

Young Adult

**CYRM RESOURCE GUIDE
YOUNG ADULT NOMINEES
(GRADES 9-12)
2013-2014**

Divergent

by Veronica Roth
Katherine Tegen Books, 2011

Revolution

by Jennifer Donnelly
Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2010

The Running Dream

by Wendelin van Draanen
Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011

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<p>CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL YOUNG ADULT BALLOT</p> <p><i>2013-2014</i></p> <p>_____ <i>Revolution</i></p> <p>_____ <i>Divergent</i></p> <p>_____ <i>The Running Dream</i></p>	<p>CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL YOUNG ADULT BALLOT</p> <p><i>2013-2014</i></p> <p>_____ <i>Revolution</i></p> <p>_____ <i>Divergent</i></p> <p>_____ <i>The Running Dream</i></p>
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DIVERGENT

by Veronica Roth



PLOT SYNOPSIS

Beatrice Prior lives in a futuristic dystopian Chicago world where society is divided into five factions; each faction contains members, whose personality traits are deemed desirable in the maintenance of a peaceful, functioning society. The factions—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent)—also fulfill a social role, such as conducting research, guarding the city, or running the government. Like all sixteen-year-olds, Beatrice must choose which faction she wants to ally with for the rest of her life. In choosing, she either stays with her family and the community she was raised in, or adopts another faction better suited to who she really is.

Before choosing, Beatrice undergoes an aptitude test to determine which faction's traits she most reflects. But in her case, something goes awry: her test is inconclusive. She doesn't fit into any one category; instead, she exhibits several traits at once. To not choose any one faction would relegate her to being "factionless", where she would join others who must eke out a hardscrabble existence on the streets. Beatrice is what is known as "Divergent", and that makes her extremely dangerous. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself: Beatrice chooses Dauntless and transforms herself into "Tris"

Thrown into an accelerated training program, Tris is forced to navigate complex social situations and events, and struggles to find her footing and establish her own niche in her new faction. Along with others trainees, Tris is indoctrinated into the ways of Dauntless which she revels in, but she's also plagued with doubt; not just because of her own past experiences but also as a result of interacting with other transfers into Dauntless. As a Divergent, Tris realizes that she may not mesh with the preordained neatly ordered rules of society. She uncovers many secrets about the faction in which she now lives and the people with whom she interacts; she also learns more about the secrets of her own family, some of which have been very deeply buried.

As Tris emerges from her training and begins to live fully as Dauntless, the ideals of the five factions are being tested. Strife is returning to society as the factions begin to bicker amongst themselves and between one another; society as it is may not be able to last much longer. Tris ultimately realizes that in being

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Divergent, her traits and qualities may be the very things that save her and that she may hold the key to saving society.

HOOKS

Which of these five character traits would you say is your strongest - bravery, selflessness, intelligence, kindness, or honesty? If you had to live your life based on only one, which would it be? Is it possible to have all of these traits equally?

How would you feel about having to make a decision at the age of sixteen that would determine your life's course? What if making the decision meant that you would have to leave your family, friends and way of life?

Which is braver, jumping onto and then off of a moving train or making a decision that will change your life forever?

What if you had to constantly do dangerous things to prove that you are brave? What if it meant having to jump off a building without being able to see the ground?

MEET THE AUTHOR

Veronica Roth was born August 19, 1988 in Chicago, Illinois. Her mother read to her every night when she was young, which is how Roth says her love of books began. If she ever complained about being bored, her mother would say, "boredom is not allowed," so she used to go outside every day and invent elaborate worlds and scenarios in her head.

Roth began writing around the time she got too old to play pretend in the backyard. After reading the entire "Animorphs" series and *Ender's Game* a number of times, she knew exactly what genre she was headed for, and what age group. "I never had the same enthusiasm for an adult book that I do for young adult literature," she explains. "I have a deep respect and love for this genre and these readers."

Roth attended Minnesota's Carleton College for one year before transferring to Northwestern and graduating from the university's prestigious writing program. She studied creative writing and wrote *Divergent* while still in school earning her undergraduate degree. She followed up with *Insurgent*, while the third and final book in "The Divergent Trilogy", which doesn't have a title yet, will come out in October 22, 2013. Casting for the movie adaptation of *Divergent* is underway.

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In the meantime, according to Roth, she spends endless hours browsing Wikipedia in her pajamas as she eats corn flakes (“...or some other kind of bland breakfast cereal”.) She lists her activities and preferences as the following: takes photos every day, takes herself out on art dates, takes sugar with her tea, loves papers and pencils and oils and brushes and quills and inks and poetry and sushi, loves her cars and computers and canons, and loves reading a good book.

Roth has also authored a short e-book, *Free Four*, and another short story called “Hearken”, which appears in the dystopian/post-apocalyptic anthology *Shards and Ashes*.

Roth is six feet tall, and lives in Evanston, Illinois with her husband, photographer Nelson Fitch and has a black cat named Milo.

CONNECTIONS

Enclave by Ann Aguirre, New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2011.

Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi, New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2010.

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, New York: Scholastic Press, 2008 (First in *Hunger Trilogy*).

Legend by Lu Marie, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2011.

Insurgent by Veronica Roth, New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2012.

Variant by Robinson E. Wells, New York: HarperTeen, 2011.

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld, New York: Simon Pulse, 2011, c2005.

WRITING PROMPTS FOR *DIVERGENT*

- Think about your family and the values your parents have tried to instill in you. Which faction do you think your family would belong to and why? If this is not the faction you would select at your Choosing Ceremony, write a letter to your parents and explain why you chose the faction you did.
- At the age of 16 Beatrice had to make a decision that changed her whole life. Are there choices you have made or will have to make that could change your life? Describe one of those choices.

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- There are times during her initiation into the Dauntless that Tris displays her Abnegation and Erudite qualities. How do you think these qualities helped or hurt her chances of joining Dauntless? Is Tris a better person for having these qualities? Do you think Tris made the right faction choice?
- The second stage of her initiation into Dauntless involves undergoing simulations that teach Tris to control her emotions in the midst of a frightening situation. Describe what one or more of your own “fear landscapes” might entail.
- Tris is invited to a “little initiation ritual” that might be described as an “extreme zip-line”. Are there “extreme” sports or activities that people participate in today that would appeal to members of the Dauntless faction? Why do you think people participate in these activities? Do you think these people are fearless or foolish and why?
- Do you think that being brave is the same thing as being fearless? Can you be brave without being fearless? Which do you think took more courage for Tris to do, choose a new faction or to be the first initiate to jump off the ledge? Did it take more courage for Tris to join Dauntless or for her mother to leave it for Abnegation?
- After reading *DAUNTLESS: THE BRAVE Faction Manifesto*, do you believe that the members of the Dauntless faction in *Divergent* are living up to the original ideals of the manifesto? Why or why not? What ideals of the manifesto do you think are ones everyone should believe in?
- *For fans of the Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.* Think about how the tributes were evaluated and rated before the Hunger Games and compare this to how the initiates for Dauntless were evaluated and ranked. Which was more important, a high rating for the tribute or high ranking for the initiate? Why?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR *DIVERGENT*

1. Dream Landscape Collage

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In *Divergent*, Dream Landscapes represented the dreamer's fears. Use magazine page cutouts and or drawings to create a collage of your own Dream Landscape.

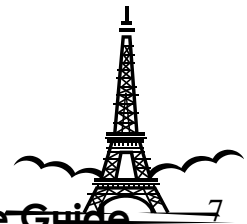
2. Create Your Own Faction

The five factions in *Divergent* are Abnegation (The Selfless), Candor (The Honest), Amity (The Peaceful), Erudite (The Intelligent) and Dauntless (The Brave). Create a sixth faction representing you. What is your faction's name? What are your faction's demeanor and values? What are its beliefs? How would your faction dress?

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR *DIVERGENT*

For instructions on how to create a **Book Jacket**, **Board Game**, or **Book Trailer** see page 18 - 22 of Young Adult Resource Guide.

REVOLUTION



Young Adult

by Jennifer Donnelly

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Dinadra Xenia Alpers, aka 'Andi', is 17, a gifted guitarist, living in Brooklyn and about to flunk out of prep school. After the murder of her younger brother, for which she feels responsible, she buries herself in her music and pops anti-depressants like candy while her mother slowly unravels before her. When Andi's elite private school notifies her mostly absent Nobel-Prize winning scientist father that she's facing expulsion, he reappears unexpectedly at the start of winter break, institutionalizes his ex-wife and whisks and angry and reluctant Andi off to Paris.

While they are there, her father will be busy testing DNA to see if a preserved heart really belonged to the last dauphin of France and hopes Andi will be able to put in some serious work on her senior thesis regarding the mysterious (albeit fictional) 18th century guitarist Amade Malherbeau. After meeting Virgil a world-beat hip-hop artist, Andi starts hanging out with him and playing music which inspires her to begin her research in earnest. When she starts exploring the home of her father's colleague with whom she is staying, she stumbles upon a 200 year-old diary belonging to Alexandrine 'Alex' Paradis, companion to the above mentioned dauphin, hidden in the case of an antique guitar that once belonged to Alex.

Andi begins to read the diary obsessively and soon her tormented life begins to intersect with Alex's. She finds comfort and distraction in the dairy's antique pages about Alex's ambition and quest, which parallel her own. First, Alex tries to make something of herself in a world where women do not amount to much, and later she strives to somehow save the young dauphin from certain death from the terrors of the French Revolution. On a midnight trek through the catacombs of Paris with Virgil, Alex transcends paper and time, and the past becomes suddenly—and somewhat inexplicably—terrifyingly present, with Andi somehow having become one with Alex.

Now it is up to Andi to see Alex's story through to the end and save herself from both young women's pasts.

HOOKS

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Do you listen to different music depending on how you are feeling at the time? Do you listen to different music when you are happy than you do when you are feeling sad? Can a musician write music that “sounds exactly how sadness feels”?

What if you stepped out of a doorway into another time? Are there any past events you might like to step into? What if you had no control of the time or place you travelled to and you found yourself in some dangerous place or time? What if you found yourself in Paris during the French Revolution?

What happens when someone gives up hope? What would you do to give someone hope or to let someone know that they are not forgotten?

The Catacombs of Paris or Catacombes de Paris is an underground cemetery that opened in the late 18th century. Approximately six million Parisians, were transferred there gradually between the late eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries as graveyards were being closed because of the risk they posed to public health. Visitors can access the catacombs daily from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm except Mondays and public holidays. How would you feel about visiting? How about visiting secretly, after hours?

MEET THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Donnelly was born August 16, 1963 in Port Chester, New York, and grew up in Port Leydon, Lewis County. When she was little, Jennifer Donnelly never wanted to go to Disneyland; instead, she wanted to step back in time and live in history.

“From early childhood, as far back as I can remember, stories and words and books were a part of my life. I was fortunate to have, and still have, a mom who is a born storyteller. She's German, and when I was a kid, she told me a lot of German fairy tales, and as I got older, a lot about her life during the war. She was a young child in Germany during World War II. So I grew up with words and stories and history in my life, and as I got older I realized that I wanted to write a few stories of my own.”

As a result, she spent much of her elementary through high school years inflicting terrible poems and overwrought stories on her family and friends.

Donnelly attended the University of Rochester, majoring in English Literature and European History and graduated cum laude with distinction in English Literature.

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She wrote for her college newspaper, mainly on local restaurants, bakeries and ice-cream stands as she “had hopes of becoming a food writer.” Later she attended Birkbeck College at the University of London in England. After graduating, Donnelly worked as an antiques dealer, a journalist, and copywriter. Before embarking on her career as a novelist she was a staff writer at the *Watertown Daily Times*.

Her first young adult novel, *A Northern Light*, achieved the distinction of being only the second American author to win Great Britain's prestigious Carnegie Medal for children's literature. The novel was also awarded the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Young Adult Fiction and was a Michael L. Printz Honor book. Her second, *Revolution*, was nominated for the Carnegie Medal, awarded an Odyssey Honor by the American Library Association, and named Young Adult Book of the Year by the American Booksellers Association.

According to her FAQ page, Donnelly loves Johnny Knoxville and all the fearless men of *Jackass*, and wishes she had a kangaroo. She currently lives in New York's Hudson Valley with her husband, daughter, and newly-rescued pups, Nano and Gallo who join Fiona, who was rescued in 2012.

CONNECTIONS

The Red Necklace: a Story of the French Revolution by Sally Gardner, New York: Dial Books, 2008.

Radiant Day by Elizabeth Hand, New York, N.Y.: Viking, 2012.

Blood Secret by Kathryn Lansky, New York: HarperCollins, 2004.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs, Philadelphia: Quirk Books, c 2011.

Steel by Carrie Vaughn, New York: HarperTeen, 2011.

The Book of Blood and Shadow by Robin Wasserman, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

<http://www.catacombes.paris.fr/en/homepage-catacombs-official-website>

WRITING PROMPTS

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- How does the one word title “Revolution” address both Andi’s personal journey and Alex’s historical one? What other aspects of the novel might be reflective of the title?
- Why does Donnelly choose a “key” to be an important symbolic element of the novel? How does it link various members of Andi’s family? What role does it play in connecting Andi to Alex?
- Andi feels guilt over her brother’s death, as if she could have somehow prevented it. Have you ever felt guilty about something that has happened in your life that you believe you could have prevented? How did you deal with your guilt?
- Andi’s mother also feels sad about her son’s death. Both mother and daughter immerse themselves in their artistic expression to deal with their feelings. Do you think this is a healthy way to deal with grief? Do you think Andi’s father is feeling the same level of grief? How might he be coping with his loss?
- Andi feels she communicates best with her music teacher, Nathan Goldfarb, and Virgil, both people who have the same passion for music that she does. She thinks her father will never understand her because he doesn’t hear music the same way she does. Do you agree with this, or do you think Andi is too absorbed in her musical pursuits to communicate effectively with anyone?
- Andi takes medication—Qwellify—to help her cope with her guilt. Yet it seems to do little to help. How does her attitude towards her medication defeat its purpose? She also sees Dr. Becker in therapy sessions; the same problem exists with this approach. How does Andi sabotage her talk therapy? What alternative does she eventually begin to find some insight with? What might be the parallel between talk therapy and keeping a diary? How does reading Alex’s diary help Andi more than talking to Dr. Becker?
- Towards the end of the novel, there is a shift in genre; the story moves from a blend of historical and realistic fiction to fantasy, while retaining the ‘factual’ details of Andi’s ‘present-day’ life—i.e. contemporary music. Why do you think the author did this? What did you think about the idea that a

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past classical musician might be affected by present musical genres? Or vice-versa?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Dear Diary

Andi Alpers found the diary of Alexandrine Paradis. Pretend that you found Andi's diary. Outline *Revolution* through writing at least ten diary entries using Andi's point of view, reflecting Andi's life and experiences. What would she write in her diary? What would she say? How would she feel?

2. Character Scrap Book

Think about all the kinds of mementos you would put in a scrapbook if you had one. Then choose a character from *Revolution* and create a scrapbook for your character, cutting out pictures from magazines or drawing the mementos he or she would have in a scrapbook. What sort of memories, hopes or dreams would your character include?

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

For instructions on how to create a **Book Jacket**, **Board Game**, or **Book Trailer** see page 18 - 22 of Young Adult Resource Guide.

THE RUNNING DREAM



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by Wendelin van Draanen

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Sixteen-year-old Jessica Carlisle lives to run; every morning, she sprints a five-mile loop to start the day. Jessica, a high school junior, is counting on winning a track scholarship for college and has just run her personal best at a regional track meet. On the way home, however, there is a tragic bus accident: a teammate dies and Jessica loses her leg as well as her future. She thinks her life is over and is not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run?

From the minute she wakes up in the hospital, Jessica must try to rebuild her life. Ill-equipped to cope with her trauma, she returns home where everyday tasks, such as using the bathroom, taking a shower or even climbing the stairs are huge obstacles. When she finally rehabilitates to the point where she can return to school, she is both in the limelight and yet, strangely invisible: people don't know what to say, and some act like she's not even there.

Jessica could handle the invisibility better if she weren't achingly aware that she has treated Rosa, a girl in class who has cerebral palsy, the same way. Rosa is hard to understand and easy to overlook: bound to a wheelchair Rosa sits at the back of the classroom, out of the way. Jessica, having returned to school in a wheelchair, now finds herself seated next to Rosa. Jessica soon discovers that Rosa is friendly, insightful and smart—Rosa even volunteers to tutor Jessica to catch up on the math she has missed. The girls pass notes to one another and when Rosa writes, "I wish people would see me and not my condition", Jessica understands exactly what she means.

Then Jessica is offered a glimmer of hope: there is a specially engineered prosthetic leg made just for running. While it's more than her family can afford, her track "family" decides to raise the money to buy it for her, enlisting the help and support of the entire community. As Jessica begins running and even competing again, returning to a semblance of her previous life, she doesn't want to leave Rosa behind. Having gotten to the point where she can complete a race with the help of old friends, she doesn't want to cross the finish line by herself; she wants to bring her new friend with her.

HOOKS

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Is there a talent or skill that you have that is such an important part of your life that you feel it helps define you as a person? What if you lost it?

Think of the activity that you love to do more than anything else and then imagine what it would be like if you could never do it again.

Can something good come from something tragic?

Have you ever thought about how you would manage if you suddenly found yourself faced with a physical challenge due to an accident?

Then, because of this accident, your friends begin to treat you differently; out of pity or because they don't know how to act around you because of your injuries.

What does it take for someone to become more than their physical challenges?

What lengths would you go to in order to help a friend's dream come true?

MEET THE AUTHOR

Born January 6, 1965 in Chicago, Illinois, Wendelin Van Draanen is the daughter of chemists who emigrated to the U.S. from Holland. Growing up, Van Draanen was a tomboy who loved to be outside chasing down adventure. Although books have always been a part of her life, she did not decide that she wanted to be an author until she was an adult. Her mother taught her to read at an early age, and she has fond memories of her brothers and her cuddled up around her father and listening to him read stories.

Van Draanen's previous jobs have included forklift driver, sports coach (sports), musician, and high school computer science teacher. When she tried her hand at writing a screenplay about a family tragedy, she found the process quite cathartic. She soon stumbled upon the joys of writing for children. Her first book was published in 1997, and since then her titles have been nominated for State Award Master lists all over the country. Her "Sammy Keyes" Mysteries have been nominated for the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Children's Mystery, with *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* bringing home the statue. She also has won the 2005 Books for Young People Christopher Medal for *Shredderman: Secret Identity*.

In addition to writing mysteries, Van Draanen loves writing what she calls 'coming into your own' stories.

"Basically, 'coming into your own' stories deal with growing up and establishing the criteria for how you want to live your life. What sort

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of person you grow into should not be achieved by default, and often that's exactly what happens to kids. I see literature as a method of guidance, information, and contemplation, and consider it the greatest compliment possible when a reader tells me that a book of mine really made him/her think."

In 2004, Van Draanen won the California Young Reader Medal in the Middle School category for her "coming into your own" novel *Flipped*, which was made into a film in 2010.

Van Draanen cites her hobbies as including the "three R's": Reading, Running and Rock 'n' Roll." She also says her favorite foods are spicy Mexican and dark chocolate, her favorite clothes to wear are sneakers, shorts, and sweatshirts and her favorite colors are emerald green with a splash of midnight blue. She lives in California with her husband, Mark Pearson and two sons, Colton and Connor.

CONNECTIONS

Crazy Beautiful by Lauren Baratz-Logsted, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009.

Leaving Paradise by Simone Elkeles, Woodbury, Minn.: Flux, 2007.

The Fault in our Stars by John Green, New York: Dutton Books 2012.

Soul surfer: a True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board by Bethany Hamilton, New York: Pocket Books; MTV Books, 2004.

After the Wreck, I Picked Myself Up, Spread My Wings, and Flew Away by Joyce Carol Oates, New York: Harper Tempest, 2006.

Izzy, Willy-nilly by Cynthia Voigt, New York: Simon Pulse, 2005, c1986.

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac by Gabrielle Zevin, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007.

WRITING PROMPTS

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- Wendelin Van Draanen separates *Running Dream* into five parts: Part 1 *Finish Line*, Part 2 *Headwind*, Part 3 *Straightaway*, Part 4 *Adjusting the Blocks* and Part 5 *Starting Line*. How is each of these section titles significant to Jessica's life? Taking a look at each section, would you rename them? If so, what titles would you choose to better represent Jessica's life?
- Running was Jessica's life. She lived to run. After losing her leg, she has doubts about returning to the life she knows. Do you have something as meaningful in your life? A sport? Hobby? Talent? How would you react if your life drastically changed, causing you to relearn what means so much to you?
- Jessica's math teacher, Ms. Rucker, establishes a back section in the classroom where students with "special needs" sit in their wheel chairs during class. Do you think separating students into special sections is good or bad? What are the benefits and or disadvantages of doing so?
- Jessica claims that she has "totally acted like she [Rosa] isn't there." How has having to sit next to Rosa changed Jessica's perspectives about Rosa? How has it changed Jessica's own attitudes about moving forward with her life?
- Do you think Jessica and Rosa would have become friends if it weren't for the loss of Jessica's leg? Why or why not?
- The track team rallies together, inspiring the community to help raise money to purchase a prosthetic running leg for Jessica. Have you ever participated in a fundraiser? If so, what was the fundraiser for and how did participating in a charity event make you feel? If not, what cause would you choose to raise money for and why?
- On the last page of *The Running Dream*, Jessica says, "I realize something. That wasn't a finish line for me...This is my new starting line." What does she mean by this quote? How does the quote reflect the changes in Jessica's character?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

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1. Fundraiser

In *Running Dream*, Jessica's team holds a fundraiser to raise money to purchase a running prosthetic leg for Jessica, getting the whole community involved. Organize a class or school fundraiser. Find a local community charity to benefit from this fundraiser.

2. 5K / 10K Day

Jessica was a runner. She found a local run to participate in to help Rosa cross the finish line. Find a local 5K or 10K race. Participate to be active and encourage a healthier lifestyle. If the race is for charity, raise money through sponsorship like Jessica's track team did to purchase a running prosthetic.

3. Yearbook Editor

You are the high school Yearbook Editor. Imagine what three or four characters from your novel were like in high school. Cut out a picture of a person from a magazine to represent each character. Mount one picture per page and under each picture place the following information that you will create:

- nickname of character and activities
- clubs, sports they were in and what years
- class mock award such as "class clown"
- quotation that shows something about the person and what is important to him or her
- favorites such as colors, foods, etc.
- voted "most-likely-to" what?
- plans after high school

4. Newspaper Front-Page Headline Story

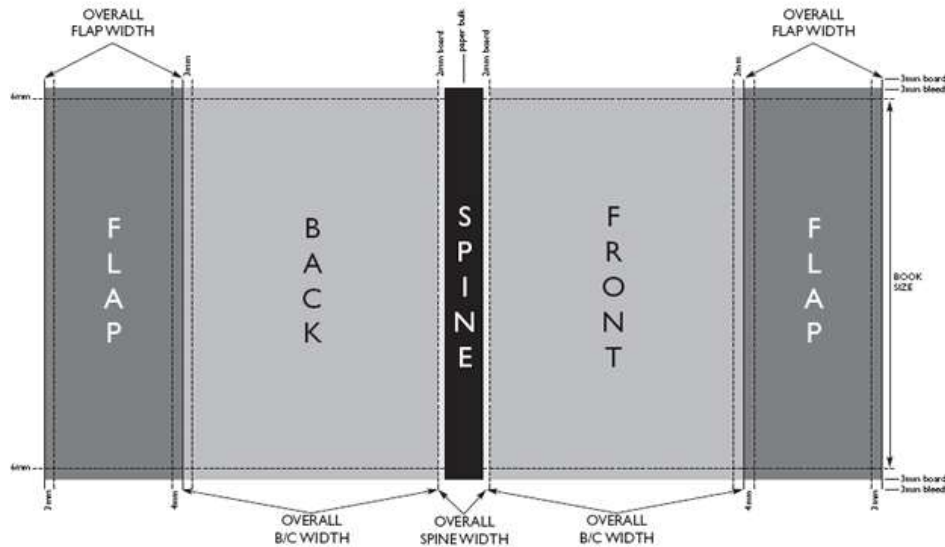
You are a newspaper reporter. Pick a scene from the book and create a front-page newspaper story including headline, photos and written story.

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR *DIVERGENT*, *REVOLUTION*, AND *THE RUNNING DREAM*

1. Book Jacket Re-Design

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After having read the book, do you think the current book cover appropriately represents the book? Why or why not? How would you redesign the book cover, making it more intriguing to prospective readers? How would you write the summary for the inside flap?



2. Board Game

Consider the book's plot, main events and characters. With that in mind, create your own board game.

Please see links below for step-by-step ideas:

wikihow.com:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Your-Own-Board-Game>

ehow.com:

http://www.ehow.com/how_6362948_make-game-board-based-book.html

3. Book Trailers

Catch your readers by tapping into their creativity and critical thinking skills by having them create a book trailer to share their reading experiences with each other. A book trailer is similar to a movie trailer and is pretty simple to create. The only limitation is the imagination of the creator. These can be made by using PowerPoint, or PowerPoint and

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Windows Moviemaker. You can also adapt this to other programs such as KeyNote and Imovie. A book trailer is simply a beefed up book talk or hook for a book. This is a great way to have the kids complete their reading experience.

In a nutshell, the students need to plan out what they would like to share about the story without giving away the story. This may include thought-provoking questions, bits and pieces about the characters, connections to the potential readers and tasty morsels of the story. Then, you tie in great images and pictures that bring out the story or text for the trailer. Next comes possible narration, videos, sound effects or music that will enhance the presentation. Some students love to film their storyboard ideas or use pictures of their friends.

Go here to see some samples made by students:

<http://booktrailersrestingplace.pbworks.com/w/page/51478241/FrontPage>

Here is how to do this:

You will find all the information needed at:

<http://booktalksandmore.pbworks.com/w/page/14908619/FrontPage>

There are more great examples and more resources for free images, sounds, music, and more. There are also some great samples available for viewing. Use the story template that follows to plan and organize.

Saving hints for Windows MovieMaker:

If you are using Windows 7 you may have to download the new MovieMaker file from Microsoft. When saving, use the option for an email because that makes a more generic WMA (Windows Media Player) file that seems compatible with older computers and versions of Windows Media Player. You really won't finalize the email, but simply save this file when asked if you would like to save a copy to your computer.

If you want to add another twist and/or adapt the concept to other production choices, go to sites such as:

Animoto

<http://animoto.com/intro/animoto/22?gclid=CKXlscWuqK4CFQZchwod3RPxDQ>

Prezi

<http://prezi.com>

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Xtranormal

<http://www.xtranormal.com>

Voice Thread

(the first link will take you to information about a limited, free account)

http://voicethread.com/support/howto/Account_Types/Free

<http://voicethread.com> is the main link.

Story Plan Template

Use these frames on the following page to plan your storyline and slide sequence. A title frame and credit frame plus 8-10 additional frames will make a great presentation. Use each frame to build interest or ask questions. You may insert your original videos or pictures instead of PowerPoint slides if you would like to personalize it or take it another direction.

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