

DIVERGENT

Discussion Questions

{Abridged Edition}

Answers in separate document.

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Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 1-5 QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

1. Narrator:

2. Point-of-view:

3. Describe the narrator. What is your first impression of her?
4. What can you infer about the narrator's faction? Give evidence from the novel (at least 3 examples) that support your answer.
5. Would you want to live in this type of society? (Or world?) Why or why not?
6. Do you think the characters want to live this way? Why or why not? (Give at least one example from chapter one that supports your opinion.)
7. Does the Abnegation faction remind you of any groups in our society today? Explain.
8. Who do you think monitors or enforces the faction rules?

Chapter 2

1. On page 8, what kind of tone (or connotation) does the narrator use in the line "Of course not"?
2. How do you know she is using that tone? What does it tell you about her personality?
3. What is the purpose of the aptitude tests?
4. What does the hawk tattoo mean to Tori?

Chapter 2 Enrichment: Take the test online: <http://www.divergentfactions.com/divergent-faction-quiz.html>

Chapter 3

1. What does it mean to live a "factionless" life?
2. What is the result of Beatrice's aptitude test?
3. Which two factions were ruled out?
4. Why might being **divergent** in this society be considered dangerous?
5. Which faction (of the three she most closely aligns to) do you think Beatrice will choose? Why? (Give an example from the book that might indicate this decision. Consider her reaction to the factionless man.)

Chapter 4

1. Do you think 16 is too young to leave your family? Why or why not?
2. Describe the Abnegation sector of the city using evidence from the chapter:
3. Beatrice narrates on page 28: "If we have little, and want for little, and we are all equal, we envy no one." Do you agree with her statement? Why or why not?
4. **SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTION:** Describe the set-up of the city's council.
 - How is the government set up in Beatrice's world?
 - One way this is similar to our own government:
 - One (or more) ways this is different from our government:
5. Who is Jeanine Matthews?
6. What has she been doing that angers Beatrice's father?
7. Why do you think asking questions (and being curious) is frowned upon in Abnegation?
8. How does Beatrice's father feel about Tobias leaving Abnegation to join Dauntless?
9. How does he feel about Erudite?
10. Do you think his attitude will influence Beatrice's choice? Why or why not?

Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

Chapter 5

1. What is each faction's belief for the cause of war?

Amity:

Erudite:

Candor:

Abnegation:

Dauntless:

2. Do you agree with the faction beliefs? Why or why not? Do you think there are other factors that cause war? If so, what?

3. Which faction would you be drawn to most? Why?

4. Are you surprised by Caleb's choice? Beatrice's choice? Why/why not?

VOCABULARY CONNECTIONS: Word Connotations (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5)

From chapter four: "I try to smile convincingly. I seem to have persuaded Susan and Robert, who no longer look concerned for my mental stability, but Caleb narrows his eyes at me, the way he does when he suspects someone of **duplicity.**"

DIRECTIONS: Look up and record the definition of the word "**duplicity.**" What connotations (or feelings) are associated with it? Is there a word that means something similar that does not have a connotation?

1. definition of duplicity (literal):

2. connotation:

3. neutral replacement:

Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 6-10 QUESTIONS

Chapter 6

1. How do Beatrice's parents react to her betrayal?
2. Do you think it's uncharacteristic of Beatrice to be in Dauntless? Why? If not, why not? Use examples from the novel to support your answer.
3. Beatrice's father described the Dauntless as "hellions" in chapter 1 (p. 7). Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Describe the following new characters:
 - a. Christina:
 - b. Max:
 - c. Peter:
 - d. Four:
5. Who is Tris?
6. Why does she change her name?

Chapter 7

1. How many Dauntless transfer initiates are there?
2. Describe the "Pit."
3. What does Tris notice about the age of the faction members?
4. Author's Purpose: Pay particular attention to Four's reactions to Tris's comments and questions. Analyze why you think he has these peculiar responses.
5. Who is Eric?
6. What are the purposes of the rankings?
7. How many make it into Dauntless?
 - How many will be cut?
8. What happens if you are cut?
9. Do you think other factions have the same rules for cutting? Why or why not?
10. What does Tris realize about herself by the end of chapter 7?

Chapter 8

1. What does firing a gun have to do with being brave according to Four?
2. Friction between the factions: Why do the members of Candor have a problem with the members of Amity?
3. Do you think deception is sometimes acceptable to keep the peace? Why or why not?
4. Describe the following new characters:
 - a. Al:
 - b. Will:
 - c. Edward:
 - d. Myra:
5. Tris has had to leave behind many of her old ways. List at least four things she has given up or changed from her old faction.

Read the following passage from chapter 8 and answer the questions below regarding the economic system: **At home, my mother and I picked up nearly identical stacks of clothing every six months or so. It's easy to allocate resources when everyone gets the same thing, but everything is more varied at the Dauntless compound. Every Dauntless gets a certain amount of points to spend per month, and the dress costs one of them.** (page 88)

6. Do you think all members of society deserve "points" to spend, or should only those who are actually working get paid each month? Why or why not?
7. Where do you think all the resources come from? Which faction produces or manufactures them? Or are they shipped in from somewhere else? {Explain your answer using reason and logic.}
8. Is this economic system similar to any other countries? Or any programs in our country? Explain.

Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

Chapter 9

1. How does Will & Al's fight end?
2. "...the Dauntless have different rules—rules that brutality does not violate." (p. 100) Give examples of how the meaning of this quote is portrayed in chapter 9.
3. What kind of person is Molly? Give evidence from the novel to support your opinion.
4. "What's worse: to be idle while someone dies, or to be exiled and empty-handed?" (p. 102) Which do you think would be worse? Why?
5. What do Al and Tris's behavior toward Christina reveal about their character? Is this a good thing or not for a Dauntless member? Why or why not?

Chapter 10

1. Describe Tris's first fight.
 2. How do you think Al feels about Tris? How does Tris feel about Al? Give evidence from the novel to support your answer.
 3. Do you agree with Tris that refusing to act makes someone a coward? (page 116) Why or why not?
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Chapters 6-10 LANGUAGE DEVICES: VERBAL IRONY

Verbal irony refers to the use of vocabulary to describe something in a way that is other than it seems. Often, but not always, verbal irony is used with a **sarcastic tone**. Verbal irony is often a comment that conveys a different meaning than what it may seem to be.

1. How does Tris use verbal irony on page 66?
 2. Why do you think Tris uses sarcasm in this situation? What effect does it have?
 3. Note other instances where Tris uses verbal irony. What purpose does it serve for her?
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Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 11-15 Questions

Chapter 11

1. Analyze the tone in the following two examples of dialogue. How is it different? What is it that makes the tone change?

“Stumpy Legs over here turned into an old lady overnight,” says Christina. (page 120)

“Feeling okay there?” Peter says, giving me a look of mock sympathy—his lips turned down, his arched eyebrows pulled in. “Or are you a little...*stiff?*” (page 121)

2. Where do the initiates go for their field trip in Chapter 11? Why?
3. What do you think is beyond the fence? Why?
4. What makes Robert assume Tris isn't happy in her faction?
5. What is Beatrice's goal in life, do you think?
6. What does Tris notice about the fence's lock? Why is this odd?

Chapter 12

1. What is Four's strategy for selecting his team for the “Capture the Flag” paintball game?
2. Describe the city of Chicago. How has it changed? What do you think caused the change?
3. How does Tris figure out where the other team's flag is?
4. What do we learn about Four?
5. How is his flaw uncharacteristic of a Dauntless member?
6. Why would the author give Four this flaw?
7. What do you think of Christina's actions toward Tris at the end of the game? Why doesn't Tris protest?

Chapter 13

1. How do the events in chapter 13 further complicate the plot and the relationship Tris has with Four?
2. How is Al portrayed by the author in chapter 13 (character traits/personality)?

Chapter 14

1. Thematic Connections: How does the setting promote bullying among characters?
2. Why is Four alarmed by Tris's actions at the end of chapter 14?
3. Should Tris feel guilty for what she did to Molly? Why or why not?

Chapter 15

1. Why would attachment to your family be considered shameful?
 2. Who comes to see Tris on visiting day?
 3. What do we learn about Four through Tris's observations in chapter 15?
 4. What advice does Tris's visitor give her?
 5. What does she request of Tris?
 6. What new revelation does Tris have about her mother?
 7. EVIDENCE: Re-read chapter 15. List three clues (with page #s) that indicate this revelation:
 8. PREDICT: Why do you think the simulation serum should be “researched”? Why would Tris's mother request this?
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Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHARACTER TYPES

1. Looking at the different types of characters (see definitions on right), which would you consider for the following roles:
 - Protagonist:
 - Antagonist:
 - Mentor:
 - Foil:
 - Confidante:
2. Which events in the novel so far have been catalysts for change in Tris?
3. Which characters would you consider catalysts for Tris? Why?

LOOKING AHEAD: Other minor character roles include symbolic characters, those who represent one of the themes from the novel. As you continue reading, make note of any characters who may be symbolic of one of the themes.

CHARACTER PORTRAYALS

Characters are not only classified in certain roles, but they are portrayed in different ways.

One area authors concentrate on are whether the character changes his or her personality, beliefs, looks, and behavior over the course of the story. If so, these are called dynamic characters. If not, they are more static characters.

The other area is the complexity of the character's personality: do they show a range of emotions? Are they conflicted on decisions? Do they sometimes contradict themselves? If so, they are more rounded characters. If they seem to only have one or two personality traits, they are considered flat characters.

1. Which characters are more dynamic in the story thus far? Why?
2. Which characters are portrayed more rounded so far? Why?

Types of Characters

Protagonist: the central person in the story who is faced with conflict that must be resolved (the main character).

Antagonist: a character (or situation) that opposes or contends with the protagonist.

Mentor: serves as the protagonist's conscience; this character voices the lesson(s) to be learned.

Foil: a character whose personality traits conflict with the protagonist's, giving the reader a contrast that helps you get to know the protagonist better.

Confidante: a character in which the protagonist confides, allowing the reader to learn more about the protagonist.

Catalyst: a character or event that instigates a change in other characters or in the plot of the story.

Types of Character Portrayals

CHANGE or STAY THE SAME?

Dynamic characters: are characters who change over time, usually as a result of facing a major crisis or resolving a conflict.

Static characters: are those whose personalities, attitudes, and looks do not evolve over time.

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COMPLEX or ONE-DIMENSIONAL?

Round characters: are characters who have a complex personality; they are usually conflicted and/or contradictory.

Flat characters: are those who only have one personality trait or characteristic; they are relatively uncomplicated.

Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 16-20 Questions

Chapter 16

1. Why did Al join Dauntless?
2. Do you agree or disagree with his definition of courage? (page 190) Explain.
3. What is Four's philosophy as far as ranking and scoring? (page 197)
4. Where does Tris finish in the first stage of initiation?
5. What happens to Edward? Who did it? What was their motivation?
6. Why don't Tris and Christina tell anyone who did it?
7. Rewrite the line from the Dauntless manifesto:
8. Do their training exercises seem to support the manifesto? Why or why not?
9. How many total initiates (including the Dauntless-born) are left at the end of chapter 16?

Chapter 17

1. Uriah asks Tris to join the _____ for an _____.
2. On page 211, Tris describes the group as "a pack of dogs." What does she mean by this comparison?
3. Tris' curiosity is a personality trait of which faction?
4. How many figurative language/poetic devices can you find in the following sentence? Identify and label as many examples of personification, alliteration, and onomatopoeia as you can.

"The elevator zooms upward so fast my stomach sinks and my ears pop." (page 216)

5. Which act does Tris believe is a braver act than going down the zip line?
6. What else besides bravery does it take?

Chapter 18

1. How does the second stage of training differ from the first stage? Give two examples.
2. Who was ranked the first from the Dauntless-born initiates?
3. What happens to Tris in the simulation?
4. Do you think the way Four and Eric were ranked in their training class has anything to do with their strained relationship? Why or why not?

Chapter 19

1. What is the reporter implying with the statement "...perhaps the answer lies not in a morally bereft man, but in the corrupted ideals of an entire faction. Perhaps the answer is that we have entrusted our city to a group of proselytizing tyrants who do not know how to lead us out of poverty and into prosperity?" (243-244)
2. Tris stereotypes all the Erudite based on what she has heard from her father about Jeanine and the few reports and articles that have been released, mainly coming from Jeanine. Is this fair of Tris? Why/why not?
3. What impression would outsiders get of Dauntless if they were to only base their assumptions on what Eric says and does?
4. IDENTITY THEME - What actions does Tris take in chapter 19 to fit in more with the Dauntless and move further away from her identity with Abnegation?
5. How does Tris feel about Al? How does she feel about him?

Chapter 20

1. Why does Tris do so well in the simulations? (What strategy does she use to do well?)
 2. In chapter 20, according to Four, why will Tris end up at the bottom the chasm dead if she continues to do well on the simulations?
 3. Infer: Why would people kill others because they can manipulate and "beat" the simulations?
 4. What are the two kinds of people who know about the simulation manipulation according to Tori?
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Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 21-25 Questions

Chapter 21

1. Erudite released two new articles about the Abnegation; what did the first article say? (p. 261)
2. What did the second article discuss?
3. Tris thinks the second article makes sense and actually seems rational, which causes her suspicion. Why would this be cause for suspicion?
4. Why do you think Tris has such a negative view of Erudite, yet her brother Caleb doesn't?
5. What happens to Tris when she gets up in the middle of the night?

Chapter 22

1. What explanation does Four give for the reason Al was in on the attack?
2. How does Four want Tris to act in front of her peers? Why? (p. 285)

Chapter 23

1. What does Uriah want to do to get even with Peter, Drew, and Al?
2. Describe the fear landscape. Give details.
3. What is the purpose of the fear landscape?
4. How does Tris treat Al? Do you agree with her actions? How would you act toward him?

Chapter 24

1. What do you think Tris is afraid of?
2. How has the Dauntless training brought out the evil in the initiates? Cite examples from the novel.
3. Do you think the skills they are learning are merely for guarding the fence? What other duties do you think the Dauntless have or could be training for? Why?

Chapter 25

1. What does Tris choose for her new tattoo?
2. Why do you think she chooses this symbol? How does it relate to her struggle with identity?
3. What are Four's fears in his fear landscape?
4. What is Four's real name?
5. What faction did Four transfer from?
6. Look back in previous chapters. How did the author foreshadow this?

Chapters 21-25 Figurative Language: ALLUSIONS

An **allusion** is a figure of speech that makes a reference to a place, person, or something that happened. This can be real or imaginary and may refer to anything, including paintings, opera, folk lore, mythical figures, or religious manuscripts. The reference can be direct or may be inferred, and can broaden the reader's understanding.

1. What is the allusion on page 282?
2. Is it a literary, biblical, or mythological allusion?
3. How does this allusion relate to Dauntless? To Four?
4. Why do you think the author chose this moment to use the allusion?

Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

Chapters 21-25 LANGUAGE DEVICES: VERBAL IRONY

Verbal irony refers to the use of vocabulary to describe something in a way that is other than it seems. Often, but not always, verbal irony is used with a **sarcastic tone**. Verbal irony is often a comment that conveys a different meaning than what it may seem to be.

1. How does Tris use verbal irony on page 318?
 2. Why do you think Tris uses sarcasm in this situation? What effect does it have? What effect would it have if she had stated her belief directly?
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Chapters 21-25 LANGUAGE DEVICES: PARADOX

A **paradox** is a statement or phrase that contradicts itself, yet reveals a truth. An **oxymoron** is a pair of words that contradict one another (such as jumbo shrimp). Both are contradictory, but a paradox professes a deeper meaning and the contradiction may not always be clearly stated.

1. Identify the paradox on page 330.
 2. Explain the meaning of the paradox. What truth does it reveal?
 3. Find a second paradox on page 330. Identify it and explain its meaning.
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Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 26-30 Questions

Chapter 26

1. What is Four's first instinct when he is faced with danger? (Page 336)
2. According to Tris, what is her first instinct when faced with danger?
3. Which examples does Four use to show Tris how she *is* selfless?

Chapter 27

1. Why do you think Tobias acts as though nothing has changed between he and Tris?
2. Which of Lauren's fears is Tris assigned to?
3. Why is this a fitting fear for Tris?
4. What happens to Tris during Lauren's fear landscape?

Chapter 28

1. Where does Tris flee?
2. How has Caleb changed?
3. How does Tris present herself to Jeanine? (How does she alter her personality?)
4. Why does Tris present herself this way?
5. Should Tris be punished for leaving the Dauntless headquarters? Why or why not?
6. What was Four's reason for humiliating Tris at the end of chapter 27?
7. How are the Erudite defying city ordinances?
8. What has Four (Tobias) discovered in the Dauntless secure files?
9. How do you think the Erudite will use the Dauntless to fight?

Chapter 29

1. How do the Abnegation and Dauntless Initiation day rituals differ?
2. **IDENTITY THEME** - After all she has been through, what does Tris realize about herself?

Chapter 30

1. - 7. List, in order, each of Tris's fears (what the fear actually represents) in her fear landscape final test and how she overcomes them (or moves to the next fear).

WORD CONNOTATION: PROSPERITY

"Prosperity. To me the word has a negative connotation." - page 350, Chapter 28

1. Look up the definition of "prosperity." Record it here:
2. Why would "prosperity" be viewed as negative by the Abnegation?

Based on Abnegation's view of the word "prosperity," how do you think they would view these synonyms and antonyms for the word?

3. success:
 4. affluence:
 5. hardship:
 6. failure:
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Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 31-35 QUESTIONS

Chapter 31

1. What does Eric do to Tris after she completes final test?
2. What is his reason for doing this?
3. How does Tris feel about this? Give evidence from the novel that demonstrates this.
4. Why does Four have tattoos of all five factions?
5. How would Dauntless be different if Four was one of its leaders?

Chapter 32

1. What Dauntless job is Tris considering?
2. What qualities does she have that would help her with that career?
3. How does Tris finish in the final standings?
4. How would her mother feel about this, considering her advice to Tris when she visited?
5. Which initiates are now factionless?
6. Using the clues Tris left, how will the Erudite get the Dauntless to fight for them?

Chapter 33

1. What is wrong with Christina and the other Dauntless members?
2. What does Tris realize about Four?
3. What “mission” do the Dauntless carry out for the Erudite and Dauntless leaders?
4. Infer: Why is Tris unable to shoot Eric?

Chapter 34

1. For what “purpose” does Jeanine plan to use Four and Tris?
2. Why does Jeanine believe Four would sympathize with her regarding the targets of her attack?
3. According to Tris, what makes Jeanine so terrifying?
4. What is Four’s new role in Jeanine’s plan?

Chapter 35

1. On page 437, Tris thinks, “If I refuse to give up now, it will look brave to whoever watches me with that camera, but sometimes it isn’t fighting that’s brave, it’s facing the death you know is coming. I sob into the glass. I’m not afraid of dying, but I want to die a different way, any other way.” Does Tris fight for her life, or does she accept her impending death?
2. “It has been a long time since I thought about God, but I think about him now. It is only natural. I am glad, suddenly, that I shot Eric in the foot instead of the head.” (page 438) What does this say about Tris’ ethics?
3. Natalie says on page 441, “Human beings as a whole cannot be good for long before the bad creeps back in and poisons us again.” Has history proven this sentiment or do you think “the bad” can be eradicated? Why or why not? Use evidence from both history and from the novel to support your opinion.
4. What does being Divergent mean, according to Natalie?
5. How does the author manipulate time on pages 443-444? What effect does it have for the reader?

Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

Chapters 31-35 READING ASSESSMENT: Show Evidence from the Text

“We believe in bravery. We believe in taking action. We believe in freedom from fear and in acquiring the skills to force the bad out of our world so that the good can prosper and thrive. If you also believe in those things, we welcome you.” (Eric, chapter 32 page 412)

1. List at least two ways in which Tris has lived by these ideals using evidence from the text.
 2. List one example in which Tris has *not* lived by these ideals.
 3. How has Four lived by these ideals? Give two examples from the novel.
 4. Which Dauntless members have *not* followed these ideals? Choose one member and give at least one example.
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ONOMATOPOEIA

Read the following passage from Chapter 34, pages 433-434. **CIRCLE** all the examples of onomatopoeia. Then answer the questions below.

“Jeanine braces herself against the desk, spluttering and gasping. She rubs her throat, which is bright red with Tobias’s fingerprints. No matter how mechanical she seems, she’s still human; there are tears in her eyes as she takes a box from her desk drawer and opens it, revealing a needle and syringe.

Still breathing heavily, she carries it toward Tobias. Tobias grits his teeth and elbows one of the guards in the face. The guard slams the heel of his gun into the side of Tobias’s head, and Jeanine sticks the needle into Tobias’s neck. He goes limp.

A sound escapes my mouth, not a sob or a scream, but a croaking, scraping moan that sounds detached, like it is coming from someone else.” (Chapter 34, p. 433-434)

1. How does the use of onomatopoeia enhance the passage?
 2. How do the words contribute to the overall mood of the passage? What feelings do they convey?
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IT MAKES ME WONDER...

“The pain has been so constant for the past few minutes that I have gotten used to it, like a person gets used to a siren’s wail if it remains consistent.”
(chapter 34, page 431)

Some words or phrases the author uses triggers additional questions in the reader’s mind. For example, the words “a siren’s wail” may cause the reader to wonder what kind of siren she is referring to. It is questionable because the narrator has never mentioned a siren, or a police or emergency force (besides Dauntless). Perhaps it is a city-wide siren. Which then prompts further questions, like: Who controls the sirens for the city? What are they used for? Why is Tris familiar with a constant siren wail?

What are some phrases/words in the book that make YOU wonder or prompts further questions? Are there any words the author has used that you question? Write your thoughts on a separate sheet of paper.

Divergent Novel Discussion Questions {Abridged}

CHAPTERS 36-39 QUESTIONS

Chapter 36

1. How does Tris justify her actions on page 445? Does this contrast her previous beliefs? What has changed that makes her change her beliefs?
2. Do you think her actions are justifiable? Why or why not? Could she have done something differently to avoid killing?
3. How does Natalie's death contrast with Al's according to Tris?
4. What conclusion does Tris come to regarding her father's attitude toward her?
5. What evidence from the chapter would support her conclusion? What evidence from the chapter would refute her conclusion? Which seems most plausible?

Chapter 37

1. Why did Tris need to join Dauntless to learn to be selfless? Why couldn't she learn that trait in Abnegation?
2. Does Marcus act like an Abnegation? Why or why not? Cite examples from the novel to support your opinion.
3. Tris doesn't know how or when she decided she would give her life to save her brother's (p. 469), but she has without any thought. What previous event foreshadowed this decision?

Chapter 38

1. Analyze the choice of words and sentence structure used in chapter 38. Which words stand out? Does the author use traditional sentence structure? Are the sentences longer or shorter than usual? How do the words and sentence structure add to the suspense? Describe your observations from the chapter.

Chapter 39

1. How did Tobias come out of the simulation?
2. What does Tris learn about the blue lights?
3. Why do you think the citizens are monitored by cameras? Who do you think is in charge of monitoring them?
4. Who saves Caleb, Marcus, and Peter from being shot by the Dauntless "soldiers"?
5. How does Tobias react to seeing Marcus?
6. Where do Tris, Tobias, and the others flee for safety? Why?
7. What consequences for her actions will Tris most likely have to face in the future? Explain, citing clues from the chapter.

END OF NOVEL QUESTIONS

1. **Survival of the Fittest OR Knowing the Right People?** How has Tris relied on others for her own survival? How has she relied on herself? Cite examples from the novel to support your answer.
2. **POINT OF VIEW:** How would the story differ if it was narrated from Four's point of view? Consider where the story would begin, which events would be included, which new events may be added, and how it might end.
3. **THEMATIC CONNECTIONS:** Determine two or more themes or central ideas from the novel; next, analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account.
4. **PARALLEL PLOTS:** Determine two main conflicts in the novel. How do the events for each conflict interact with one another and build suspense?