four, what difference do we see in Tris? Why does Four warn her to be careful?
8. Explain/describe the Dauntless initiation process and daily routines. How does Tris feel about this?
9. How many Dauntless initiates are there in total? How many initiates will become members?
10. What does Tris hear the first night in Dauntless? What doesn’t she do and why?

Chapter 8:

1. What are the first and second lessons in Dauntless?
2. What do the Dauntless believe is the definition of cowardice?
3. What are the three stages of initiation?
4. What does Tris believe her family would think about her taking part in lesson one of Dauntless?
5. Who is Will? Describe him.
6. After practicing the first lesson, how does Tris feel – both physically, emotionally and mentally (79)?
7. During lunch, what is preoccupying Tris’ thoughts?
8. Christina quotes her mom and says, “Politeness is deception in pretty packaging” (81) - what does this mean? Do you agree?
9. How does Tris feel about seeing Myra and Edward kiss? How does this make her different from the other initiates who are from other factions?
10. What is Tris struggling with internally throughout the chapter (character vs. Self)? What is the reason?
11. What does Tris get at the end of the chapter? What does it symbolize?

Chapter 9:

1. How is Tris’ relationship with Christina different from any other she’s ever had? Why?
2. Who are the first two initiates to fight?
3. How does Christina describe Peter, Drew and Molly? Give a description for each.
4. Describe Christina’s personality and what reason she gives for being this way (p.94).
5. Why is there friction or conflict between Eric and Four? How do they differ in their beliefs?
6. What is the result of the first fight?
7. Who are the second initiates to fight? Describe it. What is the result?
8. How does Eric react at the end of the fight? What does he make the initiate do? What is the reasoning?
9. What is Tris conflicted with and why is she disgusted with herself?
10. Tris remembers her father saying, “Human reason can excuse any evil; that’s why it’s so important that we don’t rely on it” - what does this mean and how does it apply to Tris (p.102)?

Chapter 10:

1. What happens to Tris’ bed? Who did it? How does Tris feel about this person and why is this odd?
2. Who helps Tris with her bed? What advice does he/she give Tris?
3. How is Tris “famous” in Dauntless right now?
4. How does Tris try to make Al feel better about knocking out Will the day before?
5. Who is Tris scheduled to fight? How is this unfair?
6. How does Four feel about Tris’ scheduled fight? How do you know?
7. What is the one strategy Tris reminds herself to use during her fight?
8. Tris thinks Four leaves the fight because it’s not interesting – do you agree? What could be another reason he leaves?
9. How does Tris’ fight end? Where does she wake up?
10. Tris has a childhood memory of going to the hospital with her mother – what does this memory reveal about Caleb as a child?
11. What field trip will they be going on tomorrow and for what reason?
12. Al stays behind to talk to Tris and tries to reassure – why do you think he does this?
13. Al thinks he is a coward because he lost a fight on purpose, but Tris says he’s not a coward just because he doesn’t want to hurt people – who do you agree with and why?
14. What is Visiting Day? When is it? How do Al and Tris feel about Visiting Day?
15. Tris cries for the first time at the end of the chapter – what causes her to cry?

Chapter 11:

1. Who mocks Tris in the beginning of the chapter and who defends her?
2. When did the fence go up around the city?
3. Tris’ dad voted to get Dauntless out of the factionless sector – why did he do this and why is Tris not willing to share that with the others?
4. What jobs will the Dauntless initiates end up with if they don’t rank in the top five? How can they advance in this position?
5. Where did Four rank in his initiate class?
6. What are Dauntless job choices?
7. What job does Tris think will fit her best?
8. While at the fence, a truck from Amity pulls up to deliver produce – who does Tris see? How is he different. Describe their conversation.
9. How are the gates to the city locked? What conclusions can we make about it?
10. What does the conversation between Tris and Four and Four’s behaviour imply?

Chapter 12:

1. How many days has it been since Tris’ fight with Peter? Who does she fight next and how does it end?
2. Why are the initiates woken up in the middle of the night? What are they going to do?
3. Why do you think Four chooses Tris first?
4. Who are the members on Eric’s team? What do they have in common?
5. Who are the members on Four’s team?
6. What does Four’s team argue over?
7. What is Tris distracted by? Why do you think that is?
8. While the group is arguing, what does Tris think is the best plan and what does she do?
9. Who joins Tris? Why does she think he/she follows her? Why does you think he/she does?
10. What scares Tris while she is on the Ferris wheel?
11. What is Four afraid of? How does he deal with his fear?
12. Where did Eric’s team hide the flag?
13. How does Four save Tris?
14. What does Tris do that makes Christina look at her like she doesn’t recognize her? How is this out of character for Tris?
15. How is Christina disrespectful to Tris? How does Tris handle it – what are her thoughts?
16. What compliment do Uriah and Marlene give Tris that would be seen as an insult in Abnegation?
17. Tris says, “It has been years since I jumped off a building in my Abnegation uniform; it has been decade” - why does she say this? What does it imply?
18. What does Tris say will make her content regarding her life? What does she have to do to obtain it? What does this indicate about how she feels about life in Dauntless?

Chapter 13:

1. The initiates are taking a break from fighting to do what?
2. When will fighting resume? What will this mark the end of? Why is this significant?
3. Why is Eric particularly on edge?
4. During training, Tris develops a strategy – what is it and how does this make her different than the others?
5. Why is Eric frustrated with Al?
6. What does Eric want Al to do to prove himself and why does Al refuse?
7. What does Eric want Four to do and what is Eric trying to prove when he yells at Four for refusing?
8. How does Tris stand up for Al? What point does she make about being a coward?
9. How does Four feel about Tris’ decision?
10. How does Eric feel about Tris’ behaviour? How does she feel about his reaction to her?
11. In the argument between Tris and Four, why does Four say, “I’m a little tired of waiting for you to catch on” (165). What does he mean?

Chapter 14:

1. Summarize the altercation between Tris, Peter, Molly and Drew.
2. As the fights continue, who does Tris want to fight and why?
3. Who is Tris actually matched up to fight?
4. What is the result of the fight between Al and Christina?
5. What thoughts does Tris use to help fuel her anger/energy for her fight?
6. How does Tris use Four’s advice to help her in her fight?
7. What happens during Tris’ fight?
8. Who end Tris’ fight and why?
9. How does Tris feel about the result of the fight? Why is this surprising?

Chapter 15:

1. What phrase should be taken seriously on Visiting Day according to Eric?
2. What does a Dauntless “wholesome” family look like?
3. How does Tris’ mother greet her?
4. Where is Tris’ father? What else does Tris’ mother say about him?
5. Why won’t Tris’ mom visit Caleb and what would happen if she did?
6. What does Cara think Abnegation does with the good they “supposedly” distribute to the factionless?
7. What advice does Natalie give Tris?
8. Natalie asks Tris to find Caleb and ask him to research what?
9. What faction does Tris conclude her mother was from?

Chapter 16:

1. Why does Al say he chose Dauntless?
2. What does AL do that makes Tris feel awkward and Al feel embarrassed?
3. Why does Christina say the Aptitude Test ruined dogs for her?
4. Four says, “preying on a the weak” is a sign of what?
5. What rank is Tris?
6. What might Peter’s rank of number two foreshadow?
7. What happens to Edward, who is ranked number one?
8. One of the lines in the Dauntless Manifesto is, “We believe in ordinary acts of bravery, in the courage that drives one person to stand up for another.” Why is this ironic in light of what happened to Edward?
9. What is Tris’ hope for the future of Dauntless?
10. Who winds up getting cut?

Chapter 17:

1. Summarize the events of chapter 17.

Chapter 18:

1. Now that stage one is over, how will the dauntless-born initiates and the transfers continue their training?
2. Prior to the group conversation in this chapter, what are two examples of Tris’ previous interactions with Uriah?
3. What is stage two of initiation?
4. Summarize the process of the simulation.
5. How long will each initiate stay in the simulation?
6. What is Tris’ simulation?
7. How does Tris react after coming out of the simulation?
8. What does Four say is the purpose of stage two of training?
9. Tris thinks she is failing stage two of initiation, but what does Four tell her that indicates she is excelling over everyone else?
10. What did Tris originally believe the Dauntless were? What does she realize they really are?
11. Why is Eric jealous and/or threatened by Four?
12. How does Four perceive Tris?

Chapter 19:

1. What is Peter reading when Tris enters the dorm? What does it say?
2. How does Tris react to this – physically and emotionally?
3. What does Tris say Erudite is trying to do? How does Will respond to this?
4. Where does Tris go with Christina, Al and Will? What does she get?
5. What does Will tell Tris about the simulations and brain functions?
6. When Tris sees Four, what is he doing? Why is this odd?
7. How old is Four?
8. How does Tris feel about the way Four is acting?
9. What does Four think of Tris’ appearance?
10. Tris compares her old life to her new life: what are the differences?

Chapter 20:

1. What is Tris’ second fear?
2. What occurs during her second simulation – describe using specific details form the text?
3. What does Tris think about during the second simulation that helps her?
4. Why is Four surprised with Tris’ simulation? What does he realize about Tris? What does he tell/warn her about her results?
5. Why does Tris go see Tori?
6. What does Tori tell Tris about being Divergent?
7. What proof does Tori have that the Dauntless leaders will kill Tris if they discover she is Divergent?
8. Based on the information Tris received from Tori, what questions does she have about Four?

Chapter 21 :

1. How many articles have Erudite released about Abnegation?
2. What is Erudite accusing Abnegation of?
3. What does Tris think fear is now?
4. What is Tris’s ranking for stage two?
5. How does everyone else feel about her ranking? (Peter, Will and Christina, and Uriah)
6. What and who does Tris overhear in the hallway?
7. How was Tris attacked and why?

Chapter 22:

1. Explain Four’s strategy for Tris to survive in Dauntless.

Chapter 23:

1. What is the final test of stage 3?
2. What does Four say to Peter in response to Peter’s concerns about the fear simulations?
3. What does Al want from Tris at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 24:

1. What happened to Al? Where?
2. What title does Eric give Al? Is it appropriate?
3. What does Tris start to regret?
4. What is happening between Four and Tris?

Chapter 25

1. Four brings Tris into his fear landscape. What are Four’s fears?
2. How does Tris help Four get through his fear landscape?
3. Why is Four nicknamed “Four”?
4. What is Four’s real name? Who is he?

Chapter 26

1. After Four’s fear landscape, what does Tris want to know about Four?
2. What does Four like about Tris? (She may not be very pretty but…)
3. What are new developments in their relationship?

Chapter 27

1. Whose fear landscape do the initiates go through?
2. How many fears do people usually have?
3. What fear does Tris face and how does she react? How does Four react?

Chapter 28

1. Tris goes to the Erudite compound.
   1. Describe her reunion with Caleb.
   2. How does Caleb feel about Abnegation?
   3. How does Caleb feel about Erudite?
   4. How does Caleb feel about Tris? About his mom?
2. Tris meets Jeannine Matthews.
   1. What does Jeannine seem to be accusing Tris of?
   2. What lies does Tris come up with to convince Jeannine of her choices?
3. When Tris comes back to the Dauntless compound, Eric is angry and ready for a fight. How is Tris saved from this situation?
4. How have Four and Tris defined their relationship?
5. Four and Tris talk about Erudite plans for Abnegation. What have they concluded? How are the Dauntless affected?

Chapter 29

1. Tris can’t seem to shake her old faction. What does she do that shows she’s still Abnegation?
2. Everyone is gathering for the fear landscape test.
   1. What does the audience see?
   2. Who sees the fear landscapes?
   3. Which initiate goes last?

Chapter 30:

1. What are Tris’ seven fears?

Chapter 31:

1. Why is Tris relieved that Tobias did not see her fear landscape?
2. Explain Tobias’s tattoos on his back.

Chapter 32:

1. The final rankings are posted. Identify the rankings of the following people: Tris, Christina, Will, Peter, Drew and Molly.
2. How will Erudite get the Dauntless to fight against Abnegation?

Chapter 33:

1. What is happening to the entire faction?
2. Why isn’t Tris in the same trance as everyone else?
3. Who else is “awake”? Why?
4. How are the Dauntless receiving orders?
5. When Eric is tempted to shoot Four, what does Tris do?

Chapter 34:

1. According to Jeannine, which faction do Divergents come from?
2. In order to improve the government, who does Jeannine want to eliminate?
3. What does Tobias do to Jeannine once she explains that she wants to use Tobias and execute Tris?
4. Jeannine injects Tobias with a new serum. He is not a mindless soldier; he can act independently. Where does she send Tobias to work?

Chapter 35:

1. How does Jeannine torture Tris?
2. Tris’ mother saves her. What do we learn about her mother’s identity and how she became Abnegation?
3. Why do others, especially Erudite, fear divergence?
4. How does her mother die?

Chapters 36 to 39

1. Who had to take out the bullet in Tris’ shoulder?
2. How does Tris figure out that the computers that control the simulation are at Dauntless headquarters?
3. Who follows Tris to the Dauntless Compound?
4. What is Tris’ definition of bravery?
5. Why is Peter “awake”?
6. What does Tris do to Peter and for what reason?
7. How does Tris keep her brother safe?
8. Who else does Tris lose that day? How?
9. How does Tris survive her encounter with Tobias in the control room?
10. What happens when the Dauntless “wake up”?
11. Tobias has to face Marcus for the first time since he left Abnegation. Explain their reunion.
12. What do they think Candor will do in this newly broken system?
13. When they get out of Dauntless headquarters, where are they going?
14. What does Tris have and Marcus seems to want?
15. Tris and Tobias are in love, the social structure they know is now broken and the war is not over. How does Tris feel in the end is important to her identity?