

THE COLLEGIAN

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters are subject to editing.

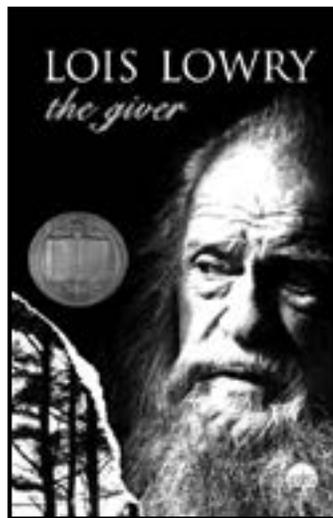
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Novels transition from paper to big screen

THE GIVER

Imagine a community without war, hate, pain, or violence but also without culture, strong love, and individuality and you will be imagining something close to what *The Giver* by Lois Lowry depicts. Unlike many of the dystopian novels, “*The Giver*” is aimed at a younger audience and has a younger protagonist in Jonas, age 12; therefore, it is less bloody than many of its counterparts and less complex.

In this book, it is scary how the community sounds so wonderful at first, unlike other dystopian novels and movies where the society looks or sounds awful from the get-go. People are selected to do jobs they are suited for and usually like the assignment given to them. There is no poverty, no domestic violence, or anything inherently wrong with the community. At first it sounds like a normal small town in 1950’s



America, just without the choice to leave.

For most of the novel, Jonas learns simple things from the former Receiver who, as a teacher, becomes self-nicknamed The

Giver. The horror of the novel is in what *The Giver* teaches Jonas about society and order. Worst of all, *The Giver* reveals a secret that Jonas’s own father is withholding from him.

There isn’t much “real” action in the novel though *The Giver* does

provide Jonas with some vivid imagery. Since the people in the world of this book are without the perception of color, music, or strong emotions and feelings, this is striking to Jonas.

Basically, This is a good starter for those that who haven’t read a dystopian novel before and gives a basic understanding of an affluent dictatorship or oligarchy and whether you like the genre.

DIVERGENT

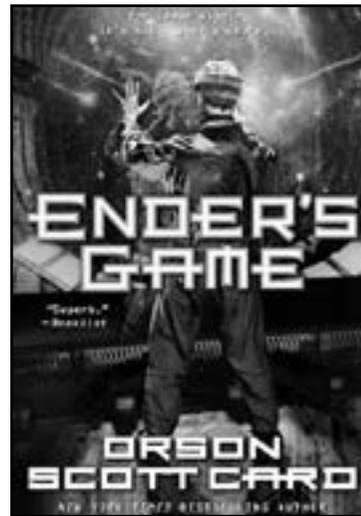
The *Divergent* series consists of three books: “*Divergence*”, “*Insurgent*”, and “*Allegiant*” that follow the characters Beatrice and Four. The *Divergent* series takes place in the Chicago area, and at an unknown location in the U.S. The first two books take place within the city and deal with the conflict between the Erudites, Dauntless, Abnegation, Amity and Factionless. At the end of the second book, the series takes a sharp turn and leads to action outside of Chicago. The third book further defines the previous two by revealing what life is like outside Chicago and its ramifications for Chicago. If the movie “*Divergent*,” is your only knowledge of the series, you have an incomplete

picture of what the author is trying to convey.

The *Divergent* series asks different questions and gets different answers about how a dreamed-up society can go wrong.

These factions each respectively teach that the way to prosperity is to embody a single ideal namely education, selfishness, the truth, courage, or compassion. Each teaches a radical way of life deemed to be the best.

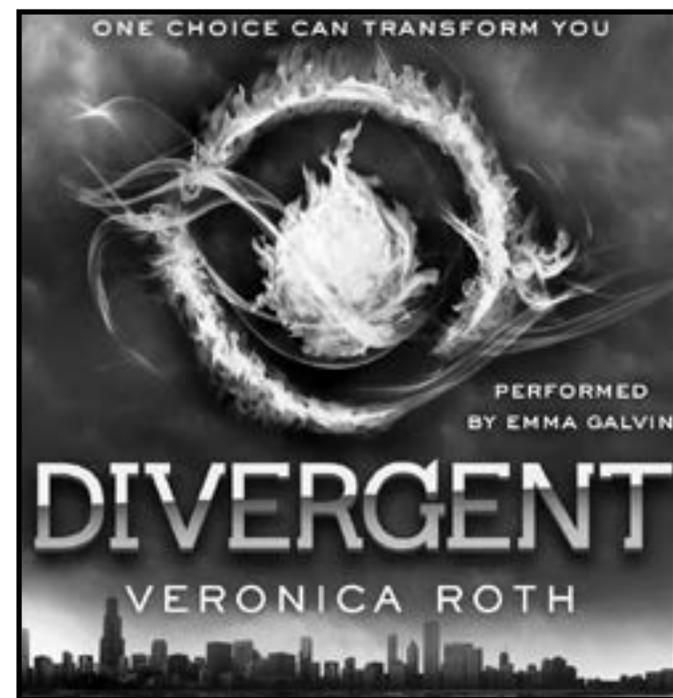
The outside world begins as unknown in the *Divergent* series much like “*The Giver*,” and people go through a similar choosing ceremony as in “*The Giver*” except they choose which faction they are a part of. Although primarily targeted at teenagers, the series should still be of interest to college students.



ENDER'S GAME

“*Ender’s game*” is a dystopian novel that is more imaginative and immersed in sci-fi than almost any novel or movie in the genre. The novel and movie has spaceships, laser guns, space stunts, intergalactic travel, and iPad-like devices envisioned in 1985. Though it is about the future, it draws heavily from history. The book is about a genetically superior boy named Ender who is supposed to end the Formic War. “*Ender’s Game*” covers his training in the battle station and an asteroid base to get him ready to fight in

the war started by the Formics. The Buggers, slang for Formics, attacked earth twice in the 21st century and wiped out large chunks of China through a chemical defoliant, which scorched the land, and then in the second invasion nearly destroyed the earth. In response, the governments of the earth formed an international agency responsible for dealing with the Formic threat. They train kid warriors before the start of “*Ender’s Game*.” They train kids because of their creativity, reflexes, and their ability to turn into exactly what the commanders want. This novel is so complex that it is even used in college and military classes to learn about sociology and military tactics. It still is an easy book to read and is primarily targeted at tweens. The basic ideas of the book are easy to grasp though the book does have several historical figure references which play a significant part.



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