

**YOUNG ADULT DYSTOPIAN FICTION IN POPULAR CULTURE:
A STUDY OF *THE HUNGER GAMES* AND *DIVERGENT* TRILOGIES**

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by

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **“Young Adult Dystopian Fiction in Popular Culture: A Study of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* Trilogies”** is a bona fide record of studies and research carried out by Vishnu Prasad T.R. under my guidance and submitted for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English. To the best of my knowledge, this research work has not been previously formed the basis of award for any degree, diploma, fellowship or any other similar titles. Its critical evaluation represents the independent work on the part of the candidate.

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DECLARATION

I, Vishnu Prasad T.R., do hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Young Adult Dystopian Fiction in Popular Culture: A Study of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* Trilogies**” is an authentic record of my studies and research carried out under the guidance of Dr. Viju M.J., Research Guide at the Research Centre, Department of English, St. Thomas’ College (Autonomous), Thrissur. I hereby certify that no part of this work has been submitted or published for the award of any other degree, diploma, title, fellowship or recognition.

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A NOTE ON DOCUMENTATION

I, hereby, would like to acknowledge that the documentation in the thesis is prepared in accordance with the style format suggested by MLA Handbook (9th Edition).

ABBREVIATIONS

YA – Young Adult

SF – Science Fiction

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Chapter 1

Introduction: Outline and Theoretical Framework of the Study

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1.1.Dystopia and Young Adult Dystopia: History and Evolution

Dystopia was a discovery of the late nineteenth century. Even though it is not possible to name the first exact dystopian novel, several works from the last quarter of the nineteenth century are considered dystopian by the critics. From the 18th century itself, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) by Jonathan Swift contained dystopian elements. The subgenre further developed through works like Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* (1826), Samuel Butler's *Erewhon* (1872), *The Time Machine* (1895) and *When the Sleeper Wakes* (1899) by H. G. Wells. Edward Bellamy's novel *Looking Backward* (1888) is also considered as the first dystopian work with a futuristic setting. This novel is about a man who falls asleep and wakes up in the year 2000, to find that America has become a socialist dystopia.

“Dystopia,” the Merriam-Webster Dictionary says, is “an imaginary place which is depressingly wretched and whose people lead a fearful existence.” As Merrill Perlman suggests, the adjectival form of the word was first used by John Stuart Mill, who was, among other things, a philosopher and economist, whose main ideas were tied to liberalism and utilitarianism. In 1868, Mill spoke before the British Parliament on the “Irish question,” whether Ireland should be granted home rule or, at the least, a measure of independence or self-government.

The story of dystopian literature continued in the 20th century English literature through important works like *The Iron Heel* (1908) by Jack London and E. M. Forster's *The Machine Stops* (1909). *The Machine Stops* is widely considered as an early prototype

of technological dystopian fiction. Forster is recognized by several critics as one of the founders of dystopian literature. But it became an established genre with the publication of *We* (Russian: Мы) by the Russian writer Yevgeny Zamyatin, written between 1920 and 1921. The novel played a crucial role in the emergence of dystopia as a literary genre. Zamyatin's novel is described as the first totalitarian dystopia. *We* was the first novel to use several tropes that became the formula of dystopian fiction. Along with Jack London's *The Iron Heel*, *We* is hailed as the predecessor of dystopian category with a futuristic setting. In the words of Jacob Howland: "*We* is the greatest dystopian novel of the twentieth century, but also one of the least known".

The imagined future world in *We* acted as the earliest prototype for a number of the futuristic societies described in dystopian novels including *1984* and *Brave New World*. In *We*, Zamyatin developed an imaginary future without privacy and where individuality and the emotions and feelings of people are neglected. Zamyatin had to suffer a lot for protesting against the Government of the Soviet Union and was in exile and had to live in different places of Europe. *We* was definitely inspired by the hardships people had to suffer under the communist government of Russia and the Soviet Union and hence the book was banned in the Soviet regions. The novel was first translated into Russian in the 1950s and was published in Russia only after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Marxist and communist ideologies especially in the European continent inspired the writing of a masterpiece of the dystopian genre: *Brave New World* (1932) by the British author Aldous Huxley. Also known as the grandson of Thomas Huxley (mentor of the Science Fiction pioneer H.G. Wells), Aldous was inspired by the works of Wells (and

possibly *We* by Zamyatin), as many of the Science Fiction works by Wells are also included into the list of utopian and dystopian literature now. The novel was also a byproduct of Huxley's trip to America, where he was shocked to see the selfish and promiscuous behavior of the youth. Huxley's novel takes place in a distant future where the elite are all cloned people and a totalitarian government controls the society which restricts the equality and freedom of its people and considers normal people as savages. Huxley's final novel *Island* published in 1962 is considered as a utopian work.

Adolph Hitler and his Nazi Party served as the motive for the British author Katharine Burdekin writing the novel *Swastika Night* published in 1937. Imagining an alternate history set in a dystopian world, *Swastika Night* is the wild imagination of a world where the Nazi government won the Second World War and came into power all over the world. This is Burdekin's best known work and she published it under the pseudonym of Murray Constantine. Burdekin's novel is compared to the better known dystopian novel *The Man in the High Castle* (1962) by the American writer Philip K. Dick.

The best-known work of dystopian fiction is undoubtedly George Orwell's masterpiece, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, published in 1949. Orwell's novel came out of the post-WWII movement and was a result of his musings about the nature of the government that emerged out of the devastating conflict. His central character, Winston Smith, helps to ensure that historical documents reflect the current party line; all while being watched by Big Brother and pursued by the Thought Police after an illegal affair. Of all the entries in this subgenre, few have had the impact on the public's vernacular than that of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Russian - American writer Ayn Rand (Alice O'Connor) is a prominent figure in the field of dystopian literature. Her works like *Anthem* (1938), *The Fountainhead* (1943), and *Atlas Shrugged* (1957) are widely considered as classics of utopian and dystopian literature. Rand heavily criticized the dictatorship of the Soviet Union and communism and wrote in favour of laissez-faire capitalism. It is to be noted that Rand's two important novels were published well before the publication of George Orwell's Dystopian benchmark *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Several critics point out that there is a striking resemblance between the works of Rand and Zamyatin's *We*, but it is not clear whether Rand read or was influenced by the ideas of Zamyatin's work.

Nineteen Eighty-Four written by the British writer George Orwell (Eric Arthur Blair) is widely recognized as the flag bearer or the most definitive work in dystopian literature. The book was published in 1949 and it was the final literary work written and published during Orwell's lifetime. Orwell's novel was definitely inspired by the aftermath of the Second World War and the governmental systems prevailed in Britain and Europe after the war. The novel introduced several terms and concepts that became part of the popular culture and the dystopian literary tropes. Terms like Big Brother, memory hole, and doublespeak have been constantly used in popular culture, media and in discussions about the dystopian genre and democracy. The phrase 'Big Brother Is Watching You' from the novel fuelled the concept of constant surveillance in the dystopian genre and it is a major literary trope of the genre to this day.

The genre of dystopian literature thrived considerably after the publication of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Many of these works are considered as classics of literature and masterpieces of the dystopian genre at present. Another interesting fact to consider here is

that the majority of dystopian literature was produced in the English language. The list includes *Fahrenheit 451* (1953) by the infamous American writer Ray Bradbury, *Lord of the Flies* (1954) by the Nobel Laureate William Golding, British author John Wyndham's *The Chrysalids* (1955), *A Clockwork Orange* (1962) by English author Anthony Burgess, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (1968), and *Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said* (1974) by Philip K. Dick, *High-Rise* (1975) by J. G. Ballard, Stephen King's *The Stand* (1978), *Neuromancer* (1984) by William Gibson, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) by the twice Booker prize winning Canadian writer Margaret Atwood, and *The Children of Men* (1992) by the English author P. D. James.

American writer Kurt Vonnegut is known for his contributions to the field of science fiction and dystopian literature. His first novel *Player Piano* (1952) itself was dystopian and it was about the problems caused by machines, technology, and automation in a futuristic America. Vonnegut's short story "Harrison Bergeron" published in 1961 is a dystopian satire set in a futuristic America in 2081 where everyone is made equal forcefully with the help of futuristic technology. *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969) is the best known novel of Vonnegut and it combines the elements of dystopia, science fiction, and satire to write about the calamities caused by wars.

Ray Bradbury contributed extensively in the field of science fiction and dystopian literature and he is best known for his dystopian masterpiece *Fahrenheit 451*. Bradbury's novel was originally published in the *Galaxy Magazine*, which in turn was developed into a proper work of fiction. Bradbury was inspired by several developments within and outside the United States including the burning of books by the Nazis in Germany,

repression of political ideologies and freedom in the Soviet Union and the suppression of speech freedom and censorship in several countries including the United States.

The story of dystopian literature continues with *A Clockwork Orange* (1962) which is Anthony Burgess's most famous novel and its impact on literary, musical and visual culture has been extensive. It is set in a near-future society that has a youth subculture of extreme violence. The novel is concerned with the conflict between the individual and the state, the punishment of young criminals, and the possibility or otherwise of redemption. This novel was made into a movie by Stanley Kubrick in 1971.

Philip K. Dick is known for his many dystopian stories and paranoid visions of the future. One of his well-known works, *Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said* was published in 1974. Depicting a United States following a second civil war, internment camps and an authoritarian police rule are the norm, and a popular, genetically engineered talk show host finds himself in new territory when he finds himself missing his identification papers. Dick's novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* was adapted into a now cult classic and critically acclaimed movie by Ridley Scott in 1982 titled *Blade Runner*. The movie also produced a sequel *Blade Runner 2049* which was released in 2017. Philip K. Dick must be the most prolific dystopian writer as he wrote several brilliant dystopian and science fiction works including *The Minority Report* (1956), *The Man in the High Castle* (1962), *A Scanner Darkly* (1977), and the short story "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale" (1966) better known as its film adaptation *Total Recall* (1990) by Paul Verhoeven and starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Margaret Atwood rediscovered the subgenre of feminist dystopia with her novel *The Handmaid's Tale* published in 1985. The novel takes place in an imaginary futuristic North America with the name Gilead. It is an extremely patriarchal and theocratic dystopian society which suppresses the rights of women and uses them as handmaidens and for reproduction. The novel was adapted into a film of the same name in 1990 by Volker Schlöndorff and a Hulu (American streaming platform) web series from 2017 to present. The sequel to the novel, *The Testaments* was released in 2019 and it was awarded the Booker Prize for fiction that year. Atwood also wrote a dystopian trilogy unrelated to the universe of *The Handmaid's Tale* called the MaddAddam Trilogy and it consists of the novels *Oryx and Crake* (2003), *The Year of the Flood* (2009), and *MaddAddam* (2013).

Another masterpiece in the field of dystopian literature is the novel *The Children of Men* (1992) written by the English author P. D. James. The novel takes place in a near future United Kingdom after 2020 and it discusses the problems of infertility and mass hysteria. In the novel, James presents a dystopia where the population of England and the world is being decreased considerably because of infertility and the government oppresses the protesters against their schemes. Academy award winning Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón adapted the novel into a film with the same title in 2006 and it features Clive Owen, Michael Caine, and Julianne Moore.

Dystopian literature written for the young adult readers was properly introduced during the 1980s. The development of young adult science fiction started and carried on through the works like *Rocket Ship Galileo* (1947) by Robert A. Heinlein, *A Wrinkle in Time* (1962) by Madeleine L'Engle, and *Ender's Game* (1985) by Orson Scott Card. This

trend lead to the development of young adult dystopian literature including Jill Paton Walsh's 1981 novel *The Green Book*, Robert Westall's 1984 work *Futuretrack 5*, Monica Hughes' Arc One series [*The Devil on My Back* (1984) and *The Dream Catcher* (1986)], Louise Lawrence's 1985 novel *Children of the Dust*, Lois Lowry's path breaking and heavily banned novel *The Giver*, and the 1997 novel *Shade's Children* by Garth Nix.

The subgenre of young adult dystopian fiction received much recognition after the publication of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Lowry's novel describes a seemingly utopian futuristic society set in an unspecified place in North America. The plot is about a community where people have to raise adopted children as their own until they come of age and the old people are all sent to old age homes with young people to take care of them. The path cleared by Lowry's novel leads the way for the popularity of young adult dystopian fiction in the twenty first century. As of now, young adult fiction came to the forefront of the dystopian genre. The revolution in bookselling began with the Harry Potter series continued through fantasy series like *Twilight* and the *Percy Jackson* series. But dystopia became the most popular category in young adult literature with the publication of *The Hunger Games* series. The YA dystopian phenomenon is still at large with the prequel of *The Hunger Games* and *Ready Player Two* among others.

Also in the twenty first century, several brilliant works played a significant role in extending the scope of dystopian literature. Two novels of extreme importance in this context are *Never Let Me Go* (2005) by the British writer Kazuo Ishiguro and *The Road* (2006) by the American author Cormac McCarthy. Ishiguro started writing *Never Let Me Go* in 1990. It was originally titled "The Student's Novel." It was shortlisted for the 2005 Booker Prize, for the 2006 Arthur C. Clarke Award and for the 2005 National Book

Critics Circle Award. Time magazine named it the best novel of 2005 and included the novel in its "100 Best English-language novels published since 1923—the beginning of TIME". It also received an ALA Alex Award in 2006. A film adaptation of the novel with the same title directed by Mark Romanek was released in 2010. *The Road* is a post-apocalyptic dystopian novel which details the grueling journey of a father and his young son over a period of several months across a landscape blasted by an unspecified cataclysm that has destroyed industrial civilization and almost all life. The novel was awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction in 2006. The book was adapted into a film of the same name in 2009, directed by John Hillcoat.

Dystopian visions are alive and well through to this day. One last notable book is not a novel, but an anthology of dystopian fiction by John Joseph Adams, *Brave New Worlds*. The volume serves as an excellent primer of short entries in the genre, ranging from Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" all the way to Ken Liu's "The Perfect Match". The book also serves as an excellent political look at the genre, alongside another Adams anthology, *Wastelands*, which looks at the lack of organized government.

An interesting point from a number of these books is that many examine society through the use of another source: a found journal, in which a character notes their observations, or generally views the changes in government or society through the lenses of the past. Science fiction is not about the future; rather, its cultural anxieties and observations are wrapped up in the present and taken to an extreme breaking point. There are thousands of other dystopian novels out there; this is just a short list that takes a broad look over the last century. In doing so, it is interesting to see what forms dystopian

literature takes on: concerns about socialism and collectivism, technology and science, religion and societal acceptance. Often presented as a satirical standpoint of the future, dystopian literature contains works that have a chilling kernel of truth to them, and act as a cautionary tale for astute readers. That must be why the books are always the first things to go. Today, dystopian fiction is predominantly associated with the young adult genre. Young adult dystopian series—*Maze Runner*, *Divergent*, *Ready Player One*, among countless more—dominate the shelves and also gets adapted into movies. How did we reach this point? In big part, it is due to *The Hunger Games*, as the trend that *The Giver* began exploded in popularity among young adults with the publication of Suzanne Collins' series.

To conclude, dystopian fiction has become an established genre in the fields of Literature and Movies. The popularity and relevance of this genre can be proved through two latest works: *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline which has been adapted into a movie of the same name by Steven Spielberg in 2018. (The only Science fiction film directed by Spielberg within the last 10 years) and *The Testaments* (2019), the sequel of *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Margaret Atwood won that year's Man Booker Prize for writing this novel.

1.2. Texts Selected for the Study

The proposed study concentrates on two novel trilogies: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Divergent* by Veronica Roth. The texts thus undertaken have constant intertextual references, at the same time similar themes run through the varied texts, as a binding force to connote a dystopic vision. The study endeavours to showcase

multiple projections of dystopic vision through essentially different yet similar select novels spanning the entire twentieth century. Emerging from different cultural locations, the texts in view do not represent a homogenous world view. But throughout all the novels what is evident is the desire within the characters to make sense of the contemporary world. Each text represents a distinct dystopian theme and is regarded as crucial to understand the multiple dystopic visions. The differing themes of these texts are essential to showcase the flexible generic tradition of dystopian fiction. A brief description of the texts is as follows:

Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* trilogy follows the story of the young Katniss Everdeen who takes part in the dystopian battle royale in a post-apocalyptic nation. Suzanne Collins derived inspiration for *The Hunger Games* when she was channel surfing on television. She has stated that a reality show on one channel and the invasion of Iraq on another channel began to blur together "in this very unsettling way." This is how she came up with the idea for the book. Collins also drew inspiration from the Greek myth of Theseus, which was the foundation for the story. Katniss was envisioned as a futuristic Theseus in the world of Panem. The Roman gladiatorial games were the inspiration behind the Hunger Games. Collins also drew from her own life for elements of the story. For instance, the sense of loss that she felt when her father was drafted for the Vietnam War was echoed in the protagonist, Katniss, who lost her father when she was 11 years old. As a post-apocalyptic dystopian novel, *The Hunger Games* captures several intriguing themes including oppression and societal inequality.

The Hunger Games is the first in a trilogy set in the Hunger Games universe. It has been followed by two sequels, *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay*, published in 2009 and

2010, respectively. The sequels have been well received by both critics and readers, with *Catching Fire* becoming a New York Times bestseller, and *Mockingjay* topping every single one of the bestseller lists in the US after its publication. Part of the reason for its fame is the riveting themes that it captures, all of which are central to the post-apocalyptic and dystopian nature of the novel. Some of the themes that can be gleaned from the novel include the theme of oppression, inequality, appearances, celebrity culture, as well as violence.

Divergent trilogy by Veronica Roth tells the story of a post-apocalyptic dystopia; the plot unfolds in post-war Chicago, where all of the people, after reaching 16 years old, must join one of the five strata in order to find their life niche for the rest of their lives. *The Divergent series* features 16-year-old heroine Beatrice (Tris) Prior, who does not fit easily into a single faction designated for citizens when they reach the age of 16. The factions are not separated by class or race but by values or virtues: Dauntless (boldness), Abnegation (selflessness), Amity (peacefulness), Candor (honesty), and Erudite (intellectuality). Tris, who is living secretly as a “divergent” (someone who fits into more than one group), decides to leave the faction in which she was reared (Abnegation) for Dauntless.

The series follows Tris’s exploration of her identity and her relationship with the character Tobias (Four) Eaton, the leader of her new faction. Roth had clearly hit her stride at the right moment—the niche market for dystopian novels was blossoming, and her offerings came on the heels of the popular *Twilight* and *The Hunger Games* young-adult series. Roth’s fan base grew quickly, and when *Allegiant* came out in 2013, it became the most-preordered book ever issued by HarperCollins. The trilogy was a huge

commercial success, with more than 30 million copies sold by 2015. *Divergent* has been praised for its original, fast-paced plot, its readability, and its powerful message of discovering one's identity in the midst of conformity. Set in futuristic, dystopian Chicago, *Divergent* tells the story of a society in which citizens live in factions and devote their lives to cultivating one of five virtues: honesty, intelligence, peacemaking, selflessness, or bravery. Because she does not comfortably fit into any one category, Tris leaves her family behind to join a faction different than the one she grew up in, relaying themes about belonging, personal choices, and values.

Along with other young adult dystopian works like *The Maze Runner*, *Delirium*, *Matched*, and *Legend*, *The Hunger Games* trilogy and the *Divergent* trilogy restructured the formula and demand of young adult literature. The trend connected well and continued through YA dystopian and science fiction novels like *Ready Player One*, *Red Rising*, *The Fifth Wave*, and *The 100*. Though there has been a trend in the past with novels exploring a dystopian future, there has been a marked increase in the popularity of these novels as a response to deep-seated anxieties felt by young adults who are watching a new, complex, ambiguous world unfurl. Another prominent reason is one reflected by other genres — namely, the anxieties felt by current technological progress, and the kind of powers and abilities granted by technology, including a heightened sense of control, of strength, and of surveillance over a population. With teenagers and young adults waking up to a bleak, confusing world, dystopian literature provides a glimmer of hope while still cementing the kind of effort and sacrifice that is required to ensure such changes take place. Thanks to the popularity of these novels and the cinematic technology that is

available today, many film adaptations have gained popularity, further cementing the place of dystopian novels at the top of YA fiction.

1.3.Thesis Statement

Young Adult Fiction can be considered one of the most relevant and popular literary types at present. The subgenre of dystopian literature stands at the top of this list. Why is it so important today? It plays a crucial part in teenage lives and also in school libraries. The imaginative storylines combined with the exploration of emotions that feature in our everyday lives has meant that young adult literature operates as a fantastic tool to discover the complex, and occasionally daunting, world that we live in. Experiencing these complexities of life vicariously through literature is a safe way for the reader to gain knowledge of new experiences that could play a pivotal role later on in their lives. It also invites readers to empathize with individuals who are different from themselves. By engaging with young adult literature they become exposed to characters that they may not have come across in real life. Readers can identify similarities between themselves and characters which gives the reader comfort to know that they are not alone in their situation. Young adult fiction can also tackle political themes and actively invite the reader to determine between right and wrong. After the popularity of novels such as Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*, we frequently see plots where the main objective is to rally against oppression and triumph over adversity. This work of research aspires to investigate the significance and impact of young adult dystopian fiction within society.

Even though dystopian fiction is considered as a subgenre of science fiction, scientific elements are less incorporated in these works as compared to hard science

fiction novels. Dystopian science fiction comes under the category of social science fiction, a branch of science fiction which gives more importance to the society and socio-cultural aspects rather than the elements of advanced science and technology. The proposed study focuses on the development of young adult dystopian science fiction as a popular literary genre, its relevance in society and popular culture and the public reception of the contemporary young adult dystopian fiction. Young adult fiction usually focuses on the reader's interests. As the majority of young adult fiction readers are teenagers and kids, these works concentrate on aspects like adventure, action and fantasy. Most people go after these works for the sake of enjoyment and entertainment. Harry Potter and Percy Jackson are good examples of this trend. When the theme of dystopia combines with young adult fiction, a new breed of literature is produced: One which entertains us and socially committed at the same time.

As *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* are dystopian in nature, the theme is universal and applicable to any society in the world. Even though both authors (Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth) are American, the scope of these novels is not confined to the United States. Class difference is a major theme in *The Hunger Games*. The problem of class difference is more complicated in India and the third world nations than in America. Problems caused by totalitarian governments, misuse of power by the ruling class, dehumanization and the neglect of ordinary people are some of the relevant problems reflected in these novels. These novels also try to predict the future of human civilization. The relevance of dystopian fiction rests in the fact that these works are written with a social commitment. Through this research, the researcher plans to explore the influence of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* trilogies on popular culture and how these works

were received by the reading public. This work also tries to have a look at how the interests of readers have changed over the past decade after the era of Harry Potter.

1.4.Review of Literature

The corpus of literature produced on and about Utopia, along with Dystopia has been quite varied and interesting. Scholarly engagement with the subject is evident through a survey of an array of literature; an acknowledgement of which is crucial before undertaking the research work. There is a whole volley of literature produced on topics related to utopia and dystopia, connected to the field of literature, films and popular culture. The study undertaken is an attempt to contribute towards the growing debates on dystopian fiction and young adult literature. The study examines the dystopic vision in the contemporary YA fiction through a detailed analysis of the six texts undertaken for the study. These texts have been examined by various writers through different perspectives. This work locates these texts within the tradition of dystopian fiction and showcases the high popularity of the subgenre. The work does not delve deep into the study of dystopian literary traditions; instead it focuses on a stylistic and quantitative analysis on how young adult dystopian fiction influences popular culture through a detailed study of the texts at hand. The following are some of the most relevant works relating to the subject:

One of the books specifically concentrating on my research area is the work *Utopian and Dystopian Writing for Children and Young Adults* edited by Carrie Hintz and Elaine Ostry. This volume examines a variety of utopian writing for children from the 18th century to the present day, defining and exploring this new genre in the field of

children's literature. The original essays discuss thematic conventions and present detailed case studies of individual works. All address the pedagogical implications of work that challenges children to grapple with questions of perfect or wildly imperfect social organizations and their own autonomy. The book includes interviews with creative writers and the first bibliography of utopian fiction for children. In this volume, there are fourteen essays concerning texts as utopian/dystopian, ranging from Sarah Fielding's *The Governess or Little Female Academy* (1749) to Lois Lowry's *The Giver* (1993), so we see immediately that this is not just for science fiction readers but is especially for scholars of children's literature. It is an amalgamation of offerings; the editors deliberately have invited not just critics of utopian literature but writers as well, including brief pieces by children's and young adult fiction writers James Gurney, Katherine Paterson, and Monica Hughes.

The essay collection *Contemporary Dystopian Fiction for Young Adults: Brave New Teenagers* edited by Balaka Basu, Katherine R. Broad, and Carrie Hintz is a more recent work which provides an insight into the critical and theoretical aspects of contemporary young adult dystopian literature. From the jaded, wired teenagers of M.T. Anderson's *Feed* to the spirited young rebels of Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* trilogy, the protagonists of Young Adult dystopias are introducing a new generation of readers to the pleasures and challenges of dystopian imaginings. As the dark universes of YA dystopias continue to flood the market, this book offers a critical evaluation of the literary and political potentials of this widespread publishing phenomenon. With its capacity to frighten and warn, dystopian writing powerfully engages with our pressing global concerns: liberty and self-determination, environmental destruction and looming

catastrophe, questions of identity and justice, and the increasingly fragile boundaries between technology and the self. When directed at young readers, these dystopian warnings are distilled into exciting adventures with gripping plots and accessible messages that may have the potential to motivate a generation on the cusp of adulthood. This collection enacts a lively debate about the goals and efficacy of young adult dystopias, with three major areas of contention: do these texts reinscribe an old didacticism or offer an exciting new frontier in children's literature? Do their political critiques represent conservative or radical ideologies? And finally, are these novels high-minded attempts to educate the young or simply bids to cash in on a formula for commercial success? This collection represents a prismatic and evolving understanding of the genre, illuminating its relevance to children's and young adult literature and our wider culture.

Female Rebellion in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction is an edited collection by Sara K. Day, Miranda A. Green-Barteet, and Amy L. Montz. Responding to the increasingly powerful presence of dystopian literature for young adults, this volume focuses on novels featuring a female protagonist who contends with societal and governmental threats at the same time that she is navigating the treacherous waters of young adulthood. The contributors relate the liminal nature of the female protagonist to liminality as a unifying feature of dystopian literature, literature for and about young women, and cultural expectations of adolescent womanhood. Divided into three sections, the collection investigates cultural assumptions and expectations of adolescent women, considers the various means of resistance and rebellion made available to and explored by female protagonists, and examines how the adolescent female protagonist is situated

with respect to the groups and environments that surround her. In a series of thought-provoking essays on a wide range of writers that includes Libba Bray, Scott Westerfeld, Tahereh Mafi, Veronica Roth, Marissa Meyer, Ally Condie, and Suzanne Collins, the collection makes a convincing case for how this rebellious figure interrogates the competing constructions of adolescent womanhood in late-twentieth- and early twenty-first-century culture.

New Perspectives on Dystopian Fiction in Literature and Other Media is a recent work that provides an international perspective on the overlapping of dystopian fiction and popular culture. This collection of essays edited by Saija Isomaa, Jyrki Korpua, and Jouni Teittinen examines various forms of dystopian fiction in literature, television, and digital games. It frames the timely trend of dystopian fiction as a thematic field that accommodates several genres from societal dystopia to apocalyptic narratives and climate fiction, many of them examining the hazards of science and technology to human societies and the ecosystem. These are genres of the Anthropocene par excellence, capturing the dilemmas of the human condition in the current, increasingly precarious epoch. The essays offer new interpretations of classical and contemporary works, including the canonised prose of Orwell, Atwood and Cormac McCarthy, modern pop culture classics like *Battlestar Galactica*, *Fallout* and *The Hunger Games*, and the work of Johanna Sinisalo, a pioneer of Finnish speculative fiction. From Thomas Pynchon to Richard Adams' *Watership Down*, the volume's multifaceted approach offers fresh perspectives to those already familiar with existing research, but it is no less accessible for newcomers to the ever-expanding field of dystopian studies.

Thematic Guide to Young Adult Literature by Alice L. Trupe is a resource for librarians, teachers, and teens and it identifies some of the best fiction for young readers available today. The volume is organized into 32 chapters dealing with such themes as addiction, dating, friendship, poverty, sexual identity, religion, and war. Each chapter offers a critical introduction to three to eight novels and concludes with a list of additional reading recommendations. Each of the 32 chapters is devoted to a theme of special significance to young adults, and provides brief critical discussions of several related literary works. Chapters close with lists of fiction for further reading. An appendix group lists works according to additional themes, and a selected bibliography cites relevant critical studies.

Critical Foundations in Young Adult Literature: Challenging Genres by Antero Garcia is based on classroom experiences with both college and high school students; Garcia offers a theory-based approach to challenging and transforming youth engagement with young adult literature. Taking a critical approach, *Young Adult Literature: Challenging Genres* offers educators, youth librarians, and students a set of strategies for unpacking, challenging, and transforming the assumptions of some of the genre's most popular titles. Pushing the genre forward, Antero Garcia builds on his experiences as a former high school teacher to offer strategies for integrating Young Adult literature in a contemporary critical pedagogy through the use of participatory media.

Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy is an anthology of critical essays edited by Lana Whited and there are a variety of topics that can be discussed from *The Hunger Games Trilogy* and this title present fourteen strong essays that have not been discussed in other Hunger Games-themed critical anthologies already published. The

work provides an in-depth critical discussion of Suzanne Collins' trilogy. Essays in this volume analyze the importance of *The Hunger Games*' success on young adult readers, compare the world of Panem to other notable dystopias, and closely examine the relationships between Katniss, Peeta, and Gale. Reading only through the Critical Contexts section of the work, a person would gain a sense of how the three novels have been appraised by book critics, a deep familiarity with the series' literary lineage, an understanding of the two predominant strands of dystopian fiction and how they appear in Collins' series, and an illustration of how Reader-Response Criticism applies to *Mockingjay*. The volume comprises of essays that are as diverse as their authors including topics on gender, fear, psychology, Roman allusions, and civic engagement in the classroom.

Approaching the Hunger Games Trilogy: A Literary and Cultural Analysis is a critical work on *The Hunger Games* trilogy by the late Tom Henthorne who was an associate professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at Pace University and director of the American Studies program. This book addresses Suzanne Collins's work from a number of literary and cultural perspectives in an effort to better understand both its significance and its appeal. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to the *Hunger Games* trilogy, drawing from literary studies, psychology, gender studies, media studies, philosophy, and cultural studies. An analytical rather than evaluative work, it dispenses with extended theoretical discussions and academic jargon. Assuming that readers are familiar with the entire trilogy, the book also avoids plot summary and character analysis, instead focusing on the significance of the story and its characters. It includes a biographical essay, glossaries, questions for further study, and an extensive bibliography.

The Girl Who Was on Fire: Your Favorite Authors on Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games Trilogy edited by Leah Wilson is a collection of thirteen essays by various young-adult fiction authors discussing varying aspects of The Hunger Games trilogy. In *The Girl Who Was on Fire*, thirteen YA authors take you back to Panem with moving, dark, and funny pieces on Katniss, the Games, Gale and Peeta, reality TV, survival, and more. From the trilogy's darker themes of violence and social control to fashion and weaponry, the collection's exploration of the Hunger Games reveals exactly how rich, and how perilous, protagonist Katniss' world really is. The book offers even more to think about for teen readers already engrossed by the Hunger Games. Contributors who wrote in the book are Jennifer Lynn Barnes, Mary Borsellino, Sarah Rees Brennan, Terri Clark, Bree Despain, Adrienne Kress, Sarah Darer Littman, Cara Lockwood, Elizabeth M. Rees, Carrie Ryan, Ned Vizzini, Lili Wilkinson, Blythe Woolston, Diana Peterfreund, Brent Hartinger, and Jackson Pearce.

Fan Phenomena: The Hunger Games edited by Nicola Balkind charts the success of *The Hunger Games series* through the increasingly vocal online communities that drive the young adult book market. Essays here consider the fashion that the series has created and how the costumes, memorabilia, merchandising, and branding have become an ever bigger part of the fandom experience. Issues explored include debates over the movie stars' race and size, which tap into greater issues within the fan community and popular culture in general and the current argument that has divided fans and critics: whether or not the third book, *Mockingjay*, should be split into two films.

Divergent Thinking: YA Authors on Veronica Roth's Divergent Trilogy edited by Leah Wilson is a collection of essays that critically analyse *Divergent Trilogy* through

different theoretical frameworks. In *Divergent Thinking*, YA authors explore even more of Tris and Tobias' world, including what *Divergent's* factions have in common with one of psychology's most prominent personality models, the biology of fear: where it comes from and how Tris and the other Dauntless are able to overcome it, full-page maps locating all five faction headquarters and other series landmarks in today's Chicago, based on clues from the books, why we love identity shorthand like factions to Tris' trouble with honesty to the importance of choice, family, and being brave through a dozen smart, surprising, mind-expanding essays on all three books.

The Divergent Companion: The Unauthorized Guide is a book by Lois H. Gresh which takes fans deeper into the post-apocalyptic *Divergent* world created by Veronica Roth: a dystopian Chicago in which society is split into five factions; each with its own core value to uphold. At the age of sixteen, like every other citizen, Beatrice Prior must choose to which faction she will devote her life with devastating consequences. The *Divergent Companion* includes fascinating background facts, a revealing biography of the author, and amazing insights into the trilogy's major themes and features. The book also explains the concept of Utopia in the modern context and also includes a chapter on authoritarian rule and prejudices which are the hard and fast elements common in dystopian works.

1.5.Methodology

This work of research to explore the influence of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* trilogies on popular culture and how these works were received by the reading public. This work also tries to have a look at how the interests of readers (especially in America) have changed over the past decade after the era of *Harry Potter*. The proposed study

focuses on the development of young adult dystopian science fiction as a popular literary genre, its relevance in society and popular culture and the public reception of the contemporary young adult dystopian fiction. This research work also aims to analyse the influence of young adult dystopian fiction on the reading public and to examine the reader's interests in the source materials (The Hunger Games and Divergent trilogies) with the help of reception theory and reader response criticism.

This work of research focuses on the close reading of The Hunger Games trilogy and Divergent trilogy and the analysis of scholarly articles, online content, books, journals and magazines concerned with young adult dystopian fiction in general and the selected works in particular. My plan is to apply reception theory and reader response criticism for analyzing the reader's interests and to find out the influence of young adult dystopian fiction on popular culture. This research work comes under the framework of cultural studies. Through this research, the researcher is trying to find out the relevance of these young adult dystopian science fiction novels in our society and the reason behind their immense popularity. Whether it is the marketing techniques or the quality of literature or the entertaining aspects, these novels surely have influenced our societies and popular culture in a great manner. I do also expect to prove that young adult literature (including dystopian fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and crime fiction) is the most popular literary genre at present.

1.6. Arrangement of Chapters

The thesis is divided into six chapters. The chapters and their contents are as follows:

Chapter 1- Introduction: The “Introduction” includes a description of the emergence of the dystopian fiction in the twentieth century. A historical perspective is provided to understand the development of the genre of the dystopia. After which a brief glance at the novels undertaken for the study is included. The introduction includes the thesis statement, review of literature, methodology and a brief outline of the chapters.

Chapter 2 - An Overview of Young Adult Dystopian Fiction in the 21st Century

The second chapter is about the history and development of young adult literature and how it was separated from the umbrella term of children’s literature. Earlier works for young adults especially belonging to the genres of science fiction and fantasy are specially mentioned in this chapter. In this chapter, I have also included a discussion of the earlier books popular among the young adults which cemented the foundation of the subgenre much stronger than before. These YA works include *The Outsiders*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Chocolate War*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, and *Howl’s Moving Castle*. There are also special sections on the milestones of young adult fantasy, science fiction, and dystopian fiction. These works are *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Earthsea Cycle*, *His Dark Materials*, Harry Potter, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Ender’s Game*, and *The Giver* and several other. The chapter also includes descriptions of important YA dystopian novels in the 21st century. Here, there is also a

tribute to a less known young adult and children's science fiction and fantasy writer Monica Hughes who wrote futuristic young adult dystopian novels before Lois Lowry.

Chapter 3 - The Hunger Games Trilogy and Popular Culture

The third chapter focuses on the primary texts The Hunger Games trilogy and looks specifically how the novel series influenced the popular culture in North America and around the world. The subchapters look into the business and critical reception of the book series, editions of the books, social media discussions including official websites, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. This chapter also discusses the film adaptations, parody and spoofs, influence on other works like attractions and theme parks, critical and unofficial books based on the series, translations, awards and honours received by the series, and the merchandise and games based on the series. The real life significance of the novel and film series represented through the partnership between the film crew and the World Food Programme and the three-finger salute from the film used as a symbol against the oppressing governments in the Thailand, Myanmar, and Hong Kong protests.

Chapter 4 - Divergent Trilogy and Popular Culture

The fourth chapter is exclusively about the influence of Veronica Roth's Divergent trilogy on popular culture. Just like the third chapter, this chapter also includes the discussion of the business and critical reception of the book series, editions of the books, social media discussions, film adaptations, parody and spoofs, influence on other works, critical and unofficial books based on the series, translations, awards and honours received by the series, and the merchandise and games based on the series. I have also included a small description of *The Maze Runner* series by James Dashner as this series

was also published almost at the same time as the two series in our discussion and was also adapted into a trilogy of films much like these two young adult dystopian novel series.

Chapter 5 – Conclusion

The last chapter is conclusion and it lists out all the findings and outcomes of the research I had undertaken for the past few years. I have tried my best to summarise the research work reflected through all the chapters of this thesis in the conclusion chapter. All the important facts about the relevance and influence of *The Hunger Games trilogy* and *Divergent trilogy* are highlighted in this chapter through the analysis of the findings from the specific chapters. From the ratings and reviews of the books and the film adaptations and the merchandise based on the series to the importance of the two trilogies in real life protests, social awareness and the usage of the Divergent series in educational research, psychology, and social media research based on sociology are included in the chapters and all these are reflected in the conclusion.

Chapter 6 – Recommendations

This chapter provides a description of the gaps and limitations of the research undertaken by me and the possible suggestions for improvement. The scope of doing research in the field of young adult dystopian and science fiction and the recommendations and ideas for the future research forms the crux of this chapter.

Chapter 2

An Overview of Young Adult Dystopian Fiction in the 21st Century

Contents

- 2.1. Introduction**
- 2.2. Rise of Young Adult Literature/ Fiction**
- 2.3. Characteristics and Categories of Young Adult Fiction**
- 2.4. YA and Children's SF and Fantasy Literature in the 20th Century**
- 2.5. Young Adult Fantasy Milestones**
- 2.6. YA Science Fiction Milestones**
- 2.7. YA Dystopia Milestones**
- 2.8. Young Adult Science Fiction, Fantasy and Dystopias in the 21st Century**
- 2.9. Conclusion**

2.1. Introduction

J.K. Rowling published *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* in 1998. There has been a revolution in book selling and reading ever since. People have become more and more attracted to children's literature and young adult literature. Whether it is science fiction, fantasy or realistic fiction, young adult literature is successful in capturing the minds of people. Film adaptation of the *Harry Potter* series contributed immensely to the popularity of young adult genre and it has become a global phenomenon. To quote a few, there are *Twilight*, *Percy Jackson*, *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *The Maze Runner*, *I Am Number Four* and *The Fifth Wave*. Through literature, movies and TV shows, young adult literature continues to be at the top of the charts worldwide.

In order to grasp the idea of young adult literature, we must have a clear understanding about young adults. Who is a young adult? Which age group does they belong to? There are different categorizations based on the age group of these people. Cambridge Dictionary defines a young adult as "A person who is in his or her late teenage years or early twenties". So, young adults are also called teenagers. In general, a young adult is a person ranging in age from their late teens or early twenties to their thirties. During this phase of life, young adults further build up their basic reasoning abilities, form relationships based on shared values and belief systems, modify their risk taking behaviors and make decisions dependent on future consequences. Developmental themes emerge as these young adults mature towards adulthood. In the words of J. de Jong Gierveld:

During young adulthood, young men and women are confronted with various life transitions and have to make decisions about their future. How

long will they continue in full-time education, when will they look for a job, or will they combine work with schooling? Will they seek a partner, or choose to remain single? What are their attitudes towards starting a family of their own? This period in life is generally regarded as a first step towards adulthood in that it incorporates a move from dependence towards independence, in both financial and emotional terms as well as in terms of a young adult's social life. As such, it is an important life-course phase because each transition changes and determines the young adult's position within society (Smelser and Baltes, *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* 98).

Let us now focus on the reading interests of the young adults. Subject matters and the genres of young adult literature associate with the age and experience of the protagonist and subsequent supporting characters, usually confronting real world problems for the first time. Common themes of this genre include friendship, first love, relationships, and identity. According to Michael Cart:

The term “young adult literature” is inherently amorphous, for its constituent terms “young adult” and “literature” are dynamic, changing as culture and society — which provide their context — change. When the term first found common usage in the late 1960's, it referred to realistic fiction that was set in the real (as opposed to imagined), contemporary world and addressed problems, issues, and life circumstances of interest to young readers aged approximately 12-18. Such titles were issued by the

children's book divisions of American publishers and were marketed to institutions – libraries and schools – that served such populations.

Moving onto young adult dystopias, *The Hunger Games* is an example of dystopian literature. What is meant by the term dystopia? *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* defines dystopia as “A modern term invented as the opposite of utopia, and applied to any alarmingly unpleasant imaginary world, usually of the projected future” (100). This term was coined by the English philosopher John Stuart Mill. Dystopian societies appear in numerous artistic works, particularly in fiction which are set in the future. Some of the basic components in dystopian literature are, excessive measures to police society, unjust laws, pressure to conform, media manipulation and propaganda, measures to cover up flaws and lies within society, attempts to erase or revise society's history, suppression of the arts, restricted or complete absence of individual freedom, division of individuals into special and unprivileged groups, little hope for change economic manipulation, defective, misconstrued, or manhandled progresses and suppression of emotions.

In a dystopian story, the protagonist's society itself usually serves as the enemy; it is the society which effectively acts against the protagonist's aims and desires. This type of persecution every now and then is established by an extremist or dictator government, bringing about the loss of civil liberties and unsound day to day environments, brought about by quite a few conditions, such as world overpopulation, laws controlling a person's sexual or reproductive freedom, and living under constant surveillance. Regardless of whether a general public is seen as a dystopia is normally controlled by one's perspective; what one individual may think about being a horrible dystopia, another may discover totally satisfactory or even semi- utopian. For example, in the event that

you couldn't care less about multiplying, at that point living in a world in which the birth rate is carefully managed wouldn't appear to be a lot of tragic to you; to somebody who esteems that without a doubt, nonetheless, having society reveal to you how, when (or how regularly) you can reproduce would appear as though something out of a bad dream or an individual who hates perusing or scholarly reasoning probably won't give it a second thought if books are prohibited, or even pursued down and decimated, as in *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Dystopias are often seen as “cautionary tales,” but the best dystopias are not didactic screeds, and the best dystopias do not draw their power from whatever political or societal point they might be making; the best dystopias address the more profound implications of what it is to be one little piece of an overflowing progress and of what it is to be human.

We can assume that dystopian literature reached its modern form in the nineteenth century. Edward Bellamy's 1888 novel *Looking Backward* and Samuel Butler's *Erewhon* backs up this argument. E.M. Forster's *The Machine Stops* introduced the idea of technological dystopian fiction. Many great dystopian works were produced after this, such as *We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell. M. Keith Booker states that “Together, these three novels are the great defining texts of the genre of dystopian fiction, both in [the] vividness of their engagement with real-world social and political issues, and in the scope of their critique of the societies on which they focus.”(20)

Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick and Anthony Burgess were other important dystopian writers lived during the last century. Dystopian literature made great progress after the 1970s, with prominent writers including Margaret Atwood and Cormac

McCarthy coming up with their own modern visions of dystopia like *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Road*. Writers of young adult fiction like Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth also gave the genre a boost in popularity with their twenty-first century young adult trilogies *The Hunger Games* (2008) and *Divergent* (2011).

Our real concern is about young adult dystopian literature and its influence on popular culture. For that, we have to assess the impact of these novels on the lives of people especially in America and all around the world. We do surely get a glimpse from the excerpt of the following article from *The New Yorker* magazine by Jill Lepore:

“Dystopianism turns out to have a natural affinity with American adolescence”.

From all these facts we have discussed, it becomes crystal clear to us that a large section of American population is very much indulged with fiction in general and dystopian fiction in particular. They are very much aware of the social and political issues and this draws them to dystopian literature. This is where we can see the value of dystopian literature. Dystopian literature has helped to highlight many social ills that society can use as red flags to determine if the power system has gone too far.

Focusing on young adult dystopian literature, the setting, themes, and characters in dystopian fiction are an appropriate fit with the intellectual changes that occur during adolescence. As adolescents develop, they are able to grasp bigger, more abstract concepts and consequences in the world around them and can engage in more critical thinking; they also show increasing interest in issues related to society at large. Dystopian novels that grapple with more profound cultural and moral issues are often well received by young minds that are developing the ability and even willingness to grapple with complex ideas. As adolescents approach adulthood, they start giving more consideration

to the structures and systems that lie ahead. This includes career possibilities and lifestyle choices, but also more abstract systems such as moral principles and social norms. Ethically, youths are moving from the high contrast perspective on youngsters toward the more nuanced perspective on grown-ups, and the large number of significant transitions they experience can lead to uncertainty about their identities and futures. This uncertainty and questioning is part of the process through which teenagers develop their own set of values. Dystopian fiction highlights protagonists who are likewise questioning the underlying values of a flawed society and their identity within it: who they are going to be and how they are going to act. Every choice the characters make can carry enormous consequences, often to the point of significantly altering the world they have always known. Young Adults associate them with these protagonists as they feel their lives are similar to these characters.

This intense connection to the material resonates deeply with readers and can often spark change in their lives and in the societies in which they live. For example, the Harry Potter series of books by J. K. Rowling center around a young wizard who must constantly negotiate good versus evil. This contemporary series has blossomed into a subculture of Harry Potter within society that include conferences, sporting events, and even a theme park with a land dedicated to the events, characters and places presented in Rowling's series.

2.2. Rise of Young Adult Literature/ Fiction

The early examples of young adult or teenage literature in English language can be traced back to the eighteenth century, but these cannot be included into the category of the coming of age, young adult, or children's novels of the present day. Some of these earlier works are widely considered as classics by the critics and readers. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and its sequels by Lewis Carroll, *Treasure Island* (1883) and *Kidnapped* (1886) by the Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson are the prime examples of this category. The list also includes the works of Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* (1868) and its well-known sequels *Little Men* (1871) and *Jo's Boys* (1886), the novels of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886), *A Little Princess* (1905), and *The Secret Garden* (1911). The list continues with the works of Rudyard Kipling like *The Jungle Book* (1894), *Kim* (1901) and the adventure novels of the American writer Mark Twain with iconic characters like *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). There are also many other works appealing to the young readers like *What Katy Did* by Susan Coolidge, *Anne of Green Gables* by the Canadian author L. M. Montgomery, Peter Pan books by J.M. Barrie, and the works of L. Frank Baum. Even though all these classics were written for children and the teenagers, the proper young adult fiction with its special traits emerged only in the twentieth century.

Let the Hurricane Roar (1933) by the American writer Rose Wilder Lane is considered by many as the first novel written for the teenage or young adult readers. The novel is based on real life events from the childhood of the writer Rose's mother Laura Ingalls Wilder. This short novel was reissued with the title *Young Pioneers* from the

year 1976. The book's length and the writing style were perfect for the young adult market of that time and the novel was always a part of the public libraries and the high school libraries in America.

Another important work that can be considered as YA fiction is the novel *Seventeenth Summer* (1942) by Maureen Daly. The novel *Going on Sixteen* (1946) by Betty Cavanna comes next in this list of early YA books. Many of these novels incorporated themes like love in school time, coming of age, sports in schools, adventures with friends, and student career decisions. School students started to identify themselves with characters of their own age and the problems faced by these characters which are similar to their own. Up to this point, YA literature remained mostly realistic and dealt with real life situations. But the interest of young readers turned to fantasy, supernatural and science fiction most probably with the publication of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* by Tolkien and *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis.

All these events and genres contributed immensely in the development of young adult literature as a popular literary genre. Especially in the United States, public libraries and bookstores spread across all the states and towns in the twentieth century. School and University education in the Arts and Humanities also encouraged reading and it led to the establishment of more libraries in schools and all the educational institutes. As research in literature and culture became more prominent in the twentieth century, this also contributed to the sales and increasing popularity of young adult fiction. Though it can be argued that the literature for young adults came into the forefront since the publication of Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder, which came out during the

1930s, teachers and librarians were reluctant to accept the existence of YA literature as a separate genre than children's literature.

Author of *Starship Troopers* and *Stranger in a Strange Land*, Robert A. Heinlein wrote several novels aimed at the teenagers. These novels written by Heinlein for the young adults are collectively known as the Heinlein juveniles, starting with *Rocket Ship Galileo* which was published in 1947. One of the novels in this series, *Podkayne of Mars* (1963) is notable for having a girl as the protagonist because most of the young adult novels at that time had male protagonists as these were targeted at the male readers.

Young adult literature started to become a properly shaped genre after 1950, most probably with the publication of J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951), as it became highly popular among the young adult readers even though it was meant for an adult audience. Themes discussed in the novel by Salinger like identity crisis and alienation has become common traits of young adult literature. The protagonist of the novel, Holden Caulfield, stands out as an icon of teenage rebellion in literature.

The trend in the popularity of adult literature with young adult readers continued with the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) by Harper Lee. The novel is also an example of a Bildungsroman or a coming of age novel. In the United States, it is widely read in high schools and middle schools. As a coming of age novel, the book is also compared to *Catcher in the Rye* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

The Outsiders (1967) by S. E. Hinton properly laid the foundation to the contemporary stream of young adult fiction in the opinion of many critics. Hinton's work depicts a realistic and grim tale of young adults, which was rare to occur in literary

works. *The Outsiders* must also be the first novel targeting and marketed for the young adult audience because Hinton was herself a young adult when she wrote it. Hinton authored the book when she was only sixteen years old and while she was a high school student at Will Rogers High School, Tulsa, Oklahoma and she was eighteen years old when the book was first published by Viking Press on 24th April 1967. The setting of the novel is also Oklahoma and it features a male protagonist, Ponyboy Curtis.

Jon Michaud from *The New Yorker* magazine explains the idea of considering *The Outsiders* as the first young adult novel in his article:

S. E. Hinton recalls that when she published her debut novel, “*The Outsiders*,” in 1967, “there was no young-adult market.” Her book, written by a teen-ager about teenagers in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was issued in hardcover by the Viking Press and then in softcover by Dell—both adult trade imprints. ““*The Outsiders*’ died on the vine being sold as a drugstore paperback,” Hinton told me, but her publisher “noticed that in one area it was selling very well. Teachers were using it in classes. All of a sudden, they realized that there was a separate market for young adults.”

There were several notable books published specifically for the young adult readers after the groundbreaking success of *The Outsiders*. Hinton’s own work *Rumble Fish* (1975) is one among them. Both *The Outsiders* and *Rumble Fish* were adapted into Hollywood films by the infamous film director Francis Ford Coppola. YA literature began to cover more themes than the realistic models of Hinton. Robert Cormier came up with the idea of a secret society in high school in his novel *The Chocolate War* (1974). Madeleine L’Engle introduced the science fantasy genre to teenagers through her *Time*

Quintet, starting with *A Wrinkle in Time* (1962). American writer Gary Paulsen wrote the wilderness survival novel *Hatchet* (1986) for young adults.

Like adult literature, Young Adult literature will continue to evolve and improve, but regardless of how the field develops in the future, it will always owe a debt of gratitude to the influence provided by the early boundary makers and boundary breakers of literature for teenagers.

History of the Young Adult Literature in the Twentieth Century

Twentieth century is the era in which young adult or teenage literature was properly introduced as we have discussed in the previous section. We are going to have a look at the important works and developments in the field of young adult or literature in the twentieth century as a whole. British novelist Kenneth Grahame wrote *The Wind in the Willows* in 1908, and it must be one of the earliest novels written for children and teenagers without any human characters as all the characters in the novel are animals. Alan Alexander Milne is known for writing and creating one of the most beloved animal characters in children's literature: the teddy bear Winnie-the-Pooh. *Winnie-the-Pooh* was published in 1926 and it still continues to be featured in films, TV shows and various other media. Paddington Bear is a well-known character which also resembles Winnie bear. Paddington is also a popular character with film adaptations and the fictional bear was introduced by the British author Michael Bond in the novel *A Bear Called Paddington* published in 1958.

Theodor Seuss Geisel (popularly known with his pen name Dr. Seuss) published several books for children that have an everlasting influence in popular culture. Dr. Seuss

published his debut book *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* in 1937. He went on to write several remarkable books including *Horton Hears a Who!* (1955), *The Cat in the Hat* (1957), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (1957), and *The Lorax* (1971). Dr. Seuss was a prolific writer and he produced more than sixty books in his career.

Another important writer in the long list of the twentieth century children's literature authors is E.B. White. Elwyn Brooks White was an American writer and he is best known for his books for children like *Stuart Little* (1945), *Charlotte's Web* (1952), and *The Trumpet of the Swan* (1970). White received a number of awards and honours for his works including the Newbery Honor for *Charlotte's Web* in 1953, American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal in 1960, Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, Laura Ingalls Wilder Award in 1970, National Medal for Literature in 1971, and the Pulitzer Prize Special Citation for his Letters of E.B. White in 1978.

British novelist Roald Dahl dominated the field of children's and teenage literature from the 1960s to the 1980s. Most of his novels belong to the fantasy genre. Dahl's books are among the most sold in the world and the unofficial calculations estimate that his books have had a sale of more than two fifty million copies. Many of Dahl's works are considered as masterpieces today and his best known works are: *James and the Giant Peach* (1961), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* published in 1964, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* published in 1970, *The BFG* (The Big Friendly Giant) published in 1982, *The Witches* (1983), and *Matilda* published in 1988. Roald Dahl had won the World Fantasy Convention Award for Life Achievement in 1983 and the Children's Author of the Year award in the British Book Awards of the year 1990. For his individual novels, Dahl won the New England Round Table of Children's Librarians Award, the

Millennium Children's Book Award, Surrey School Award, and the Blue Peter Book Award for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He received the Surrey School award and the Nene award for *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*. His book *Danny the Champion of the World* received the California Young Reader Medal for and the Surrey School Award. He also won the Deutsche Jugendliteraturpreis Award, Federation of Children's Book Groups Award for *The BFG*. *The Witches* received the New York Times Outstanding Books Award, the West Australian Award, the Whitbread Award, and the Federation of Children's Book Groups Award. Dahl was once again awarded the Federation of Children's Book Groups Award for his novel *Matilda*. Most of his novels were adapted into movies by well-known film makers like Steven Spielberg, Robert Zemeckis, Wes Anderson, and Tim Burton.

Young Adult Literature has become much more popular after the 1980s. Books like *Bridge to Terabithia* (1977) by Katherine Paterson, *Madame Doubtfire* (1987) by Anne Fine, *The Westing Game* (1978) by Ellen Raskin, *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾* (1982) by Sue Townsend, *Homecoming* (1981) by Cynthia Voigt, *Hatchet* (1986) by Gary Paulsen, *Holes* (1998) by Louis Sachar, etc. made it possible for the young adult genre to progress through new and different directions.

Bridge to Terabithia deserves special mention here because it was among the few young adult fantasy novels that were published between Hinton's *The Outsiders* and Rowling's Harry Potter series, two milestones in the young adult literary trope. There is also *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snickett (Pen name of Daniel Handler), which is a fantasy book series that consist of thirteen books.

Young Adult literature addressed various situations in human life and all the social and cultural developments were reflected in the novels of the twentieth century. We can see themes like abuse, sexual violence, drug addiction, diseases, disability, family, friends and peer groups in the lives of teenagers, history, religion, pregnancy, parenthood, poverty, and survival among others. Science Fiction, fantasy, and the supernatural fiction for children and young adults existed also at the same time. Many of these books were part of the school libraries while some others were banned and challenged by the public and the school authorities for their rebellious themes. Many of these works are accepted as classics today as the times changed. A detailed description of the themes, characteristics, and the categories of young adult literature is provided in next section.

2.3.Characteristics and Categories of Young Adult Fiction

As we have discussed before, young adult fiction has specific characteristics and traits. The plot is always centered with a young adult or teenage protagonist and the narrative will mostly be a first person revelation of incidents through the eyes of the teenage lead. The problems of the adolescents like identity crisis and the trouble of fitting in or adjusting within the society is always highlighted. Family life was also an important part of all the earlier young adult novels as almost all of them were realistic in nature. This changed drastically with the abundance of YA Science Fiction and Fantasy subgenres. Themes of friendship and love affairs are also common in young adult fiction as it is the time where these feelings are the strongest as we have all experienced in our lives. All the characteristics and categories of young adult fiction that I found relevant are discussed in this subsection.

Gothic, Horror and Supernatural

Horror and supernatural literature always captured the attention of the reading public. This is not different in the case of the young adults either. Among the large number of books written for children and young adults, some books deserve special mention. These books are: *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson, *Carrie* and *It* by Stephen King. *The Vampire Diaries* series by L. J. Smith (Lisa Jane Smith) can also be included in this list. Even though not technically a young adult novel, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* is a first person narrative by the protagonist, 18 year old teenager Mary Katherine Blackwood. Stephen King's *Carrie* is about Carrie White, a sixteen year old high school girl with supernatural abilities. *The Vampire Diaries* is about a high school girl Elena Gilbert who is entangled in romance with vampires, similar to the *Twilight Saga* by Stephenie Meyer.

Mystery and Thrillers

Unlike the other subgenres of Young Adult literature, it is extremely difficult to find good quality crime and mystery thrillers with teenage protagonists. I have put together some YA books which belong to the mystery and thriller category. A book worth special mention here is *I Know What you Did Last Summer* (1973) by Lois Duncan. Duncan is known for her books for children and teens, especially mysteries and supernatural fiction. The novel was adapted into a film of the same name in 1997 and it further developed two sequels. A web series based on the novel with the same name was released in 2021 on Amazon Prime Video and it partially proves that YA literature and media is still on demand. Another highly popular book series with a young adult protagonist is the Alex Rider series by the English novelist Anthony Horowitz. The book

series include thirteen novels and seven short stories. *Stormbreaker*, the first book in the series, was published in the UK in 2000 and in the United States in 2001. A film adaptation of the novel titled *Alex Rider: Operation Stormbreaker* (*Stormbreaker* in the UK) was released in 2006. A TV series based on the book series with the title *Alex Rider* debuted on Amazon Prime Video in 2020. The series continued with the second season in 2021 and the third season is currently in development owing to the positive reviews and viewership of the past two seasons. A quite recent immensely popular novel can also be included in this list. The book is *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018) by the American writer Delia Owens. The novel has a young adult female protagonist named Catherine “Kya” Clark. *Where the Crawdads Sing* is the debut novel of Delia Owens and it had a sale of more than fifteen million copies, adding it to the list of the most sold individual books of all time that too within a short time span. A film adaptation of the novel with the same name directed by Olivia Newman and featuring the British actress Daisy Edgar-Jones as Kya was released on July 15, 2022.

Speculative Fiction

A remarkable number of works were written in the twentieth century for children and young adults in the field of fantasy. But in the case of science fiction, post-apocalyptic fiction and dystopian fiction, the case is totally different. Only a few books and book series can be included in this category that too from after the 1950s like the *Time Quintet* (1962 – 1989) by Madeleine L'Engle, *Ender saga* by Orson Scott Card (1985 to the present) and *The Giver Quartet* (1993–2012) by Lois Lowry. More than these novels, Robert A. Heinlein contributed immensely to the field of young adult

science fiction. Heinlein's novel *Rocket Ship Galileo* (1947) was a landmark in the case of science fiction for young adults. As the critic C. W. Sullivan points it out:

The publication of this book was a significant marker in many ways. First, *Rocket Ship Galileo*, like the eleven others that followed in the series, was published in hardcover by Scribner's. This novel, unlike most of Heinlein's other science fiction and science fiction in general, did not see first light in the pages of a pulp magazine or as a paperback book. *Rocket Ship Galileo*, in its mainstream format and from an established publishing house, went straight to public libraries and school libraries where it sat on the shelf with all of the other fiction deemed suitable for young readers and could be checked out by those young readers. Because of the hardcover format and because of Scribner's reputation, Heinlein's juveniles escaped much of the criticism then being leveled at science fiction paperbacks and pulp magazines. Science fiction did not become instantly credible because of the Heinlein-Scribner's partnership, but it did receive a large push in that direction. (Young Adult Science Fiction 21)

Another book worth mentioning here in the context of science fiction is *Z for Zachariah* (1974) by Robert C. O'Brien. According to C.W. Sullivan, the novel has been regarded as a Young Adult classic for its haunting vision of a post-apocalyptic future. (p. 28) *Children of The Dust* (1985) by Louise Lawrence is also a relevant dystopian and post-apocalyptic novel for young readers in connection with our discussion. The journey of young adult speculative fiction continued through the works of Monica Hughes, Lois Lowry, Philip Reeve, M. T. Anderson, Scott Westerfeld, Patrick Ness, James Dashner,

and the authors of prominence in my thesis, Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth among many others.

Love and Romance

Love, affection, infatuation are common at the time of adolescence. For many people, love and romance start from their school period itself. The themes of love and romance are the central aspects in several young adult novels and maybe a few of these are worth mentioning here. One of these works is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (1999) by Stephen Chbosky. The novel narrates the story of Charlie, an introverted high school student who experiences change in his life because he is going through adolescence and dealing with his feelings and emotional turmoil as he interacts with his friends and family and his new found crush. American author John Green's novels also explore the realms of love and romance. Especially two well-known novels by John Green namely *Looking for Alaska* (2006) and *Paper Towns* (2008) fit right into this category. *Looking for Alaska* is about a teenage boy named Miles Halter and his experiences in high school including with that of girlfriends and a girl on whom he had a crush, Alaska Young from where the novel's title comes from. *Paper Towns* works on the romantic entanglement between two adolescent characters Quentin Jacobsen and Margo Spiegelman and their friends. Irish writer Sally Rooney's *Normal People* (2018) can also be included in this category.

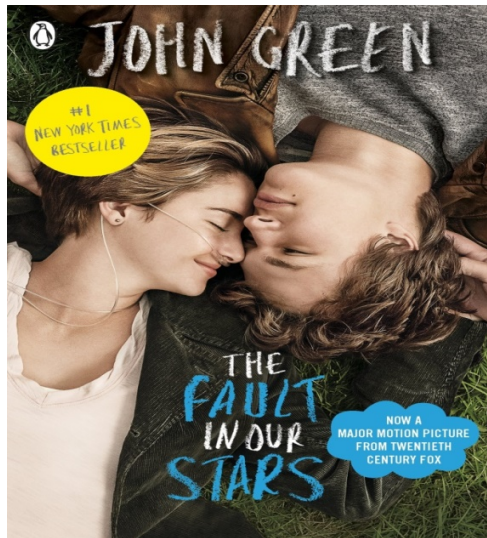
History and the Past

Young Adult literature occasionally includes events and the cultural aspects from the past and some novels written in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries describe the way of life prevalent at that period of time. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, J. D.

Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* and Susan Eloise Hinton's *The Outsiders* are all artifacts from the past now and these works are known for the social commentary incorporated within. In addition to this random inscription of historical elements, a few novels for young adults can be exclusively called historical novels.

English writer Rosemary Sutcliff was a pioneer in the field of historical fiction and she authored a good number of books exclusively for children and young adults. Sutcliff's novel *The Eagle of the Ninth* (1954) deserves special mention in this context. This is the first novel in Sutcliff's trilogy of Roman Britain and the sequels of the novel include *The Silver Branch* (1957) and *The Lantern Bearers* (1959). Historical novels for children and young adults are not that common in English literature and these do not reach the list of bestselling books. But an exception to this usual plight of the category is the novel *The Book Thief* (2005) by the Australian writer Markus Zusak. The book is a bestseller all around the world and it was translated into more than sixty three languages. Zusak's novel is set in the Nazi controlled Germany during the Second World War and is about an adolescent girl named Liesel Meminger and her family. Khaled Hosseini's 2003 novel *The Kite Runner* can also be included in this category as it narrates the story of two teenagers in Afghanistan and provides a glimpse into the history of the country in the late twentieth century including the end of the monarchy, invasion of the Soviet Union and the Soviet–Afghan War and also the cruel reality of Taliban terrorism. There are numerous books set in the Nazi Germany, British colonies and at the time of the world wars and the books look into the situation of victims who had to suffer under inhumane situations.

Diseases and Disability



Themes like illness, diseases and disability of teenagers are rarely a part of the young adult books. Usually, there will be a disabled character that is either sympathised by the other characters or is a rebel who does not want the pity of others. But a few novels concentrate entirely on the lives of characters that are suffering from a serious illness or bedridden from accidents. Two novels from the twenty first century are perfect examples for this category of works. First novel of this category in our discussion is *The Fault in Our Stars* (2012) by John Green. The book narrates the story of sixteen year old girl Hazel Grace Lancaster who suffers from lung cancer and a teenage boy she meets from the Cancer Kid Support Group, Augustus Waters and their ensuing romance. Another novel that belongs to this category is *If I Stay* (2009) by Gayle Forman. Forman's book is about the seventeen year old Mia Hall who is hospitalized and is in a coma after a car accident.

2.4.YA and Children's SF and Fantasy Literature in the 20th Century

This section is about the predecessors of the works analysed in my thesis. As we have seen before, several children's works from the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century had elements of fantasy and science fiction incorporated in them. But it took a while for the YA genre to be properly formed and the Fantasy and Science Fiction works had especially captured the attention of the young readers. Most possibly, English author Edith Nesbit was among the first writers in this long history of speculative works. Nesbit's fantasy works like *Five Children and It* (1902), *The Phoenix and the Carpet* (1904), *The Story of the Amulet* (1906), *The Enchanted Castle* (1907), and *The Magic City* (1910) were all popular among the children and teenagers of that time and have become classics now.

At the same time Scottish writer James Matthew Barrie (commonly known as J. M. Barrie), created an immortal character in children's literature, Peter Pan. Barrie is also the author of several other works, but his tales of Peter Pan overshadowed all of them that lead him to be known as the author of the Peter Pan books. Peter Pan; or, the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up was the original title of the work and it was first staged and published as a play in 1904. It was later adapted into a novel in 1911 by J. M. Barrie himself and the novel is also known as Peter and Wendy. The work is notable in the context of my research because it features an imaginary Utopian island called the Neverland. Barrie also wrote several sequels to the novel including *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* (1906) and *When Wendy Grew Up – An Afterthought* (1908). The work was highly influential in popular culture and it was adapted several times to films and the best of these are: *Peter Pan* (1924), the first and a silent film adaptation of the work, *Hook* (1991) by Steven

Spielberg, *Peter Pan* (2003) by P. J. Hogan, and *Pan* (2015) by Joe Wright. An upcoming film titled *Peter Pan & Wendy* directed by David Lowery is currently in development.

The trend in fantasy literature for children and teenagers continued with the Oz series starting with *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900) by L. Frank Baum, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902) by Beatrix Potter, *Doctor Dolittle* books by Hugh Lofting, John Masfield's *Midnight Folk* (1927) and *The Box of Delights* (1935), *Mary Poppins* (1934) by P. L. Travers, *The Hobbit* (1937) and *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien. Tolkien and his friend C. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis were the pioneers of children's and young adult literature in English language for a while. *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis was also a landmark in YA and children's literature.

After the 1950s, American writer Ursula K. Le Guin came to the forefront of speculative literature and her Earthsea series starting with *A Wizard of Earthsea* (1968) was influential in several aspects like making person of colour the protagonist of her novel. The works of Le Guin are important in the context of my research because she wrote some important science fiction and dystopian works like *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969) and also books for young adults. Around the same time, British author Roald Dahl started to gain attention and he dominated the field of fantasy works for young readers for a while. There is also the less known but brilliant novel *Howl's Moving Castle* (1986) by the English writer Diana Wynne Jones. Next in the list of prominent fantasy writers for the youngsters is the English writer Philip Pullman. Pullman's fantasy trilogy *His Dark Materials* consist of the novels *Northern Lights* (1995) [*The Golden Compass* in North America], *The Subtle Knife* (1997), and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000).

American writer Stephen King is a prodigy when it comes to young adult literature. Known for his works of fantasy and supernatural horror, Stephen King has been a part of the American popular culture almost for the last fifty years. His brilliant and wildly imaginative mind produced iconic young adult characters like Carrie, Charlie McGee in the novel *Firestarter* (1980), Arnie Cunningham, Dennis Guilder, and Leigh Cabot in his novel *Christine* (1983) and the film adaptation of the novel John Carpenter's *Christine* released in the same year. It (1986) is a novel that deals with horror and the adolescent life at the same time. King's novel series *The Dark Tower* is also written for the young adult readers. The latest work written by Stephen King for young adults is *Gwendy's Button Box* (2017), a novella he co-authored with Richard Chizmar.

In the field of science fiction, novels for young adults started receiving recognition possibly with the publication of *A Wrinkle in Time* in 1962 by Madeleine L'Engle. Even then, I could find only a few young adult science fiction novels produced between the 1960s and 2000 that is worth mentioning here. One among these is *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card which was published in 1985. Young Adult dystopias probably start with the well-known first novel of William Golding, *Lord of the Flies* which was published in 1954. But the proper young adult dystopian novel that is set in a futuristic society perhaps started with the novels of the British-Canadian writer Monica Hughes namely *Devil on My Back* (1984) and its sequel *The Dream Catcher* published in 1986. But the work which is widely recognized as the first definitive young adult dystopian novel is *The Giver* published in 1993 by the American author Lois Lowry.

Through all these stepping stones, science fiction and fantasy literature for children and the teenagers reached its peak in popularity with the Harry Potter series. An

idea which grazed the mind of Joanne Kathleen Rowling while waiting on a train in England became a phenomenon on popular culture. Children and the teenagers around the world are still buying copies of the printed books of the Harry Potter series and many of us are awaiting the new books and the possible new films from the Harry Potter franchise.

2.5.Young Adult Fantasy Milestones

When we think about fantasy literature and films, two names immediately comes to our minds. They are *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The journey leading to the huge popularity and the international recognition of the Young Adult or Teenage or Children's Fantasy and Science Fiction literature began with these two novel series. All of this leads back to the publication of *The Hobbit* in 1937, the first novel set within J. R. R. Tolkien's fictional universe. I will be discussing all the seminal works of fantasy belonging to the category of Young Adult or Children's Literature in this section.

The Hobbit

Tolkien's first novel set in the fictional Middle Earth, *The Hobbit or There and Back Again* was first published in September 1937 by George Allen & Unwin publishers in the United Kingdom. J. R. R. Tolkien himself designed and illustrated the book. *The Hobbit* was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and won an award from the New York Herald Tribune in the category of juvenile fiction. The novel narrates the journey of Bilbo Baggins who is a humanoid creature called the hobbit with a group of dwarves seeking their long lost treasure. Tolkien's novel is followed by its sequels forming *The*

Lord of the Rings trilogy. Peter Jackson adapted the novel into a live action film trilogy from 2001 to 2003.

The Lord of the Rings

Tolkien's sequel to *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* is an epic high-fantasy novel by J. R. R. Tolkien. Written in stages between 1937 and 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling books ever written, with over 150 million copies sold. Although often called a trilogy, the work was intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set along with *The Silmarillion*. For economic reasons, *The Lord of the Rings* was published over the course of a year from 29 July 1954 to 20 October 1955 in three volumes titled *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*. The work is divided internally into six books, two per volume, with several appendices of background material. *The Lord of the Rings* has since been reprinted many times and translated into at least 38 languages. Its enduring popularity has led to numerous references in popular culture, the founding of many societies by fans of Tolkien's works, and the publication of many books about Tolkien and his works. It has inspired many derivative works, including paintings, music, films, television, video games, and board games. It has helped to create and shape the modern fantasy genre, within which it is considered one of the greatest books of all time.

The Chronicles of Narnia

The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven fantasy novels by British author Clive Staples Lewis. Illustrated by Pauline Baynes and was originally published between 1950 and 1956, *The Chronicles of Narnia* has been adapted for radio, television, the stage, film

and video games. The series is set in the fictional realm of Narnia, a fantasy world of magic, mythical beasts and talking animals. It narrates the adventures of various children who play central roles in the unfolding history of the Narnian world. The Chronicles of Narnia is considered a classic of children's literature and is Lewis's best-selling work, having sold over 100 million copies in 47 languages. The Chronicles of Narnia is specifically important in the category of Children's and YA literature because only the children and the teenagers can enter the fictional land of Narnia. Lewis was a close friend of J. R. R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*. Both men served on the English faculty at Oxford University and were active in the informal Oxford literary group known as the Inklings.

The Earthsea Cycle

The Earthsea Cycle, also known as Earthsea, is a series of high fantasy books written by the American writer Ursula K. Le Guin. Beginning with *A Wizard of Earthsea* (1968), *The Tombs of Atuan*, (1970) and *The Farthest Shore* (1972), the series was continued in *Tehanu* (1990), and *Tales from Earthsea* and *The Other Wind* (both 2001). In 2018, all the novels and short stories were published in a single volume, *The Books of Earthsea: The Complete Illustrated Edition*, with artwork by Charles Vess. Earthsea novels are some of the most acclaimed and awarded works in literature—they have received prestigious accolades such as the National Book Award, a Newbery Honor, the Nebula Award, and many more honors, commemorating their enduring place in the hearts and minds of readers and the literary world alike.

His Dark Materials

His Dark Materials is a trilogy of fantasy novels by Philip Pullman consisting of *Northern Lights* (1995; published as *The Golden Compass* in North America), *The Subtle Knife* (1997), and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000). It follows the coming of age of two children, Lyra Belacqua and Will Parry, as they wander through a series of parallel universes. The novels have won a number of awards, including the Carnegie Medal in 1995 for *Northern Lights* and the 2001 Whitbread Book of the Year for *The Amber Spyglass*. In 2003, the trilogy was ranked third on the BBC's *The Big Read* poll. The London Royal National Theatre staged a two-part adaptation of the trilogy in 2003–2004. New Line Cinema released a film adaptation of *Northern Lights*, *The Golden Compass*, in 2007. A HBO/BBC television series based on the novels commenced broadcast in November 2019. Pullman followed the trilogy with three novellas set in the *Northern Lights* universe: *Lyra's Oxford* (2003), *Once Upon a Time in the North* (2008), and *Serpentine* (2020). *La Belle Sauvage*, the first book in a new trilogy titled *The Book of Dust*, was published on 19 October 2017; the second book of the new trilogy, *The Secret Commonwealth*, was published in October 2019. Both are set in the same universe as *Northern Lights*.

The Harry Potter Phenomenon

Harry Potter has become a household name within a short period of time after the publication of the first novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* in 1997. It was published in the United States the following year by Scholastic Corporation under the title *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Since the release of the first novel, the books have found immense popularity, positive reviews, and commercial success worldwide.

They have attracted a wide adult audience as well as younger readers and are often considered cornerstones of modern young adult literature. As of February 2018, the books have sold more than 500 million copies worldwide, making them the best-selling book series in history, and have been translated into more than eighty languages. The last four books consecutively set records as the fastest-selling books in history, with the final installment selling roughly 2.7 million copies in the United Kingdom and 8.3 million copies in the United States within twenty-four hours of its release.

The original seven books were adapted into an eight-part namesake film series by Warner Bros. Pictures. In 2016, the total value of the Harry Potter franchise was estimated at \$25 billion, making Harry Potter one of the highest-grossing media franchises of all time. Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is a play based on a story co-written by Rowling. The success of the books and films has allowed the Harry Potter franchise to expand with numerous derivative works, a travelling exhibition that premiered in Chicago in 2009, a studio tour in London that opened in 2012, a digital platform on which J. K. Rowling updates the series with new information and insight, and a pentalogy of spin-off films premiering in November 2016 with *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, among many other developments. Themed attractions, collectively known as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, have been built at several Universal Parks & Resorts amusement parks around the world.

The Twilight Saga

The Twilight Saga is a series of four vampire-themed fantasy romance novels, two companion novels, and one novella, written by American author Stephenie Meyer. Released annually from 2005 through 2008, the four books chart the later teen years of

Isabella "Bella" Swan, a girl who moves to Forks, Washington, from Phoenix, Arizona and falls in love with a 104-year-old vampire named Edward Cullen.

Since the release of the first novel, *Twilight*, in 2005, the books have gained immense popularity and commercial success around the world. The series is most popular among young adults; the four books have won multiple awards, most notably the 2008 British Book Award for "Children's Book of the Year" for *Breaking Dawn*, while the series as a whole won the 2009 Kids' Choice Award for Favorite Book. In November 2011, the series had sold over 120 million copies worldwide with translations into at least 38 different languages around the globe. The four *Twilight* books have consecutively set records as the biggest-selling novels of 2008 on the USA Today Best-Selling Books list and have spent over 235 weeks on the New York Times Best Seller list for Children's Series Books.

The books have been adapted into The *Twilight Saga* series of motion pictures by Summit Entertainment. The film adaptations of the first three books were released in 2008, 2009, and 2010 respectively. The fourth book is adapted into two full-length films—the first film being released in November 2011, and the second film in November 2012.

Percy Jackson & the Olympians Series

Percy Jackson & the Olympians is a pentalogy of fantasy novels written by American author Rick Riordan, and the first book series in the *Camp Half-Blood Chronicles*. The novels are set in a world with the Greek gods in the 21st century, and follow the protagonist Percy Jackson, a young demigod who must prevent the Titans, led

by Kronos (Cronus), from destroying the world. The first three books were published in the United States by Miramax Books before it was folded into Hyperion Books, which published the following books. All the books were published in the United Kingdom by Penguin Books. Five supplementary books, along with graphic novel versions of each book, have also been released. As of January 2022, the books have sold more than 180 million copies worldwide, making it one of the best-selling book series of all time. Two sequel series, The Heroes of Olympus and The Trials of Apollo, follow.

The first book was adapted into a film titled Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief in 2010, which was commercially successful, but received mixed reviews from critics and the audience as it has very few similarities to the book. An adaptation of the second book, titled Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters, was released in 2013, also to mixed reviews. A TV series based on the novels is currently in production for Disney+.

2.6. YA Science Fiction Milestones

A Wrinkle in Time

A Wrinkle in Time is a young adult Science Fiction novel written by American author Madeleine L'Engle. First published in 1962, the book won the Newbery Medal, the Sequoyah Book Award, the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, and was runner-up for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. The main characters – Meg Murry, Charles Wallace Murry, and Calvin O'Keefe – embark on a journey through space and time, from galaxy to galaxy, as they endeavor to rescue the Murrys' father and fight back The Black Thing that has intruded into several worlds. The novel offers a glimpse into the war between light and darkness, and good and evil, as the young characters mature into adolescents on their journey. The novel wrestles with questions of spirituality and purpose, as the characters are often thrown into conflicts of love, divinity, and goodness. It is the first book in L'Engle's Time Quintet, which follows the Murry family and Calvin O'Keefe.

Ender's Game

Ender's Game is a 1985 science fiction novel by American author Orson Scott Card. Set at an unspecified date in Earth's future, the novel presents an imperiled humankind after two conflicts with an insectoid alien species they dub "the buggers". In preparation for an anticipated third invasion, Earth's international military force recruits young children, including the novel's protagonist, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, to be trained as elite officers. The book originated as a short story of the same name, published in the August 1977 issue of *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*. The novel was published on January 15, 1985. Later, by elaborating on characters and plotlines depicted in the novel,

Card wrote additional books in the Ender's Game series. Card released an updated version of Ender's Game in 1991, changing some political facts to account for the then-recent dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. The novel has been translated into 34 languages.

Ender's Game was recognized as "best novel" by the 1985 Nebula Award and the 1986 Hugo Award in the genres of science fiction and fantasy. Its four sequels—*Speaker for the Dead* (1986), *Xenocide* (1991), *Children of the Mind* (1996), and *Ender in Exile* (2008)—follow Ender's subsequent travels to many different worlds in the galaxy. In addition, the later novella *A War of Gifts* (2007) and novel *Ender's Shadow* (1999), plus other novels in the Shadow saga, take place during the same time period as the original. A film adaptation of the same name, written for the screen and directed by Gavin Hood, and starring Asa Butterfield as Ender, was released in October 2013. Orson Scott Card co-produced the film. The novel has also been adapted into two comic book series.

The Isis Trilogy

The Keeper of the Isis Light is a science fiction novel for young adults by Monica Hughes, published by Hamish Hamilton in 1980. Monica Hughes (November 3, 1925 – March 7, 2003) was an English-Canadian author of books for children and young adults, especially science fiction. It is the first of three books in the Isis series, or *The Isis Trilogy* in its omnibus edition. This book won the 2000 Phoenix Award from the Children's Literature Association as the best English-language children's book that did not win a major award when it was originally published twenty years earlier. The novel is followed by its sequels *The Guardian of Isis* (1981) and *The Isis Pedlar* (1982) and these together form the *Isis Trilogy*.

2.7.YA Dystopia Milestones

The Giver

The Giver is a 1993 American young adult dystopian novel written by Lois Lowry, set in a society which at first appears to be utopian but is revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses. The protagonist of the story, a 12-year-old boy named Jonas, is selected to inherit the position of Receiver of Memory, the person who stores all the past memories of the time before Sameness. *The Giver* won the 1994 Newbery Medal and has sold more than 12 million copies worldwide. A 2012 survey by *School Library Journal* designated it as the fourth-best children's novel of all time. It has been the subject of a large body of scholarly analysis with academics considering themes of memory, religion, color, and eugenics within the novel.

In Australia, Canada, and the United States, it is required on many core curriculum reading lists in middle school, but it is also frequently challenged. It ranked #11 on the American Library Association list of the most challenged books of the 1990s, ranked #23 in the 2000s, and ranked #61 in the 2010s. The novel is the first in a loose quartet of novels known as *The Giver Quartet*, with three subsequent books set in the same universe: *Gathering Blue* (2000), *Messenger* (2004), and *Son* (2012). In 2014, a film adaptation with the same title was released, starring Jeff Bridges, Meryl Streep and Brenton Thwaites.

Monica Hughes- *Devil on My Back* and *The Dream Catcher*

Devil on My Back

Devil on My Back is a young adult dystopian novel by Monica Hughes. The book was first published in 1984 and is the first book of Hughes' ArcOne Series.

The Dream Catcher

The Dream Catcher is a young adult dystopian novel by Monica Hughes. Kirkus features an insightful review of the novel: After the End of Oil, the universities established protected enclaves to preserve humanity. Ruth's enclave has stressed philosophy and empathy to create a mind-linked web for support of all. However, Ruth, 14, has rare talents which set her apart from her comrades and put her in contact with another faraway enclave. There, science and technology have become perverted, resulting in a slave society with the masters surrendering control to the computer. Ruth leads a party to the twisted enclave, where, with Luke, who also has special powers, they subdue the computer and free the slaves. This is an example of anti-science fiction, where technology gone wrong is the villain.

2.8. Young Adult Science Fiction, Fantasy and Dystopias in the 21st Century

Young Adult literature progressed considerably as a literary genre in the past twenty years or in other words the twenty first century. As we have discussed earlier, Young Adult literary works like *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Ender's Game*, *The Giver*, *His Dark Materials*, and the *Harry Potter series* paved the way for the Young Adult Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopian and Post-apocalyptic Fiction that dominated the last two decades and the trend still goes on. This section provides an overview of all the important works belonging to the Young Adult Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Dystopian works which we have not discussed before. Many of these novels were also adapted into popular film series or individual films.

The Mortal Engines Quartet

The Mortal Engines Quartet (Hungry City Chronicles in the United States), also known as the Predator Cities Quartet, is a series of epic young adult dystopian steampunk novels by the British novelist and illustrator Philip Reeve. He began the first volume of the series, *Mortal Engines*, in the 1980s, and it was published in 2001. Reeve then published three further novels, *Predator's Gold* in 2003, *Infernal Devices* in 2005, and *A Darkling Plain* in 2006. The novels have won a number of awards, including the Nestlé Smarties Book Prize in 2002 for *Mortal Engines* and the 2006 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the 2007 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Young Adult Fiction for *A Darkling Plain*. It has been adapted as a 2018 feature film by Christian Rivers. The film was produced by the infamous film director Peter Jackson.

***Coraline and The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman**

Coraline is a dark fantasy novella written for children and young adults by British author Neil Gaiman. The book was published in 2002 by Bloomsbury and HarperCollins. It was adapted as a 2009 stop-motion animated film, directed by Henry Selick. *The Graveyard Book* is a young adult fantasy novel by Neil Gaiman, and it was simultaneously published in Britain and America in 2008. Gaiman won both the British Carnegie Medal and the American Newbery Medal recognizing the year's best children's books, the first time both named the same work. Time magazine included the novel in its list of the 100 Best Young-Adult Books of All Time.

***Feed* by M. T. Anderson**

Feed (2002) is a young adult dystopian novel of the cyberpunk subgenre written by M. T. Anderson. The novel focuses on issues such as corporate power, consumerism, information technology, data mining, and environmental decay, with a sometimes sardonic, sometimes somber tone. From the first-person perspective of a teen boy, the book takes place in a near-futuristic American culture completely dominated by advertising and corporate exploitation, corresponding to the enormous popularity of internetworking brain implants.

***Uglies* Novel Series**

Uglies is a book series by American writer Scott Westerfeld for young adults. Westerfeld originally intended for *Uglies* to be a trilogy. However, after publishing the series' first three novels, *Uglies*, *Pretties*, and *Specials*, he ultimately wrote an additional

fourth book, Extras. *Uglies* is a 2005 science fiction novel by Scott Westerfeld. It is set in a future post scarcity dystopian world in which everyone is considered an "ugly," but then turned "Pretty" by extreme cosmetic surgery when they reach the age of 16. It tells the story of teenager Tally Youngblood who rebels against society's enforced conformity.

Chaos Walking Series

Chaos Walking is a young adult science fiction series written by American-British novelist Patrick Ness. The series has won almost every major children's fiction award in the UK, including the 2008 Guardian award, the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, and the Costa Children's Book Award. *Monsters of Men* won the Carnegie Medal in 2011. It has been praised for its handling of themes such as gender politics, redemption, the meaning of war, and the unclear distinction between good and evil, all threaded through its complex, fast-paced narrative.

The Mortal Instruments

The Mortal Instruments is a series of six young adult fantasy novels written by American author Cassandra Clare, the last of which was published on May 27, 2014. The Mortal Instruments is chronologically the third series of a planned five in The Shadowhunter Chronicles but was the first one published. *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* is a 2013 urban fantasy film based on the first book of The Mortal Instruments series. It was directed by Harald Zwart, with a script written by Jessica Postigo. A reboot television series titled *Shadowhunters*, premiered in 2016 on Freeform and ran for three seasons.

The Maze Runner (Novel Series)

The Maze Runner is a series of young adult dystopian science fiction novels written by American author James Dashner. The series consists of *The Maze Runner* (2009), *The Scorch Trials* (2010) and *The Death Cure* (2011), as well as two prequel novels, *The Kill Order* (2012) and *The Fever Code* (2016), a novella titled *Crank Palace* (2020), and a companion book titled *The Maze Runner Files* (2013). The sixth novel, titled *The Maze Cutter*, set 73 years following the events of *The Death Cure*, is set to be released on October 4, 2022. The book series was adapted into a trilogy of films by Gotham Group and Temple Hill Entertainment, and distributed by the 20th Century Fox Film Corporation. All these films are directed by Wes Ball and the T.S. Nowlin wrote the screenplays for the three films. *The Maze Runner* was released on September 19, 2014, *Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* was released on September 18, 2015, and *Maze Runner: The Death Cure* was released on January 26, 2018. Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster, Ki Hong Lee, Will Poulter, Rosa Salazar, Dexter Darden, and Patricia Clarkson play important roles in the film series.

The Maze Runner series is highly significant in my research because it was published almost at the same time as *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* series. These three book series form the arc of young adult dystopian fiction and played an important role in placing YA dystopia as the most sought after genre in literature, films and TV shows. Even though *The Maze Runner* shares many common elements with the two series in our discussion, a noteworthy difference between *The Maze Runner* and the other two series is that it has a male protagonist.

***The 100* (Novel Series)**

The 100 is a series of young adult science fiction novels by Kass Morgan. First book in the series, *The 100*, was published on September 3, 2013, by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. *Day 21*, its sequel, was released on September 25, 2014, and the third book *Homecoming* was released on February 26, 2015. A fourth novel, *Rebellion* was released on December 6, 2016. Prior to the publication of the first book, television producer Jason Rothenberg became interested in adapting the story for the screen. The eponymous TV series adaptation premiered on March 19, 2014, on The CW Network, starring Eliza Taylor and Bob Morley as Clarke Griffin and Bellamy Blake, respectively. The TV series was highly popular and it ran for seven seasons, concluding with the final season in 2020.

***The 5th Wave* (Novel Series)**

The 5th Wave is a trilogy of young adult post-apocalyptic sci-fi novels written by American author Rick Yancey. The series started in May 2013 with the first book, *The 5th Wave*. A sequel titled *The Infinite Sea* was published in 2014. The trilogy concluded in 2016 with the final book, *The Last Star*. In March 2012, Columbia Pictures picked up the film rights to the trilogy, with Graham King and Tobey Maguire attached as producers. A film adaptation of the first novel in the series was released on January 22, 2016. It was directed by J Blakeson, with a screenplay by Susannah Grant, Akiva Goldsman, and Jeff Pinkner. The film stars Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson, Ron Livingston, Maggie Siff, Alex Roe, Maria Bello, Maika Monroe, and Liev Schreiber.

***Matched* Trilogy**

The *Matched* trilogy is a young adult, dystopian fiction series written by American author Ally Condie, set in a centrally governed Society. The Society seems to be formed after an apocalyptic global warming event. The novel *Matched* was published by Dutton Penguin in November 2010 and reached number three on the Children's Chapter Books bestseller list in January. Previously working with a small, Utah-based publisher (Deseret Book Co.), Condie took her manuscript to Penguin Random House, after being advised so from her director at Deseret Book. This helped the novel reach a national audience. The *Matched* novel has been optioned to the Walt Disney Company for film adaptation. Foreign rights were sold to 30 countries before publication. The second book, *Crossed*, was published in November 2011, and *Reached*, the final book in the trilogy was published on November 2012, completing the trilogy.

***Delirium* Trilogy**

Delirium is a dystopian young adult novel written by Lauren Oliver, published on January 1, 2011, by HarperCollins (HarperTeen). The story focuses on a young woman, Lena Haloway, who falls in love in a society where love is seen as a disease. *Delirium* is the first novel in a trilogy, followed by *Pandemonium*, and *Requiem*. Oliver's first novella, *Hana*, was released after *Delirium* and shows Hana's perspective on the events of *Delirium*. Another novella, *Annabel*, was released on December 26, 2012 as an e-book and has events before those unfolding in *Delirium* such as details the story of Lena's mother prior to the events. third novella, *Raven*, was published along with the third book,

Requiem, on March 5, 2013 as an e-book and follows Raven on her life and adventures between the events of Pandemonium and Requiem. On March 5, 2013, all three of the novellas (Hana, Annabel, and Raven) were released together in a softcover book. Oliver's first book, *Before I Fall*, was published on March 2, 2010, by HarperCollins in the United States, and by Hodder & Stoughton in the United Kingdom. The book follows Sam, a teenage girl, who has to go through the last day of her life seven times and each time learns new values and the mysteries surrounding her death. Open Road Films released the film version in theatres on March 3, 2017, with Zoey Deutch portraying the main character, Samantha Kingston.

Red Rising Trilogy

Red Rising is a dystopian science-fiction young adult to adult novel trilogy written by Pierce Brown. It consists of Red Rising, Golden Son and Morning Star, published in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively by Del Rey books, an imprint of Random House. It is followed by the Iron Gold Trilogy.

Legend (Novel Series)

Legend is a 2011 dystopian young adult novel written by American author Marie Lu. It is the first book in the Legend series followed by Prodigy, Champion, and Rebel. Lu draws inspiration from events and experiences throughout her life and media she has consumed such as the movie *Les Misérables*. *Legend* is set in dystopian Los Angeles, in a time where North America has devolved into two warring countries: The Republic and The Colonies. Mixed into this fight is a rebel group, known as the Patriots. The novel

series revolve around the characters Day and June, two 15 year-olds from opposite sides of the economic spectrum.

***Red Queen* (Novel Series)**

Red Queen is a young adult dystopian-fantasy series by Victoria Aveyard. Published in February 2015, it was her first novel and first series. Aveyard followed up with three sequels: *Glass Sword*, *King's Cage* and *War Storm*. *Red Queen* won the 2015 Goodreads Choice Award for Debut Goodreads Author and was nominated for the 2015 Goodreads Choice Award for Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction. Publishers Weekly found "There's an unmistakable feeling of déjà vu to this first installment in the Red Queen trilogy, which shares several plot points and similarities with the Hunger Games series, ... Fortunately, Aveyard's conclusion leaves the story poised to depart from this derivative setup."

The Circle

The Circle is a 2013 dystopian novel written by American author Dave Eggers. The novel chronicles tech worker Mae Holland as she joins a powerful Internet company. A film based on the novel, adapted and directed by James Ponsoldt, was released in April 2017. Emma Watson (Mae Holland), Tom Hanks (Bailey), Karen Gillan (Annie), Ellar Coltrane (Mercer) and John Boyega (Kalden) play the lead roles.

***Silo* (Novel Series)**

Silo is a series of post-apocalyptic science fiction books by American writer Hugh Howey. The series started in 2011 with the short story "Wool", which was later published

together with four sequel novellas as a novel with the same name. Along with *Wool*, the series consists of *Shift*, *Dust*, three short stories and *Wool: The Graphic Novel*.

Unwind Dystology

The Unwind Dystology is a series of young adult dystopian science fiction novels by the American author Neal Shusterman. It consists of *Unwind*, *UnWholly*, *UnSouled*, and *UnDivided*, as well as the companion books *UnStrung* and *UnBound*. A TV series of the first book is currently being planned. Neal Shusterman calls his Unwind series of books a "dystology". It would appear he made up the word, by combining "dystopia" and words for a series of books like "trilogy". A dystopia is a bleak world; the opposite of a utopia. Dystology is an example of a portmanteau word.

Ready Player One

Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One* is an innovative and intellectual young adult dystopian novel released in 2011. This sci-fi story recounts the quest of an ordinary teenager named Wade Watts who relies on an extremely advanced virtual world, OASIS, to live out most of his life: he attends school, hangs out with friends, and entertains himself all through a digital avatar. In 2012, the book received an Alex Award from the Young Adult Library Services Association division of the American Library Association and won the 2011 Prometheus Award. A film adaptation of the novel was released on March 29, 2018, directed by Steven Spielberg from a screenplay by Zak Penn and Cline, and the cast include Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn, Lena Waithe, T.J. Miller, Simon Pegg, and Mark Rylance. A sequel to the novel by Cline, titled *Ready Player Two*, was published on November 24, 2020. Ernest Cline also wrote the young

adult science fiction novel *Armada*, about a teenager who plays an online video game about defending against an alien invasion and it was published on July 14, 2015.

The Grishaverse

The Grishaverse is a fictional shared universe of fantasy novels, short story collections, and a television adaptation created by American author Leigh Bardugo. As of 2021, there are nine novels in the Grishaverse: the *Shadow and Bone* trilogy, the *Six of Crows* duology, the *King of Scars* duology, and two short-story collections. Eric Heisserer adapted the two series of books in the Grishaverse by Leigh Bardugo, the *Shadow and Bone* trilogy (2012–2014) and the *Six of Crows* duology (2015–2016) for Netflix. All eight episodes of the first season premiered on April 23, 2021. In June 2021, the series was renewed for a second season, also consisting of eight episodes, which is scheduled to premiere in 2023.

2.9. Conclusion

There are some specific elements that appeal to teens in young adult dystopian literature. One among them is inhumanity and isolation. Whatever the backdrop of the dystopia may it be a violent society, a tyrannical government, an over commercialized world, and the protagonists come to understand that their society has become inhumane. They are appalled by the attitudes and actions of those within their culture, nauseated at the lack of concern and even the open coldness of others toward situations that are cruel and unjust. As protagonists awaken to the realities around them, they feel an overwhelming sense that life has lost the value that it once had in the world; respect for life has been sacrificed for comfort or security. In young adult dystopian novels, it is

often this inhumanity that pushes the protagonists to action. Katniss Everdeen of *The Hunger Games* and Jonas of *The Giver* belong to this category of protagonists.

In *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins illustrates a desolate world where survivors of the post-apocalyptic North American continent of Panem are segregated into twelve separate districts and tasked with specific responsibilities of harvesting the Earth's remaining natural resources. The districts are subjected to the cruel oppression and exploitation by the continent's governing body, the Capitol, which applies its range of prominence over them through the work of a domineering tyrannical system, the cornerstone of which is the Hunger Games. In the novel, Collins highlights the contrast between the poverty and destitution experienced by the inhabitants of the districts, and the wealth and power possessed by the ruling class residing in the Capitol, detailing a futuristic dystopia civilization that is characterized by class warfare and bears an uncanny semblance to the highly divisive nature of American society today.

At the opening of *The Hunger Games*, Katniss is clearly aware of the injustices around her. To this point in her life, however, she has learned how to survive within them, and has no real thoughts of changing things. When her younger sister Prim is randomly selected as a tribute for the violent yearly games, however, the cruelty of the authorities becomes personal. Katniss's experiences in the Hunger Games fuel her disgust at what life in her society has become—bohemian at the capitol, impoverished in the districts—and how the Games are used to control and intimidate otherwise innocent people. She is angered at the articulate eagerness many have for the vicious Hunger Games, and apparently more irritated by the smug mentality that wins wherever else. At

the point when she perceives how modest life has become, she is driven to the brink and sets out to do whatever she can to change things.

The Giver begins with Jonas' apprehension about his Ceremony of Twelve, when he will be assigned his lifelong job. At the Ceremony, Jonas learns that he has been selected to become the next Receiver of Memory, the highest position in the community. Jonas starts preparing under the current Receiver of Memory, a more seasoned man whom Jonas calls The Giver. The Giver lives alone in private rooms that are fixed with racks brimming with books. Jonas' training involves receiving, from The Giver, all of the emotions and memories of experiences that the people in the community chose to give up in order to attain sameness and the illusion of social order. Eventually, through memories, The Giver teaches Jonas about color, love, war, and pain. Jonas starts to comprehend the pietism that exists in his community— that is, the illusion that everything in the community is good when in fact it isn't. The individuals seem to cherish one another, but they don't really know what love feels like because their lives are an act; their responses have been prepared. Jonas understands that individuals have surrendered their opportunities to feel and think as people, choosing instead to be controlled by others. Those who do not live up to the standards of this Utopian society are immediately “released”. Jonas later finds out that this release process is equivalent to that of death. This novel is a criticism on nations under military or authoritarian governments.

In the book *Birthmarked* by Caragh M. O'Brien, Gaia has been training to be a midwife, just like her mother. At the start of the novel, she helps deliver a baby, then dutifully takes that newborn from its mother's arms and gives it to the authorities. But the desperate pleas of the newborn's mother echo in her mind, and she begins to question the

authorities' actions. These doubts, along with the mysterious disappearance of her parents, lead her to sneak into the Enclave (the seat of power) in search of answers. Once inside, she sees (in light of her training as a midwife) the epitome of inhumanity—the execution of a husband and his full-term pregnant wife for defying society's strict mating laws. This is a defining point for Gaia, and she gets resolved to follow her own feeling of good and bad, in spite of the laws of the Enclave.

While today's teens mature in societies that are not nearly as cruel or twisted as those frequently described in dystopian texts, these protagonists' growing understanding of the society around them mirrors important growth taking place for young adult readers. As protagonists in dystopian young adult literature come to recognize the truth about the societies they live in, they often feel alone, separated from family and friends who do not share the same realizations. As a result, one of the conflicts they face is deciding whom they can trust with their understandings of their society's problems and with their plans to take corrective action.

Most young adult novels feature a protagonist who is faced with challenges, external or internal, and who must overcome those challenges as part of coming of age or establishing an identity. Dystopian young adult novels feature a similar theme, with the challenges faced often arising from the failures of society. Katniss Everdeen, in Collins' Hunger Games trilogy faces physical challenges in the form of the Games, but she must also deal with internal moral dilemmas as she questions the actions she has taken to preserve her life and family in the arena. These questions become even more problematic as, in later books in the series, she is exploited as a leading figure for the rebel against President Snow and the degenerate administration of the twelve districts. In the context of

challenges such as these, dystopian fiction for young adults describes protagonists who arrive at an acknowledgment about their role in the bigger society: they come to see themselves as agents, individuals with a will (often in sharp contrast to the will of the society) and with the capacity to not only disagree with prevailing opinions but to act out against them. This notion of a protagonist's agency mirrors teens' own growing sense of their role as agents in a larger community, and explains in part the appeal of dystopian fiction to so many young people.

The protagonists of young adult dystopias gradually develop a sense of agency and potential influence as they become aware of the flaws in their society. While this growing awareness can seclude them from others, the actions they take and even their increased understanding of the truth are often aided by a relationship of some kind with another character in the story. This relationship, sometimes romantic, provides a catalyst for both the protagonist's changing perceptions about the society and his or her willingness to take action against the conventions of that society. Romance and friendships are, not surprisingly, elements that teenagers are quite interested in. The beginning of adolescence and its going with hormonal changes, just as moving societal expectations that encourage young men and young ladies to see each other in romantic ways, connect with the romantic relationships portrayed in young adult fiction. And friendships represent, as already discussed, a significant part of adolescents' sense of personality and self. Young adults try to associate their own lives with these works and this makes them popular among these people. From all these facts, we feel strongly that the connections between these novels and teens' lives and concerns argue for a need to showcase these books as we converse with teens about their reading. While the same could be said of most young

adult literature, dystopian literature seems to speak particularly to young adults at this time and to the choices and challenges they face as they move toward adulthood.

While the experiences and examples of the fictional world may be exaggerated and set in fantastical worlds, the sentiments and practice of questioning and positive action are ones the reader will need in their own life when considering who to vote for, how to respond to prejudice and partiality, and where to remain on the social and cultural issues in their lives.

Literature for young people is the world in the pages of a book. Here we can find real life matters like Adolescent pregnancy, eating disorders, family issues, friendship stresses, international politics, first love or terminal illness, waiting to be read and waiting to be learnt from, waiting to be used as the blueprints for a lifetime of opinion. Young adult fiction is more than a story. It is the chance to discover what your identity is and what you put stock in from the wellbeing and security of a book. It is a political environment. Reading is a private experience which allows us to share worlds, a portal through which the private individual can enter a political environment and come back a changed being. For caring, principled and passionate young adult readers, this is perhaps one of the things that make reading such a compelling and meaningful experience.

A very interesting fact about the readership of young adult novels is that approximately 55 percent among them are adults. Caroline Kitchener tries to find out the reason of this trend in her article published in *The Atlantic*. In her own words: “I consulted the president of a young-adult publishing imprint, a professor of young-adult literature, a few Masthead members who love YA, and Green himself. Here’s what they

said: “These books are about coming of age, and we’re still coming of age. They’re good, and they’re being recognized. A good story is a good story”.

Everything we have discussed so far proves that both teenagers and adults are interested in young adult literature. Of course we have to consider that much of this young adult literature is dystopian in nature. Also, there are a number of awards given exclusively for young adult literature at present and this explains the popularity and importance of this genre. Most important among these are: Michael L. Printz Award, Margaret A. Edwards Award, William C. Morris Award, Westchester Fiction Award, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, Cybils Award, Canadian Library Association Young Adult Canadian Book Award and The Bookseller YA Book Prize. Furthermore, most of these young adult dystopian works are adapted into movies. *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *The Maze Runner*, *The Giver*, *Ender’s Game*, *Ready Player One*, and *The 5th Wave* are some good examples. It is also very interesting to state that most of these movies were highly successful and many of us are familiar with the movies more than the books. These movie adaptations play a great part in the worldwide circulation and the marketing of these books.

In conclusion, it is hard to ignore the immense success of young adult literature and the reasons behind it. Young adult fiction is more than a story to the reader, it challenges their perception of the world and offers the opportunity of self-discovery from the security of a book, answering questions such as ‘What do I believe in?’ and ‘What type of person do I want to be?’ It ultimately prepares the young adult readers for their entry into the adult world as well as encourages enthusiasm for, and a love of reading. For these reasons, young adult literature is an indispensable part of our popular culture.

Chapter 3

***The Hunger Games* Trilogy and Popular Culture**

3.1. Introduction:

3.1.1 The Hunger Games and the Publisher: Scholastic

3.1.2 Bestseller list and Copies Sold

3.1.3 Book Reviews and Ratings

3.1.4 Editions and Reprints

3.1.5 Official Websites, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook Pages

3.1.6 Fan sites and YouTube Channel / Videos

3.2. Film Adaptations

3.2.1 Celebrities: Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth

3.2.2 Critical and Commercial Success

3.3. Parody or Spoof literature, Movies

3.4. Influence on other Works / Films

3.4.1. Hunger Games Exhibition

3.4.2. The World of the Hunger Games

3.4.3. Capitol Bullet Train

3.4.4. Lionsgate Entertainment World

3.4.5. Fiction Books

3.5. Books about *The Hunger Games* Series

3.6. Translations

3.7. Awards and Honours

3.8. Artifacts and Games based on *The Hunger Games Series*

3.9. Conclusion

3.1. Introduction

The Hunger Games was first published in the United States of America in 2008. Suzanne Collins was rather an unknown author at the time of the novel's publication. Even though she had published the book series known as *The Underland Chronicles*, it was read by people (mostly children) only within North America and the United Kingdom. Young adult fiction has become highly popular at that time (after 2000) like never before because of the immense success of the *Harry Potter* book series. *Harry Potter* series is considered by many critics as the cornerstone in the history of modern young adult literature. The Film Adaptations of the *Harry Potter* series increased its popularity globally and it has become an international phenomenon.

Following the success of Harry Potter, young adult fantasy novels like *Twilight* and *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* were published in 2005. These books were also successful and their sequels followed. *The Hunger Games* also had young adult protagonists, but Collins set the novel in a post – apocalyptic dystopian America. This futuristic setting is dark and complex. People are under the control of the government and divided on the basis of their status in the society. Most of the nation is poverty stricken and people live in terrible condition in stark contrast with the contemporary American society. The situation is almost similar to that of the so called third world countries. This realistic description of the possible future and the dystopian theme garnered positive reviews from both the book critics and reviewers. Also, the reading public was apprehensive of the dystopian and post-apocalyptic setting mixed with current trend of reality shows.

Kate Egan says in *The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion* that:

In *The Hunger Games*, there's something for everyone.

A gripping adventure.

A political commentary.

A love story.

A cautionary tale.

Some call it science fiction, some call it potential reality.

Some say it's for teenagers, some say it's for adults.

The book--and now the film--captures themes and concerns that seem timely.

But its real strength, in the end, is that it's timeless. It speaks to us today, and it will speak--even more powerfully--tomorrow. (25)

During the period 2008- 2009, there are evidences about the formation of a vibrant community dedicated to *The Hunger Games* novel series. A portion of the early adopters began to set up fan destinations, smart readers examined further readings and discussed the issues introduced inside the books, and fan designers were populating fan fiction sites and contributing to blog stages with their developmental manifestations dependent on the series. In the interim intensity inside the film business was developing as Nina Jacobson's production company "Color Force" beat out the opposition and obtained the film rights in March 2009, which were then given to Lionsgate. Soon after

Mockingjay was published, Gary Ross was declared as the director of The Hunger Games film, and its release set for March 2012. At that point Academy Award-nominated, presently Oscar-winning Jennifer Lawrence was given a key role as Katniss Everdeen, a strong and faithful adolescent who is dangerous with a bow and arrow. While earlier series like Harry Potter and Twilight set up for The Hunger Games success, this series presents hazier subjects than its archetypes. Set in a dystopian future based upon the remaining parts of North America, Panem exists under an authoritarian system administered by its Capitol, a glimmering focal point of government and culture, encircled by twelve Districts. Residents outside the Capitol are abused because of an uprising and Dark Days which occurred 70 years before Katniss's story. Subjects of destitution, hunger, financial imbalance and persecution are analyzed in detail, every last bit of it based on the yearly exhibition known as the Hunger Games, in which each of the 12-to 18-year-olds are gathered together and one male and one male and female Tribute from each District are picked to battle until the very end. The story unravels through the lives of these two tributes from District 12, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark.

The aim of this chapter is to have a look at the multifaceted inculcation of *The Hunger Games* trilogy in popular culture. This particular chapter tries to look into the importance of dystopian fiction, especially young adult dystopian literature as a literary subgenre at present. This chapter focuses on the close analysis and cross examination of the novel series and its tremendous and continuing impact on the society which includes a number of factors ranging from the book sales, film adaptation and the exhibition exclusively based on the novel and film series.

3.1.1. The Hunger Games and the Publisher: Scholastic

Suzanne Collins' first book, *Gregor the Overlander* was published by Scholastic Press. Scholastic Press is a multinational book publishing corporation based in New York, United States of America. They describe themselves as the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. Scholastic has an overwhelming presence in social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Amazon. *Gregor the Overlander* is followed by a number of books and these are collectively called as The Underland Chronicles. Following the success of this book series, Collins' second book was also accepted by the Scholastic Corporation. This novel was later to become *The Hunger Games*, the novel in our discussion. Scholastic Press released *The Hunger Games* on 14th September 2008. This first edition can be seen as a collectible item in some of the book selling sites like Abebooks, Ebay and Biblio.

As Scholastic Press played an important role in the publication and distribution of Suzanne Collins' important works, it is necessary to discuss about the publisher. Scholastic Corporation is an international publishing and media company based in the United States. Scholastic press is arguably the largest publisher and distributor of children's books around the world. Scholastic press possesses the publishing rights of Harry Potter and Hunger Games book series in the United States. Scholastic Corporation has a division in India and the Hunger Games series is distributed within India by them. The most recent book in The Hunger Games series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* was published by Scholastic on May 19, 2020. This novel serves both as a spinoff and a sequel to *The Hunger Games* series. This book was published in India by the Indian division of the Scholastic Corporation.

3.1.2. Bestseller List and Copies Sold

First book in the trilogy, *The Hunger Games* was an immense and immediate success. It was popular among both teen readers and adults. *The Hunger Games* opened its sale with fifty thousand copies in print, which was suddenly escalated to a great number of two hundred thousand copies. According to the sources, eight hundred thousand copies of the book had been sold until February 2010. By this time, rights to the novel had been offered in thirty eight territories globally. *The Hunger Games* secured a position in the Best Seller list published by New York Times in November 2008, and the book had remained there for a long time. The movie adaptation of *The Hunger Games* was released in March 2012, and by this time the book featured on USA Today's best-sellers list for hundred and thirty five consecutive weeks and more than seventeen million copies of the book was sold. The book remained on the New York Times Bestseller list for more than two sixty consecutive weeks, which means five consecutive years. We can imagine how successful this book alone was. *The Hunger Games* was also featured in the Wall Street Journal Bestseller and the Publishers Weekly Bestseller list.

The second book in the trilogy, *Catching Fire* was first published by Scholastic Press on September 1, 2009. The first edition of *Catching Fire* had undergone the printing of three hundred and fifty thousand copies, and it was further increased to more than seven hundred and fifty thousand copies by February 2010. According to some sources, *Catching Fire* had a business of more than nineteen million copies in the United States alone.

Scholastic published the hardcover and audiobook editions of *Mockingjay* on August 24, 2010; six days after the ebook edition went on sale. The book sold 450,000 copies in the first week of release, exceeding the publisher's expectations. As of March 2012, the book has sold over 10 million copies. *Mockingjay* was first released in the US and Canada on August 24, 2010. The United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia received the book one day later, on August 25, 2010. The audiobook was released simultaneously on August 24, 2010 by Scholastic Audio.

The book had a 1.2 million-copy first printing that was bumped up from 750,000. In its first week of release, the book sold over 450,000 copies. Following this, Scholastic printed an additional 400,000 copies, bringing the initial print run up to 1.6 million. Scholastic Trade president Ellie Berger said that sales "have exceeded all expectations. The book has also been released in e-book format and topped sales in the week ending with August 29, 2010, beating out *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, which had held the top spot since April. The other *Hunger Games* books have also made it in the top ten, with the first book at fifth and the second book taking eighth. As of March 2012, the book has sold over 9 million copies.

To promote the release of *Mockingjay*, many bookstores held midnight release parties. The official event in New York City was attended by Collins, and included many activities such as a tarot card reader, a magician, jugglers and face-painters. Prizes such as signed copies of *Catching Fire* and *Hunger Games*-themed cups were raffled. Once Collins arrived, she read the first chapter of the novel, explaining that she would read with an accent since Katniss, the narrator, is from Appalachia. By midnight, copies were being sold with a signature stamp since Collins had a hand injury and was unable to sign.

Before the release, Scholastic also released a trailer for the book, launched a Facebook page that gained over 22,000 fans in 10 days, and held a contest for booksellers to win a visit from Collins and an online countdown clock to the release date. There were also advertisements for the book on websites such as Entertainment Weekly and Romantic Times. National Entertainment Collectibles Association also sold other goods such as T-shirts, posters, games and bracelets. Collins also held a "13-District Blog Tour" where 13 winners received a free copy of *Mockingjay* on August 24, 2010. A tour was also scheduled, starting at Books of Wonder in New York where the official party took place. The tour ended on November 6, 2010, in the Third Place Books store in Lake Forest Park, Washington.

There is a reference in *Guinness World Records Book 2015* that *The Hunger Games* trilogy is the best-selling children's trilogy. They further add that these three books sold a total of 27.7 million copies across both printed and digital formats in 2012 alone. According to figures announced by Publisher's Weekly in March 2013, Suzanne Collins's "Hunger Games" trilogy surpassed Harry Potter's previous record for the most books sold in one year (19.8 million copies). During 2012, the "Hunger Games" franchise sold 15 million print books (8.8 million of which were hardcover) and 12.7 million e-books – giving an astonishing total for the year of 27.7 million copies.

An article in Forbes site reported that the *Hunger Games* Trilogy surpassed the *Harry Potter* series to become the all-time bestselling book series. Harry Potter series along with *The Lord of the Rings* Series and *The Chronicles of Narnia* are among the book series which sold the most number of copies. All these novel series were released in the twentieth century with Harry Potter being the latest. *The Lord of the Rings* and *The*

Chronicles of Narnia has been there in the list for quite a long time and the Harry Potter series began 10 years before the publication of *The Hunger Games*. Still, The Hunger Games series has been able to surpass many records set by these popular book series. It is clearly evident that how popular was this series not only in the English speaking countries, but also around the world.

As of the end of 2012 the best-selling children's title was Collins' "The Hunger Games" (2008). The first book of the trilogy sold 11.7 million copies in total (6.2 million paperbacks, 4.6 million eBooks and 903,000 hardbacks). The trilogy made up the top three of 2012, with "Catching Fire" selling more than 8.6 million and *Mockingjay* with sales of more than 7 million. According to Publishers Weekly, Suzanne Collins' "Hunger Games" trilogy sold 12,756,172 eBooks in 2012 in the USA alone. The trilogy secured the top three positions on the list of best-selling children's eBooks: *The Hunger Games* sold the most, 4,595,739 eBooks, while *Catching Fire* managed to sell 4,218,680 copies and *Mockingjay* had a business of 3,941,753 copies.

Suzanne Collins narrowly missed out on a record for the highest annual earnings for a kids' author. Jeff Kinney (USA) – known for his *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series – and Veronica Roth (USA) – known for her *Divergent* trilogy – both earned an estimated 17 million US dollars from June 2013 to June 2014, according to Forbes. Collins managed to earn 16 million US dollars in the same time period, which was considerably lower than her earnings of 55 million between June 2012 and June 2013.

3.1.3. Book Reviews and Ratings

The Hunger Games trilogy received positive reviews from most of the critics. More than the critics, famous authors like Stephen King, Rick Riordan and Stephenie Meyer wrote in favour of the series on various platforms.

This is what Stephenie Meyer, author of the *Twilight* saga wrote about the series:

People often ask me for reading suggestions, and I'm always happy to share because books are exciting things to me. My latest excitement is this: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. I was so obsessed with this book I had to take it with me out to dinner and hide it under the edge of the table so I wouldn't have to stop reading. The story kept me up for several nights in a row, because even after I was finished, I just lay in bed wide awake thinking about it. I've been recommending it to total strangers in Target. And now to everyone who reads my website. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081026033055/http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/>)

Stephenie Meyer writes again that “Catching Fire is just as exciting as The Hunger Games, but even more gut wrenching, because you already know these characters, you’ve already suffered with them. Suzanne takes the story places I wasn’t expecting, and she’s never afraid to take it to very hard places. Stunning”.

In a review for *The New York Times*, John Green (author of *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Paper Towns*) wrote that the novel was “brilliantly plotted and perfectly paced”, and that “the considerable strength of the novel comes in Collins's convincingly

detailed world-building and her memorably complex and fascinating heroine.” However, he also noted that, while allegorically rich, the book sometimes does not realize the allegorical potential that the plot has to offer and that the writing “described the action and little else” (Green). Stephen King in his review for *Entertainment Weekly*, compared *The Hunger Games* to “shoot-it-if-it-moves videogames in the lobby of the local eightplex; you know it's not real, but you keep plugging in quarters anyway.” However, he also stated that there were “displays of authorial laziness that kids will accept more readily than adults” and that the love triangle was standard for the genre. King bestowed the book with a B grade (King). School Library Journal’s reviewer Elizabeth Bird was appreciative of the novel, writing that the book is “exciting, poignant, thoughtful, and breathtaking by turns”, and described it as one of the best books of the year 2008.

British novelist, critic and journalist Amanda Craig wrote about *The Hunger Games* that the novel “Appeals equally to boys as to girls ... the stunning action sequences and the cleverness of concept and execution give this a haunting philosophical complexity and make it my book of the year.” Again, Amanda Craig writes about the trilogy: “There have been a number of outstanding dystopian fantasies emerging from America, but *The Hunger Games* is the most profoundly imagined, nightmarish, romantic, psychologically plausible and well-written. You can’t stop reading, once begun... *The Hunger Games* trilogy is more than just a very clever futuristic thriller. It’s quite possibly the best SF novel for teenagers since Huxley’s *Brave New World*” (The Telegraph).

Irish-Canadian writer and the author of the novel *Room* (2010) Emma Donoghue described *The Hunger Games* as “A throbbingly tense thriller”. Rick Riordan, author of

the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series described *The Hunger Games* as “One of the best-written and thought-provoking books I’ve read for a long time”. Rick Riordan again lauded the book “As close to a perfect adventure novel as I’ve ever read”. Different online shopping sites and social cataloging sites allow readers to rate and review their favourite books. These ratings and reviews provide us a wholesome idea about the people’s opinion on the book. Globally recognised websites like amazon and Goodreads provide a platform for the readers to rate the book and share their reading experience.

The Hunger Games has a rating of 4.7 out of 5 on the online shopping site Amazon from 37,385 global ratings from all around the world. It is quite an interesting fact to note here that 81 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 12 percentage gave it a four star rating. This proves to us how popular the book is among the reading public. On Amazon, *Catching Fire* is having a rating of 4.7 out of 5 from 28,024 ratings. 82 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 13 percentage gave it a four star rating. *Mockingjay* has a rating of 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon from 32,208 ratings. 75 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 14 percentage gave it a four star rating. The book is also listed as a teacher’s pick for grade K -8th grade on Amazon. On the social cataloging website Goodreads, *The Hunger Games* has a rating of 4.32 out of 5 based on the ratings from 6,878,838 readers. *Catching Fire* has a rating of 4.30 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 2,757,553 readers. *Mockingjay* has a rating of 4.05 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 2,552,613 people. From the Indian perspective, *The Hunger Games* has a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on the Indian shopping site Flipkart. *Catching Fire* has a rating of 4.4 out of 5 on the website. *Mockingjay* has been given a rating of 4.3 by the customers.

3.1.4. Editions and Reprints

The first edition of *The Hunger Games* was published in the USA on 14th September 2008. This was followed by many editions and reprints. Only the important editions and reprints are discussed here.

There are the Flaming Edition, Classic Edition, Original edition, Movie edition and the Collector's edition published in the United Kingdom. From the same website, we can see the Flaming Edition, Classic Edition, and the Original edition of *Catching Fire*. This website also provides a look at the Flaming Edition, Classic Edition, and the Original edition of the third novel in the series, *Mockingjay*.

The trilogy has a separate set of editions published in the United States. The most noteworthy editions are: The Foil Edition Box Set Paperback which was released in September 2014, 10th Anniversary Edition Box Set released in October 2018. This 10th Anniversary Special Edition Boxed Set contains more than fifty pages of extra material, including a comprehensive interview of Suzanne Collins, which looks into the whole process in the creation of the series and an intriguing exchange of ideas between Suzanne Collins and the famous Young Adult writer Walter Dean Myers. Bonus materials also include a timeline of highlights from the first 10 years of *The Hunger Games*, from the first book's publication to the aftermath of the final film's release. Furthermore, there are also the hardcover box set and the special edition box set of the trilogy.

Scholastic India had released a Movie Tie in Collector's Edition Box Set of the trilogy in October 2014. A special edition box set called Luxury Edition Box Set was

released by Scholastic Australia in September 2013. Scholastic Australia had also published a Camouflage Edition in October 2015. After the publication of the prequel *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, a hardcover box set of the series was released in October 2020. This is the latest edition published until now.

3.1.5. Official Websites, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook Pages

Lionsgate owns the digital rights of the film series and the official movie and novel merchandise. This media corporation handles the official website of the Hunger Games franchise with the name The World of the Hunger Games. The website provides comprehensive information about the series covering everything from the book series to the attractions in different parts of the world including Dubai, China and Spain. Links to the Facebook, twitter and instagram pages are also provided in the website.

Scholastic press developed a special website exclusively for the Hunger Games books. This website has the IP address <https://scholastic-hungergames.com/>. The website encapsulates the excerpts from all the books, links to download the audiobooks and a short life sketch of the author Suzanne Collins. The Hunger Games series has a different website in the United Kingdom. The IP address of this website is <http://www.thehungergames.co.uk/>. Scholastic press has designed this site and it has descriptions about the author, books and provides reviews, download links of messenger icons, movie posters, book covers, and links to the official games. This website also provides information about similar young adult books including *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner.

The official website of the new book in The Hunger Games series is of the web address <https://www.songbirdsandsnakes.com/> and this website elucidates that this series has had a business of more than hundred million copies worldwide including digital and print formats. The site also claims that the foreign publishing rights of the series have been sold into 53 languages in 56 territories around the world until now. The Hunger Games @TheHungerGames is the official twitter account of The Hunger Games franchise including details about the movie and book series. It has an image of Katniss Everdeen played by Jennifer Lawrence. The owner of this official twitter account created this account in December 2010. This account is having one million followers and fifty one thousand tweets are recorded in the page until now.

There is a separate twitter account for the franchise in the United Kingdom. The Official UK account is of the name The Hunger Games@HungerGamesUK. This account was created in June 2011. The page is having 340.9K Followers as of February 2021. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, prequel of *The Hunger Games* and the latest novel in the series has a twitter account on its own. This verified account is of the name The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes@songbirdssnakes. The page was created in November 2019 and it is followed by 7045 people until now. The official Instagram account for The Hunger Games franchise is of the name thehungergames. A motto of the series “The fire will burn forever” can be seen on this account page. They have shared 2032 posts or images till now and the account has over 1.2 million followers.

Hunger Games Page @TheHungerGames is the official Facebook page of the book series. This Facebook page is liked by more than 4.3 million people and followed by almost 4.2 million. The Hunger Games movie series has a different official Facebook

page with the name The Hunger Games@TheHungerGamesMovie. This page has more than 20 million likes and 19.7 million followers approximately.

3.1.6. Fan Sites, Groups and YouTube Channels / Videos

Like all successful novel and film series, *The Hunger Games* also has its share of dedicated fan sites, Facebook groups and YouTube channels.

TheHungerGamers.com, letthehungergamesbegin.weebly.com, hungergamesnet.wordpress.com, and TheHungerGamesWiki are some of the websites created by the fans of the series. THG Fansite is a verified YouTube channel with lots of videos and clips about the film series including trailers, movie clips and interviews of the actors and the crew. This channel is created by Fandango Movieclips and it has more than a hundred and twenty five thousand subscribers. The Hunger Games film series has an official youtube channel with exclusive tribute clips, behind the scenes videos and film making videos. The channel has over 240 million views and five hundred and fifty thousand subscribers.

The series has an official fan group on Facebook. It is a public Facebook group created in December 2018 and has more than six thousand active members. This group has several features like an events page, announcements section and a discussion forum. There is also a Facebook group with the title THE HUNGER GAMES ADDICTS which is a private group with more than two thousand members. The Hunger Games Fan Page, The Hunger Games Fan Club, and Hunger Games, Harry Potter, Supernatural And Charmed Fans are some other fan groups that can be found on Facebook.

The book review site Goodreads has a group with the name The Hunger Games. It is a public group and has forty three members. Anyone interested can join the group and invite their friends to join much like a Facebook group.

3.2. Film Adaptations

Hollywood film producer Nina Jacobson bagged the rights to produce a film based on *The Hunger Games* in March 2009. She approached Lionsgate (Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation) and asked them to collaborate in the production. The Film series is produced by Nina Jacobson and Jon Kilik. Nina Jacobson's production company Color Force has the production credits and the series is distributed by Lionsgate. Kate Egan describes this in *The Hunger Games Official Illustrated Movie Companion*:

Naturally, The Hunger Games had begun to capture the attention of Hollywood. Film producer Nina Jacobson, of Color Force Productions, had overseen movies like The Princess Diaries, The Chronicles of Narnia, and the Pirates of the Caribbean series. She describes her first encounter with The Hunger Games: "A smart guy who works for me, named Bryan Unkeless, read the book and fell in love with it. Just the first book had been published — the sequels hadn't come out yet. He read it, and he gave it to me and said, 'It's a really great book. You should check it out.' I just picked it up, couldn't put it down, and spent a lot of the time that I was reading it thinking, How can you make a movie that has violence between young people? And yet, as I saw the way that Suzanne had walked that line, by staying inside Katniss's character and managing to comment

on the violence without ever exploiting it, I became more convinced there was a way that a movie could do the same. (35)

The novel trilogy has been made into a quadrilogy of films and the films in the series were released from 2012 to 2015.

The Hunger Games (2012)

The first movie in the series with the same name of the novel was released on March 23, 2012 in the United States and the United Kingdom. The film is directed by Gary Ross and the screenplay is written by Suzanne Collins, Gary Ross and Billy Ray. It stars Jennifer Lawrence as the protagonist Katniss Everdeen and an ensemble cast including Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Lenny Kravitz, Stanley Tucci, and Donald Sutherland. The film was entirely shot in different parts of North Carolina.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013)

The second movie in the series *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* was released on 21st November in the United Kingdom and 22nd November in the United States. The film is directed by Francis Lawrence. Simon Beaufoy and Michael Arndt wrote the screenplay of the film. Additional cast included Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jeffrey Wright, Sam Claflin, Lynn Cohen, Jena Malone, and Amanda Plummer with the regular cast of the film series. The film was shot in Atlanta and Georgia states of the United States and Hawaii.

The Hunger Games: Mocking jay – Part 1(2014)

The last novel in the trilogy, *Mockingjay* was adapted into two movies. First part *The Hunger Games: Mocking jay – Part 1* was released on November 21, 2014 in the United States. The film is directed by Francis Lawrence and the screenplay is written by Danny Strong and Peter Craig. Julianne Moore was added to the main cast of the movie. Shooting of the movie took place in Atlanta, Georgia and Berlin.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2(2015)

The final film in the series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2* was released on 20th November 2015 in the United States. It is directed by Francis Lawrence and Peter Craig and Danny Strong wrote the screenplay. The film was shot in Boston, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

3.2.1. Celebrities: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth

Jennifer Lawrence acts as the main protagonist Katniss Everdeen, a tribute from the district 12 of the futuristic Panem (North America) and the story progresses through her life and adventures. Lawrence was a less known actress until the release of *The Hunger Games*, even though she acted in some critically acclaimed movies like *Winter's Bone* and *X-Men: First Class*. She is the second youngest actress to win the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in the movie *Silver Linings Playbook* (2012), released in the same year as *The Hunger Games*. Lawrence won several notable awards like three Golden Globe Awards, The British Academy Film Award or the BAFTA Film Award, MTV Movie Awards, People's Choice Awards, a Satellite Award

and a Saturn Award for her performances in different movies including the Hunger Games series.

Josh Hutcherson portrays the role of the male protagonist Peeta Mellark, the male tribute from district 12. Hutcherson is well known as a child actor and he has acted in several science fiction, fantasy and children's films like *Little Manhattan*, *Zathura: A Space Adventure*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, and *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (2008). He has won a number of awards including the MTV Movie Awards, People's Choice Awards, and the Teen Choice Awards for acting in the Hunger Games series.

Liam Hemsworth plays the role of Gale Hawthorne, best friend of Katniss since childhood and her partner in everyday hunting. Hemsworth was born in Australia and this role in the Hunger Games series remains as his best known acting credit. He is the brother of Chris Hemsworth, who is known for playing the role of Thor in the highly popular Marvel Cinematic Universe.

3.2.2. Critical and Commercial Success

The Hunger Games mostly received favourable and positive reviews and ratings. The film was especially praised for its socially relevant themes and messages including class difference and poverty. Jennifer Lawrence was praised for her portrayal of Katniss. She bagged a number of awards including the Critics' Choice Movie Awards for Best Actress in an Action Movie, the Saturn Award for Best Actress, and the Empire Award for Best Actress.

In total, *The Hunger Games* was nominated for 51 awards and managed to secure 28 awards. The film has won the British Academy Children's Awards for the best feature

film, Favorite Movie award in the People's Choice Awards and the Teen Choice Awards for the movie category Sci-Fi/Fantasy.

Looking at the reviews of the critics, *The Hunger Games* has a rating of 84% on the movie review website Rotten Tomatoes from 312 critics' reviews. Rotten Tomatoes also provide an Audience Score which is 81% calculated from more than 250,000 ratings. Their critics consensus goes like this "Thrilling and superbly acted, *The Hunger Games* captures the dramatic violence, raw emotion, and ambitious scope of its source novel." Well known film critic Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of three out of four. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of five out of five. Olly Richards from the *Empire* movie magazine gave the movie a rating of four out of five. When it comes to India, *Times of India* gave the movie a rating of 3.5 out of 5.

The Hunger Games collected approximately 694 million US dollars worldwide against a budget of 78 million dollars and it was a major box office success. The film has collected 408 million dollars from North America and it was a major feat for a film with young actors aimed at a young audience. An interesting fact to consider is that *The Hunger Games* had more domestic collection than the last part of the immensely popular Harry Potter series: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2* and this prove how successful our film was in North America. It was the third highest grossing film of 2012 domestically (North America) and the ninth highest grossing film internationally. The film is ranked 34 in the list of highest grossing films in North America and 128 in the worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire also garnered highly positive response. According to Rotten Tomatoes, *Catching Fire* is the most acknowledged movie in the series in terms of reviews and ratings. *Catching Fire* has a rating of 90% on the movie review website Rotten Tomatoes from the reviews of 289 critics and it is the highest rated science fiction or fantasy film on Rotten Tomatoes released in the year 2013. On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an Audience Score of 89% calculated from more than 250,000 ratings. The film has a rating of 76 out of 100 on Metacritic, calculated from 49 critic reviews. According to CinemaScore, audience gave the film an A grade on a scale of A+ to F. Susan Wloszczyna from the movie review website RogerEbert.com gave the film a rating of three out of four. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of four out of five. Ian Nathan from the *Empire* movie magazine gave the movie a rating of four out of five. *Times of India* gave the movie a rating of 4 out of 5. Khalid Mohamed from the *Deccan Chronicle* rated the movie with 4 out of 5.

Catching Fire was nominated for a total of fifty awards in different categories and managed to win 16 awards out of them. The film won an Empire Award for the category Best Thriller in the year 2014. It had won the Movie of the Year award in the MTV Movie Awards. In the Kids' Choice Awards 2014, *Catching Fire* won the Favorite Movie award. The film was awarded the Choice Movie award in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy category of the Teen Choice Awards 2014.

Box office performance of *Catching Fire* is something to be specially considered. This film is the most successful in the series in terms of box office collection both domestically and internationally. *Catching Fire* collected approximately 424 million US dollars from North America alone. Worldwide gross of the film is more than 865 million

US dollars. It was the fifth highest grossing film worldwide released in 2013 and the highest grossing film released in the year 2013 domestically. *Catching Fire* still remains as the highest grossing film distributed by Lionsgate studios. Currently, *Catching Fire* stands at the 26th position among all time highest grossing films in North America domestically (US and Canada). It is also ranked 74 in the list of highest grossing films of all time worldwide released till now according to Box Office Mojo.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 received mostly positive reviews from the critics and the public. The film has a rating of 68% on Rotten Tomatoes based on the reviews of 301 critics and the Audience Score of 71% from more than 100,000 ratings. Reviewers on Metacritic gave the film a “metascore” of 64 based on 46 critic reviews. According to CinemaScore, audience gave the film an A- grade on a scale of A+ to F. Matt Zoller Seitz from RogerEbert.com gave the film a rating of 2.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of four out of five. Helen O’Hara from the *Empire* movie magazine gave the movie a rating of three out of five. Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from the *Times of India* gave the movie a rating of 3.5 out of 5. Lakshmi Govindrajan Javeri from the Deccan Chronicle rated the movie with three out of five.

Mockingjay – Part 1 was nominated for 27 awards in total and won ten awards out of them. The film has won the Favorite Movie award in the Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards 2015. It was also awarded the Choice Movie award in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy category of the Teen Choice Awards 2015. The film also received a Women Film Critics Circle award for the Best Female Images in a Movie.

This film also had a wide release all over the world. It was released in more than 4000 theatres even in China, a rather unsupportive market for Hollywood films. *Mockingjay – Part 1* collected approximately 337 million US dollars from North America alone. It had a collection of 418 million dollars from all other countries and the total worldwide collection of the film is more than 755 million US dollars against a budget of 125 million. It was the fifth highest grossing film released in the year 2014 internationally and the second highest grossing film domestically. Currently, *Mockingjay – Part 1* stands at the 59th position among all time highest grossing films in North America domestically.

The last film of the series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2* also received positive reviews from around the world. The film has a rating of 69% on Rotten Tomatoes based on the reviews of 290 critics and the Audience Score of 66% from more than 100,000 ratings. Reviewers on Metacritic gave the film a “metascore” of 65 out of 45 critic reviews. According to the polls conducted by CinemaScore, audience gave the film an A- grade on a scale of A+ to F. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of four out of five. Helen O’Hara from the Empire movie magazine gave the movie a rating of four out of five. Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from the Times of India gave the movie a rating of 3.5 out of 5. Shalini Langer from The Indian Express reviewed the film with a rating of four out of five.

Mockingjay – Part 2 received a total of seventeen nominations and won five awards out of these. Also, the film had secured three second positions and one third prize in award categories. Jennifer Lawrence won the best actress award for the movie in the Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards 2016. Lawrence also received the Best Hero award as

a part of the MTV Movie Awards 2016. The film also received 2016 Golden Trailer Awards and 2015 CLIO Key Art Awards for trailers and technical aspects.

Mockingjay – Part 2 was released in 92 countries other than the US and Canada. The film has a gross collection of 281million US dollars in North America and it collected more than 376 million dollars from other countries and the total worldwide collection is approximately 658.3 million. It is also the seventh highest grossing film released in the year 2015 domestically and the ninth highest grossing film internationally.

The Hunger Games film series currently ranked twenty one in the list of the highest grossing film franchises of all time, and the series has collected more than 2.97 billion US dollars from all over the world. In North America, our film series holds the fifteenth position in the list of highest grossing franchises domestically with a collection of more than 1.45 billion US dollars. The film series has more collection than the highly successful and well known *The Twilight Saga*, which stands at the 18th position and comprises of five films in total as compared to the four films of the *The Hunger Games* series.

3.3. Parody or Spoof Literature, Movies based on *The Hunger Games* Series

Successful and popular books and films always make way for parody or spoof literature and movies. Influential works like *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Game of Thrones* and *Twilight* were comically adapted to spoof movies. *The Hunger Games* also has a fair share in this matter.

First one in this list *The Hunger Pains: A Parody*, written by The Harvard Lampoon and published on February 7, 2012 by Touchstone Books. The Harvard

Lampoon is a humor magazine based in Harvard University. The book was featured in the New York Times Bestseller List in April 2012.

The Hunger but Mainly Death Games: A Parody is a book written by John Bailey Owen and Aaron Geary under the pseudonym Bratniss Everclean. This spoof was published in November 2011 by the publisher Splatterbrain & Son. A kindle edition of the book was released by the well-known publisher Gollancz in May 2012.

The Humping Games: A Parody is a book written by Jack Gallow. This spoof was originally published in June 2014 through CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

The Hungover Games is a parody or spoof movie of *The Hunger Games* and *The Hangover* (2009). This movie is directed by Josh Stolberg and the screenplay is written by Kyle Barnett Anderson. The film was released on February 18, 2014 directly on DVD and Blu-ray and it was distributed by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. Main actors in the movie include Ross Nathan, Ben Begley, Herbert Russell, Rita Volk, and Jamie Kennedy.

The Starving Games is a direct parody or spoof movie of *The Hunger Games* series. The film is written and directed by Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer known for writing and directing spoof movies like *Scary Movie*, *Date Movie*, *Epic Movie*, *Meet the Spartans*, *Disaster Movie*, and *Vampires Suck*. It was released in the United States on November 8, 2013 both in theaters and video on demand on the same date. Peter Safran produced the film and it was distributed by Ketchup Entertainment. Main actors of the film are Maiara Walsh, Cody Christian, Brant Daugherty, Lauren Bowles, and Diedrich Bader.

Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death is a parody play or drama written by the American playwright Don Zolidis. The play was originally published on 29th May 2015. The title of the play is an amalgamation of the names of highly successful young adult dystopian novel and film series including *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth and *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner. This play was performed by various high school students and theatre companies including Ozark Junior High School, Woodhaven Theatre Company, Griffith Theatre Company, NHHS Drama Production, and Marauder Theatre.

Hunger Games: Parody - The Starvation Games Starring Jennifer Lawrence! is a comic book parody of *The Hunger Games* novel and film. This comic book is written by an anonymous author using the name The Parody Brothers and was published in 2014 as an e-book.

3.4. Influence on other Works / Films

The Hunger Games novel series was instrumental in the development of a wide variety of cultural byproducts. This includes an exhibition, attractions in theme parks located at different parts of the world, influence on other works and films, and the list goes on.

3.4.1. Hunger Games Exhibition

To celebrate the success of the series, Lionsgate and The Frazier History Museum in Las Vegas conceived an exhibition of *The Hunger Games*. The Hunger Games: The Exhibition invites visitors to step inside and explore the world of Panem as created in the films. More than one thousand authentic costumes and props, high-tech and hands-on interactives, and detailed set recreations reveal the amazing artistry and technology that

brought the incredible story to life. The exhibition features seven galleries including District 12, Tribute Train, The Capitol, Making the Games, District 13, Fan Gallery and Katniss's Journey. Highlights include iconic costumes from the films, such as the Girl on Fire dress, the Mockingjay dress and the Mockingjay armor; key artifacts including the Mockingjay pin, Cinna's sketchbook and Katniss's bow; and interactives, including an exploratory map of Panem, a gamemaker's control table, and a stunt choreography interactive.

This family-friendly exhibition allows visitors to see the world of the movies, including galleries that display District 13, the Hall of Justice, Capitol President Snow's Office, and the Tribute train. For those seeking to sharpen their Mockingjay skills, an archery training experience nestled inside an interactive digital training lab offers guests the opportunity to train like Katniss in a thrilling, immersive attraction. The exhibition also possesses a Guinness world record for the largest interactive touchscreen display in the world. The grand opening of the exhibition was held on the evening of 6 June where Michael Empric, Guinness World Records adjudicator, announced this great achievement and he presented the official certificates to the exhibition officials.



Photo Courtesy: thehungergamesexhibition.com

Copyright: Lionsgate, MGM Grand

3.4.2. The World of the Hunger Games

The depth and reach of the novel and film series is evident from the attraction Motiongate Dubai. We have seen many theme parks, roller coasters and adventure sets of blockbuster movies in different parts of the world. Jurassic Park, Pirates of the Caribbean and Harry Potter are some prime examples. Disneyland is also spread around the globe with attractions in North America, Europe, Asia and Oceania. Our series in discussion, The Hunger Games also makes it to this list with the attraction in Dubai called The World of the Hunger Games. Except Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings series, any of the young adult or Children's literature series has an attraction on its own. This adds up to the success story of *The Hunger Games* book series.



Panem Aerial Tour, Motiongate Dubai

Photo Courtesy: Theme Park Review

(https://www.themeparkreview.com/parks/p_881_15237_motiongate_panem_aerial_tour)

3.4.3. Capitol Bullet Train

Capitol Bullet Train is a steel launched roller coaster operating at Motiongate in Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The roller coaster was not completed in time for the park's opening on December 16, 2016. The ride was launched at an official ceremony on October 20, 2017. This coaster is part of the Lionsgate zone at Motiongate. It is themed around the train linking the districts to the Capitol from the Hunger Games trilogy. The rollercoaster ride is inspired by the travel from District 12 to the Capitol as seen in the film *The Hunger Games*.

3.4.4. Lionsgate Entertainment World

“Hunger Games – Mockingjay Flight Rebel Escape” is a multiple motion-based cabin 3D simulator in which players suit up and take flight alongside the rebellion. In addition to high-tech attractions and rides, the park has dining options that include “Hunger Games”-inspired Capitol Club, the homey Peeta’s Bakery, and the modern Lionsgate Cafe. Retail outlets include Capitol Couture and Dauntless Ink, for edgy tattoo designs. “From escaping the Capitol, to braving the mental and physical challenges of Dauntless, to taking on a newborn vampire army with Jacob and the Wolf Pack, we can’t wait for fans to step into the worlds of their favorite films to create their own authentic adventures,” said Jenefer Brown, Lionsgate’s SVP, global live and location based entertainment.

3.4.5. Fiction Books

The Wool Trilogy or the Silo series is a book series written by Hugh Howey. The series include the novellas *Wool*, *Shift*, *Dust*, and three short stories. The Sunday Times described this series as the ‘The next Hunger Games’. *The Extinction Trials* is a science fiction novel by S.M. Wilson. It was publicized as “The first book in the heart-stopping The Extinction Trials trilogy, for fans of The Hunger Games and Jurassic Park.” British magazine *The Bookseller* describes it as “The Hunger Games meets Jurassic Park.”

Several other young adult and children’s literature authors were clearly influenced by Collins and *The Hunger Games series*. Veronica Roth is a good example. This streak still continues with the adaptation of films like *Ready Player One*, *Mortal Engines*, *Chaos Walking* and many more to be released in the future.

3.5. Books about *The Hunger Games Series*

We can see a number of books centered around *The Hunger Games* trilogy published officially and unofficially about the series, author Suzanne Collins and about the film adaptations. In this subchapter, we will discuss the content of some books which I have been able to collect directly as hard copies and all the other soft copies which I downloaded from the Internet which ultimately discuss the same thing: *The Hunger Games* series and related topics.

The first book discussed here is *The World of the Hunger Games* by Kate Egan. Kate is the editorial director of KCP (Kids Can Press) Loft. She has edited a good number of young adult and children’s books. Kate has also written several children’s books, most notably a picture book with the title *Kate and Nate Are Running Late* and

book series for children named *The Magic Shop*, co - authored with magician Mike Lane. She is also the author of *The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire: The Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The World of A Wrinkle in Time: The Making of the Movie* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: The Movie Storybook*. *The World of Hunger Games* was published in March 2012 by Scholastic Inc. This is an illustrated guide to the novel series and *The Hunger Games* film and it provides us insights into the story, characters and themes of the series. The book contains chapters about the heroine of the series Katniss Everdeen, Life in District 12 of the futuristic Panem (North America), Life in the Capitol city and *The Hunger Games* Glossary.

The Hunger Games Companion by Lois H. Gresh is a book for the fans of the novel series. It is an unauthorized guide to the Hunger Games series published in October 2011 by Macmillan Children's Books. Lois Harriet Gresh is the author of several science fiction books, short story collections, and popular culture reference guides and companions. She has authored children's, young adult science fiction and fantasy reference books like *The Unauthorized Eragon Guide*, *The Unauthorized Guide to His Dark Materials*, *The Fan's Unauthorized Guide to the Spiderwick Chronicles*, *The Unauthorized Guide to Artemis Fowl*, *The Twilight Companion - The Unauthorized Guide to the Series*, *The Mortal Instruments Companion*, and *The Divergent Companion*. *The Hunger Games Companion* comprises of fourteen chapters on various themes like surviving a post-apocalyptic world, repressive regimes and rebellion, a comparison of the tributes to the gladiators in the arena, and a reading of the series as the mirror or reflection of the modern times and its problems.

A Brief Guide to The Hunger Games is a book written by Brian J. Robb and published by Robinson Books in August 2014. The book is divided into three parts and 18 chapters. Interesting facts about Suzanne Collins, her inspirations, *The Hunger Games* novel and movie trilogies, cast of the film series are discussed in these chapters.

Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy is a collection of critical essays edited by Lana A. Whited. Dr. Lana Whited is professor of English and director of the Boone Honors Program at Ferrum College in Virginia. She has also edited the book *Critical Insights: The Harry Potter Series*. The book was first published by Salem Press in March 2016. This collection consists of fourteen essays from writers including Laurie Adams, Tina L. Hanlon, Jackie C. Horne, Amy H. Sturgis, Danielle Bienvenue Bray, Rebecca Sutherland Borah, Elizabeth Baird Hardy, Amy Bennett-Zendzian, Stephanie Dror, Louise M. Freeman, Lars Schmeink, Amalia L. Selle, Todd Ide, and Sandra Via.

The Panem Companion: An Unofficial Guide to Suzanne Collin's Hunger Games, from Mellark Bakery to Mockingjays is a book by V. Arrow published by Smart Pop publishers in December 2012. This reference book focuses upon the setting of the *Hunger Games* series called Panem, a fictional name given to the North America of the future. Panem companion looks into the socioeconomic and cultural aspects of this futuristic setting including the race, ethnicity, culture, gender roles and sexuality. The book also explores relevant themes like exploitation as entertainment and the games as exploitation.

The Hunger Games: The Ultimate Quiz Book is written by Jack Goldstein and Frankie Taylor and it was first published in May 2012 by AUK Authors. Containing 200 questions about the three novels and films in the Hunger Games series, this quiz book

targets the fan community and readers who are interested in topics related to the series. Jack Goldstein and Frankie Taylor also wrote the book *101 Amazing Facts about The Hunger Games*. This book was first published in May 2014 by AUK Authors.

Guide to The Hunger Games is a book written by Stephanie Clarkson and Caroline Carpenter and it was published in March 20, 2012 by Plexus Publishing Inc. The book was published close to the release of the first Hunger Games film. This reference guide explores the sources of inspiration for Suzanne Collins and the relevant contemporary themes acting as the foundation of the book series. Authors also incorporate original illustrations and detailed maps along with quizzes, crosswords, tests and fact boxes for the Hunger Games fans to check out.

Fan Phenomena: The Hunger Games is written by Nicola Balkind and first published in January 2014 by Intellect Books. This book is a part of the series “Fan Phenomena” published by Intellect Books and the series includes reference books on popular novels, films and TV shows like Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, The Twilight Saga, The Lord of the Rings, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and Twin Peaks. Contents of this reference book include nine chapters dealing with themes like war and violence, gender, publicity, race and representation, fandom and fan creativity. Four fan appreciations from V. Arrow, Adam Spunberg and Savanna New, Sara Gundell, Samantha Sisson and Aaron Darcy are also included in the book.

The Hunger Games Tribute Guide is a book by Emily Seife which provides an in-depth analysis of the tributes who are the main characters in the novel and film series.

This book was published in February 2012 by Scholastic Press as a supplement to the series.

The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion is a reference book written by Kate Egan. It was first published in February 2012 by Scholastic Press as a supplement to the first Hunger Games film. The book is divided into six parts and it covers all the most relevant information regarding the director, cast, screenplay and filming of the *The Hunger Games* movie. It also features photos from the sets, designer sketches and exclusive interviews.

Approaching the Hunger Games Trilogy: A Literary and Cultural Analysis is a critical work about the Hunger Games series written by Tom Henthorne. Henthorne is an associate professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at Pace University in the USA and he is also the director of the University's American Studies program. He has written essays and articles on different topics ranging from Cyberspace to Star Wars. This work examines *The Hunger Games* Trilogy from a number of literary and cultural perspectives in order to fully appreciate the importance and success of Collins' works. Henthorne makes use of an interdisciplinary approach to look into the trilogy, with the help of methods like literary analysis, psychological perspectives, gender and media studies, philosophy, and cultural studies. The book also includes a biographical essay of Collins, glossaries, questions for further study, and an extensive bibliography for those who are interested.

The Girl Who Was on Fire: Your Favorite Authors on Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games Trilogy is a collection of thirteen articles about the Hunger Games trilogy edited

by Leah Wilson. Leah Wilson is Editor-in-Chief of the Smart Pop imprint of Dallas-based publisher BenBella Books. The book was originally published in February 2012 by Benbella Books. It features the essays written by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, Mary Borsellino, Sarah Rees Brennan, Terri Clark, Bree Despain, Adrienne Kress, Sarah Darer Littman, Cara Lockwood, Elizabeth M. Rees, Carrie Ryan, Ned Vizzini, Lili Wilkinson, and Blythe Woolston. It is to be noted that this book consists of essays written exclusively by Young Adult writers.

Space and Place in The Hunger Games: New Readings of the Novels is a collection of critical essays edited by Deidre Anne Evans Garriott, Whitney Elaine Jones, and Julie Elizabeth Tyler. It was first published in March 2014 by McFarland & Co Inc. The book consists of five parts and eleven essays. These critical essays look into the Hunger Games trilogy through the lens of space and place studies. The first part of this book discusses about narrative spaces and how it works in the novels and films. Second part indulges with the creation of radical spaces and the political issues of the series. Third part deals with the ideas of trauma and holocaust as reflected in the series. Fourth section of the book consists of three essays that discuss the popular responses from the fans, audience, critics and students. This section reflects the theme of this thesis because it analyses the Hunger Games trilogy on the basis of reader response and reception of the series by the public. The last part of this book is about the future spaces as the Hunger Games trilogy is set in a post-apocalyptic dystopian futuristic North America.

Of Bread, Blood and The Hunger Games: Critical Essays on the Suzanne Collins Trilogy is a collection of scholarly essays edited by Mary F. Pharr and Leisa A. Clark. This book is a part of the series Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy. It

was first published in August 2012 by McFarland & Co Inc. The reference book is divided into four parts and twenty one articles. First part of the book is titled “History, politics, economics, and culture”. Part 2 is titled “Ethics, aesthetics and identity”. Third part of the book is of the title “Resistance, surveillance, and simulacra”. The last and fourth part of the book is of the title “Thematic parallels and literary traditions”. These articles try to interpret the themes of the trilogy through various theoretical frameworks like gender studies, surveillance theory, theory of power and politics, economics, queer theory, media and cultural studies. This collection also includes a curated bibliography of Dystopian and post-apocalyptic fiction and criticism with special on young adult literary works.

The Hunger Games and Philosophy: A Critique of Pure Treason is a collection of critical essays edited by George A. Dunn, Nicolas Michaud, and William Irwin. This book is a part of the Philosophy and Pop Culture Series. It was first published in February 2012 by Wiley Blackwell publishers. It is important to have a look at the editors because they are professors and lecturers of philosophy from well-known colleges and universities. George A. Dunn is working as a lecturer at the University of Indianapolis. He had edited and contributed to a number of critical editions like *True Blood and Philosophy*, *Twilight and Philosophy*, *Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy*, and *Mad Men and Philosophy*. Nicolas Michaud works as an instructor of philosophy at the University of North Florida and has a share of contributions to *Twilight and Philosophy*, *Final Fantasy and Philosophy*, and *Green Lantern and Philosophy*. William Irwin is working as a professor in the philosophy department of King’s College in Pennsylvania. He is one of the founder editors of the series philosophy and popular culture and has

edited and contributed to several titles like *The Simpsons and Philosophy*, *House and Philosophy*, *Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy*, and *Mad Men and Philosophy*. *The Hunger Games and Philosophy* as the name suggests, investigates the trilogy using the methodology of philosophy. The book is divided into seven parts and nineteen essays. These parts deal with various themes and ideas like resistance, morality, natural world and science, love, gender, identity, logic, and political philosophy. From the back cover of the book: “This thoughtful guide draws on the work of Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Immanuel Kant, Charles Darwin, and other engaging philosophical thinkers to take you deeper into the story. It gives you new insights into the Hunger Games series and its key characters, plot lines, and themes, including war, authenticity, social class, personal identity, altruism, gender, art, fashion, and moral choice.”

Katniss the Cattail: An Unauthorized Guide to Names and Symbols in Suzanne Collins 'the Hunger Games is a pop culture guide written for the fans of the series. This book is written by Valerie Estelle Frankel and published by Createspace Independent Publishers in February 2012. Valerie is also the author of several popular culture reference books like *Mythology in Game of Thrones*, *Myths and Motifs of The Mortal Instruments*, and *Women in Game of Thrones: Power, Conformity and Resistance*. She is also the author of the Harry Potter parody book *Henry Potty and the Pet Rock*, which won several awards like the Indie Excellence Award and the USA Book News National Best Book Award. Valerie also worked as a lecturer at San Jose State University.

The Many Faces of Katniss Everdeen: Exploring the Heroine of the Hunger Games is another book by Valerie Estelle Frankel based on the Hunger Games series. As the name suggests, the book is a reading of the protagonist in the Hunger Games trilogy,

Katniss Everdeen. Recently, Valerie Estelle also wrote a book about the latest book in the Hunger Games series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. This new book released in June 2020 is titled *Songbirds, Snakes, & Sacrifice: Collins' Prequel References and Philosophies Explained*.

The Unofficial Hunger Games Wilderness Survival Guide is a book explaining some real life survival skills based on the situations described in the Hunger Games trilogy. It is published by Krause Publications in May 2013. The book is written by Creek Stewart, who is known for writing several books on survival skills. Creek Stewart is an instructor and author from Indiana specialized in survival skills.

The Unofficial Hunger Games Cookbook: From Lamb Stew to "Groosling" - More Than 150 Recipes Inspired by The Hunger Games Trilogy is a recipe and cooking guide written by Emily Ansara Baines. The book is published by Adams Media Corporation in November 2011 and it is a part of the book series "Unofficial Cookbook". Emily Ansara Baines is a graduate of the University of Southern California where studied creative writing and after that she had worked as a creative writer, professional baker and caterer in different parts of the United States. She has published short stories in several literary magazines. Emily is also the author of *The Unofficial Downton Abbey Cookbook*.

There are also several other books about the Hunger Games series, Suzanne Collins, film adaptations and the actors of the series. In the light of reader response criticism and reception theory, the amount of critical works and articles produced on the

basis of a particular book series indicates the importance of the works as a part of the present day popular culture.

3.6. Translations

German Translation

The German Translation of *The Hunger Games* is titled *Die Tribute Von Panem: Tödliche Spiele*. It is translated into the German language by Sylke Hachmeister and Peter Klöss. *Catching Fire* is translated into German under the title *Gefährliche Liebe* (Die Tribute von Panem 2). This book is also translated by Sylke Hachmeister and Peter Klöss. *Flammender Zorn* (Die Tribute von Panem 3) is the German version of *Mockingjay*. Again, this book is also translated by Hachmeister and Klöss. All these books are published by the German publisher Oetinger. The film adaptation of *The Hunger Games* is dubbed into German also under the title *Die Tribute Von Panem*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into German under the title *Das Lied von Vogel und Schlange*.

Spanish Translation

The Spanish Translation of *The Hunger Games* is titled *Los Juegos del Hambre*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Spanish under the title *Los juegos del hambre* (Vol.2) *En llamas*. *Los juegos del hambre* (Vol.3) *Sinsajo*: is the Spanish title of *Mockingjay*, the third book in the trilogy. The prequel to the series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Spanish under the title *Los Juegos del Hambre: Balada de pajaros cantores y serpientes*. Pilar Ramírez Tello translated the first three books of the series into Spanish. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Spanish by Pilar

Ramírez Tello and Manuel De Los Reyes Garcia Campos. These books are available in Spanish from the publishers RBA Molino and Lectorum Publications INC. All the Spanish editions of *The Hunger Games* series have more than 4.5 star rating out of five on Amazon and this is indicative of the popularity, relevance and the significant influence on popular culture of the series around the world. We should also consider the fact that Spanish is also a major language of the Latin America too.

French Translation

The first three books of the trilogy are translated into French by the publisher Pocket Jeunesse. Guillaume Fournier translated all these books into the French language. *The Hunger Games* is translated into French with the same title *Hunger Games - Tome 1*. *Catching Fire* is translated into French under the title *Hunger Games - Tome 2: L'embrasement*. *Hunger Games - Tome 3: La révolte* is the title of the French translation of *Mockingjay*. These books are published by the publisher French and European Publications Inc. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into French under the title *Hunger Games: La ballade du serpent et de l'oiseau chanteur*, also translated by Guillaume Fournier. As usual, all the French translations of the Hunger Games trilogy have a rating of 4.7 out of 5 on Amazon.com.

Portuguese Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Portuguese under the title *Jogos Vorazes*. *Em Chamas* is the title of the Portuguese translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Portuguese under the title *A Esperança*. All these books are translated into Portuguese by Alexandre D'Elia and published as digital and print versions by Rocco

Jovens Leitores and French and European Publications Inc. respectively. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Portuguese under the title *A cantiga dos pássaros e das serpentes*. This book is translated into Portuguese by Regiane Winarski. All the Portuguese translations of the Hunger Games trilogy have a rating of 4.8 out of 5 on Amazon.com.

Italian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Italian with the same title *Hunger Games*. *La ragazza di fuoco* is the title of the Italian translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Italian under the title *Il canto della rivolta*. Fabio Paracchini and Simona Brogli translated these books into the Italian language. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Italian under the title *Hunger Games - Ballata dell'usignolo e del serpente: Un romanzo della saga di Hunger Games*. Simona Brogli translated the book into Italian. Italian editions of *The Hunger Games* trilogy are published by Mondadori.

Dutch Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Dutch under the same title *The Hunger Games* (De hongerspelen). *Catching Fire* is translated into Dutch under the title *Vlammen* (De hongerspelen, 2). *Mockingjay* is translated into Dutch under the title *Spotgaai* (De hongerspelen, 3). The trilogy is translated into Dutch by Maria Postema. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Dutch under the title *De ballade van slangen en zangvogels: Hunger Games prequel*, also translated by Maria Postema. All the Dutch versions of the series are published and distributed by Unieboek /Het Spectrum. Lineke

Rijxman narrates the Dutch audiobook version of *The Hunger Games* (De hongerspelen).

Danish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Danish under the title *Dødsspillet. Løbeild*. *The Hunger Games 2* is the title of the Danish translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Danish under the title *Oprør: The Hunger Games 3*. Camilla Schierbeck translated the trilogy into Danish and Gyldendal A/S published the books.

Finnish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Finnish under the title *Nälkäpeli. Vihan liekit* is the title of the Finnish translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Finnish under the title *Matkijanärhi*. Famous Finnish translator Helene Bützow translated the trilogy into Finnish. The trilogy is published in the Finnish language by Werner Söderström Osakeyhtiö (WSOY).

Romanian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Romanian under the title *Jocurile foamei*. *Sfidarea* is the title of the Romanian translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Romanian under the title *Revolta*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Romanian under the title *Balada șerpilor și a păsărilor cântătoare*. All the books of the series are published in the Romanian language by Editura Nemira (Nemira Junior) and translated by Ana-Veronica Mircea.

Norwegian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Norwegian under the title *Dødslekene*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Norwegian under the title *Opp i flamer*. *Fugl Fønix* is the title of the Norwegian translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Norwegian under the title *En ballade om sangfugler og slanger*. All the books of the series are published in the Norwegian language by Gyldendal publishers and translated by Torleif Sjøgren-Erichsen.

Serbian and Croatian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Serbian and Croatian languages under the title *Igre gladi*. *Catching Fire* is translated into these languages under the title *Igre gladi: Lov na vatru*. *Sjaj slobode* is the title of the Serbian and Croatian translation of *Mockingjay*. All the books of the trilogy are published in the Serbian/ Croatian language by Alnari publishers and translated by Maja Kostadinović.

Polish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Polish language under the title *Igrzyska śmierci*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Polish under the title *W pierścieniu ognia* (*Igrzyska śmierci: Tom 2*). *Kosogłos* (*Igrzyska śmierci: Tom 3*) is the title of the Polish translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Polish under the title *Ballada ptaków i węży*. All the books of the series are published in the Polish language by Media Rodzina publishers and translated by Hesco-Kołodzińska Małgorzata and Budkiewicz Piotr.

Czech Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Czech language under the title *Aréna smrti*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Czech under the title *Vražedná pomsta*. *Síla vzdoru* is the title of the Czech translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Czech under the title *Balada o ptácích a hadech*. All the books of the series are published in the Czech language by Fragment publishers and translated by Zdik Dušek.

Hungarian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Hungarian language under the title *Az éhezők viadala*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Hungarian under the title *Futótűz*. *A kiválasztott* is the title of the Hungarian translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is published in the Hungarian language by Agave publishers and translated by Totth Benedek.

Swedish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Swedish language under the title *Hungerspelen*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Swedish under the title *Fatta eld*. *Hungerspelen: Revolt* is the title of the Swedish translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is published in the Swedish language by Bonnier Carlsen Bokförlag. The trilogy is translated into Swedish by Lena Jonsson and Emma Jonsson Sandström.

Albanian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Albanian language under the title *Lojërat e urisë*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Albanian using the title *Vajza e zjarrit*. *Panemi Grifsha* is the title of the Albanian translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is published in the Albanian language by Uegen publishers and translated by Taulant Hatia.

Latvian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Latvian language under the title *Bada Spēles*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Latvian under the title *Spēle ar uguni*. *Zobgaļsilis* is the title of the Latvian translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Latvian under the title *Balāde par dziedātājputniem un čūskām*. All the books of the series are published in the Latvian language by Zvaigzne ABC and translated by Ieva Elsberga.

Turkish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Turkish language under the title *Açlık Oyunları*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Turkish under the title *Ateşi Yakalamak*. *Alaycı Kuş* is the title of the Turkish translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is translated into Turkish by Sevinç Tezcan Yanar and published by Pegasus Yayınları.

Vietnamese Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Vietnamese language under the title *Đấu Trường Sinh Tử*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Vietnamese with the title *Bắt Lửa*. Húng

Nhại is the title of the Vietnamese translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is translated into Vietnamese by Trần Quốc Tân.

The Hunger Games trilogy is also translated into Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and most of the major languages of the world. These books are also translated into Indian languages like Marathi. The trilogy can be placed among the books which are translated to the most number of languages. In this aspect, the series can be compared to the highly popular and classic children's literature in the Science Fiction and Fantasy genre like Harry Potter, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Lord of the Rings*.



Photo Courtesy: Sporcle (<https://www.sporcle.com/games/alvir28/language-the-hunger-games>)

3.7. Awards and Honours

The Hunger Games trilogy was nominated for and received a good number of well-known awards and honours. The books were featured in several lists for children's literature, young adult literature, science fiction and fantasy literature lists. Owing to the trilogy's popularity, the books were added to different library collections and

recommended by librarians and library associations. The first book in the trilogy *The Hunger Games* leads this table.

The Hunger Games: Awards, Honours and Book Lists

The book was included in Publishers Weekly's "Best Books of the Year" list in 2008. *The New York Times* publishes a list of Notable Children's Books every year and *The Hunger Games* was included in this list in the year 2008. New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice [2008] included *The Hunger Games* in their list. *The Hunger Games* had won the 2008 Cybils Awards or Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards in the category of fantasy and science-fiction books. The novel was also featured in School Library Journal's Best Books list and Booklist Editors' Choice list in the year 2008. It was also included in the lists like Horn Book Fanfare list and the Kirkus Best Young Adult Book of the Year list in 2008. The novel was also featured in lists like LA Times Favorite Children's Books (2008), Barnes & Noble Best Books of 2008 for Teens and Kids, Borders Best Books of 2008, and Teens Amazon Best Books of 2008.

The Hunger Games was the winner of the Golden Duck Award in the Young Adult Fiction Category (Hal Clement Award) in 2009. In 2009, *The Hunger Games* had won and nominated for several awards and lists like Georgia Peach Book Award, The Inky Awards for Silver Inky, Soaring Eagle Book Award, Teen Buckeye Book Award (Ohio), Michigan Library Association Thumbs Up! Award, Florida Teens Read, New York Public Library "Stuff of the Teen Age" Award, Isinglass Award, Barrington Public Library (New Hampshire) Award [2009-2010], Maine Student Book Award [2009-2010], North Carolina School Library Media Association Young Adult High School Book

Award [2009-2010], Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award [2009-2010], ALA [American Library Association] Best Books for Young Adults, Texas Lone Star Reading List, and the Texas Tayshas Reading List. It was also nominated for the Locus Award in the category of the Best Young Adult Book in 2009. The Locus Awards are instituted by science fiction and fantasy magazine *Locus*. The novel was also short-listed for the Children's Book Council Children's Choice Book Award in 2009.

In 2010, *The Hunger Games* had won and nominated for several awards and featured in lists like the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award (WAYRBA) for Older Readers, Red House Children's Book Award for Older Readers & Overall, Charlotte Award, Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award, Arkansas Teen Book Award, Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award, Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award, Kentucky Bluegrass Award, Nevada Young Reader Association Award (Young Adult), New Hampshire Teen Reader's Choice Award, New York State Reading Association Charlotte Award, Ohio Buckeye Book Award - Teen Section, Heartland Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature (The Writing Conference, Inc.), Sakura Medal for Middle School Book, Rhode Island Teen Book Award, Utah's Beehive Book Award (Young Adult), Milwaukee County Teen Book Award Nominee, Virginia Readers' Choice Award [2010-2011], California Young Reader Medal [2010-2011], Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award [2010-2011], Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award (Middle Grades) [2010-2011], Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award - High School [2010-2011] Missouri Truman Readers Award (Grades 6-8) [2010-2011] Missouri Gateway Readers Award (Grades 9-12) [2010-2011], South Carolina Junior Book Award [2010-2011], South Carolina Young

Adult Book Award [2010-2011], South Dakota Library Association Young Adult Reading Program Award [2010-2011], and the Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award [2010-2011].

In the year 2011, *The Hunger Games* had won a number of awards like Iowa High School Book Award, New Mexico Land of Enchantment Award for Young Adult, 3 Apples Teen Choice Book Award (New York), California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult, Abraham Lincoln Award: Illinois' High School Readers' Choice Award, , Grand Canyon Reader Tween Award (Arizona), Nebraska Golden Sower Award, New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award, South Carolina Book Award for Junior and Young Adult Book, Evergreen Teen Book Award (2011), Illinois Children's Choice Award, Oklahoma Sequoyah Award for High School and Intermediate, Oregon Readers Choice Award, and the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award. *The Hunger Games* was also included in the lists like ALA [American Library Association] Popular Paperbacks for Teens, Chelmsford (MA) One Book Selection, and PNLA (Pacific Northwest Library Association) Young Reader's Choice. The novel was also included in the South Dakota Young Adult Reading Program List for High School.

The Hunger Games had won the Books I Loved Best Yearly (BILBY) Awards for Older Readers (2012) and the 2012 Connecticut Nutmeg Children's Book Award. and it was listed in the of Scholastic's Parent and Child magazine released in the year 2012. The novel was also nominated for the awards like Georgia Book Award [2011-2012], and the Connecticut Nutmeg Award, Teen List (2012).

The Hunger Games had also won several foreign book awards like the Premio El Templo de las Mil Puertas for Mejor novela extranjera perteneciente a saga (2009), LovelyBooks Leserpreis for Fantasy (2009), LovelyBooks Leserpreis for Bestes Cover/Umschlag (2009), Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis for Preis der Jugendjury (2010), Literaturpreis der Jury der jungen Leser for Jugendbuch (2010), Premi Protagonista Jove for Categoria 13-14 anys (2010), Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire Nominee for Roman jeunesse étranger (2010), Kinderboekwinkelprijs (2010), Buxtehuder Bulle (2010), and the Prix Et-lisez-moi (2011).

Catching Fire: Awards, Honours and Book Lists

The novel had won several awards including the Goodreads Choice Award for Favorite Book and Young Adult Series (2009), American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults (2010), Golden Duck Award for Young Adult (Hal Clement Award) (2010), Children's Choice Book Award for Teen Choice Book of the Year (2010), Indies Choice Book Award for Young Adult (2010), and the Soaring Eagle Book Award (2011).

Catching Fire was included in several lists like the New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice (2009), Kirkus Best Young Adult Books of the Year (2009), Los Angeles Times Best Children's Books of the Year [2009], Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year (2009), Time Magazine Top 10 Fiction Books (2009), People Magazine's Top 10 Best Books (2009), Booklist Editors' Choices (2009), Indie Bound Fall 2009 Kid's Indie Next List #2 (American Booksellers Association), Capitol Choices (Washington, DC) Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens (2010), Children's Book

Council/National Council of Social Studies Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People (2010), Children's Book Council 2010 Teen Choice Book of the Year (Children's Choice Book Awards) (2010), Indie Bound (American Booksellers Association) Young Adult Book of the Year (2010), and the YALSA Teen Top 10 (Young Adult Library Services Association) [2010]. It was also a Locus Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Book (2010), Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Read (2010), DABWAHA Romance Tournament for Best Young Adult (2010), Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Best of the Best YA books (2018), Premio El Templo de las Mil Puertas Nominee for Mejor novela extranjera perteneciente a saga (2010). *Catching fire* was also nominated for the Delaware Diamonds Booklist (Diamond State Reading Association) [2010-2011].

Mockingjay: Awards, Honours and Book Lists

Mockingjay was the winner of the Goodreads Choice Award for Favorite Book and for Young Adult Fantasy (2010). The book was featured in several lists including the New York Times Notable Children's Book Of 2010, Booklist Editors' Choice (2010), Christian Science Monitor Best of 2010, Kirkus Best Young Adult Book of the Year (2010), New York Times Notable Books of the Year [2010], Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year (2010), Barnes & Noble Best Teen Books of 2010, Amazon Best Books of 2010, National Public Radio Otherworldly: The Year's Most Transporting Books (2010), Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices (2011), DABWAHA Romance Tournament for Best Young Adult (2011), and the IRA (International Reading Association) Young Adult Choices 2011 list. The novel was also a finalist of the Locus Award (given by the Locus Science Fiction Foundation) in 2011. It was also a Locus

Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Book (2011), Children's Choice Book Award Nominee for Teen Choice Book of the Year (2011), and a Nominee of the 2010 Nebula Award Andre Norton Award for YA Science Fiction and Fantasy. This long list is ample proof for the high popularity and success of the trilogy among the critics and the reading public.

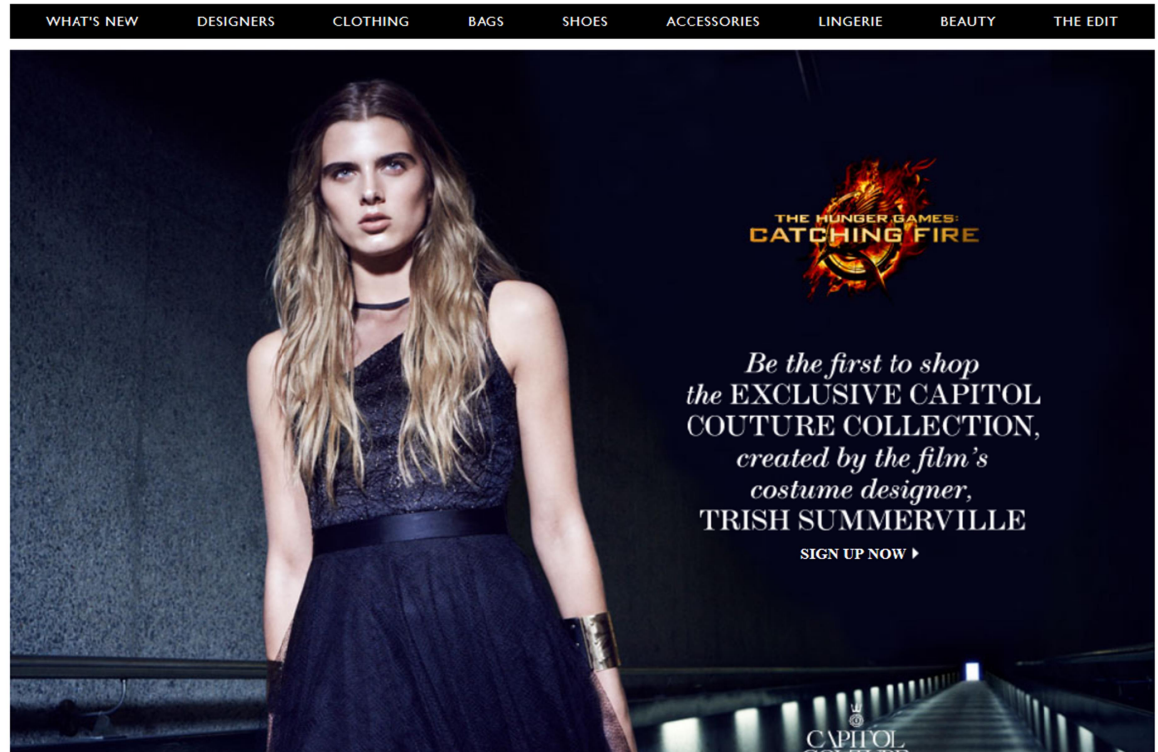
3.8. Artifacts and Games based on *The Hunger Games Series*

The Hunger Games series also culminated in the production and business of merchandise including artifacts, toys, action figures, video games and notebooks. Many of these items are available to purchase offline and from popular online shopping sites including Amazon, Flipkart and EBay. These artifacts are highly popular in North America and Europe, especially among women and kids and Indians have also purchased several of these items from the online shops as evident from the ratings and reviews provided on the Amazon and Flipkart product pages. To cite a few examples, the “Barbie Hunger Games Catching Fire Katniss Doll” is rated 4.4 on Amazon.com. Also, “The Hunger Games Movie Mockingjay Prop Rep Pin” has a rating of 4.6 on Amazon.com from more than 3500 ratings. Moreover, “The Hunger Games Movie Magnetic Bookmarks” on Amazon.com is rated 4.6 out of 5. Much more collectible items like The 2012 Wizkids NECA Hunger Games Collectible Figures set of 6, The Hunger Games Catching Fire Collectible Lunchbox with Thermos 2013 by NECA, and The Hunger Games Mockingjay NOS 2012 MOC Movie Logo Hoop Earrings are available to purchase on Ebay. This section explores a number of the above mentioned artifacts, games and other merchandise based on *The Hunger Games* series.

There is a wonderful article about the marketing strategies undertaken by the executives of *The Hunger Games* film series on the website “Marstudio” :

The international success of *Catching Fire* is a result of Lionsgate’s marketing and publicity strategy. We believe those efforts are also at least partly responsible for the movie’s domestic success. The monetization of *The Hunger Games* is unique, and merchandising opportunities have been plentiful for the franchise. Recently, licensing deals and promotional efforts have taken center stage. These deals run the gamut, ranging from high-end chocolate boxes to colorful Capitol-esque makeup collections. The fictional Capitol makes a seamless bridge to fashion merchandising, and the movie has taken advantage of this fact. CoverGirl has created a *Hunger Games* makeup collection, China Glaze released a Capital Colours line of nail polish, and Net-A-Porter, a clothing e-commerce site, just launched an exclusive capsule collection by the name of Capitol Couture by Trish Summerville.

Trish Summerville’s website with the costumes designed and marketed for *The Hunger Games* franchise can be seen in the next page. The website is titled NET-A- PORTER and a costume designed by Trish Summerville is highlighted here in the picture with the logo and title of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.



Courtesy: <http://www.trishsummerville.com/capitol-couture.html>

Copyright: Trish Summerville

(Trish Summerville is the Costume Designer of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *Red Sparrow*)

The World of the Hunger Games: The Official Coloring Book

This companion book to the novel and film series was first published in September 2016 by Scholastic Inc. in collaboration with Lionsgate Studios and it is an

official coloring book based on the series as there are different official and unofficial versions of coloring books are available on the market.

The Hunger Games Movie Bookmarks Magnetic

These special bookmarks are manufactured and distributed by the American manufacturer of collectibles National Entertainment Collectibles Association (NECA). The collectible items are manufactured in association with Lionsgate Film and are available in English and Spanish languages.

Various merchandise and collectible items are designed after the artifacts, posters, actors and other features of the series like the Hunger Games Laptop Skins, Hunger Games Phone Case, The Hunger Games Movie Sticker Set, The Hunger Games Movie Mockingjay Prop Rep Pin, Rubie's Costume Rebel Mockingjay Part 1, The Hunger Games Deluxe Katniss Costume, FURE Women's Metal Hunger Games Mockingjay Arrow Brooch (Gold), YELLOW CHIMES Hunger Games Mocking Jay Bird Brooch for Boys and Girls, The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes Journal (fill-in notebook) and many more items like this.

Official Games

The Hunger Games: Girl on Fire

The Hunger Games: Girl on Fire is a mobile based game inspired by the books and the movie, for iOS devices (iPhone OS devices) exclusively. The game is released by the game publisher CANABALT. The game was released shortly before the release of

The Hunger Games movie. The game making team was led by Adam Saltsman and the music for the game was composed by Danny Baronowsky.

The Hunger Games Adventures

The Hunger Games Adventures was a game on Facebook made by Funtactix also available for the iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android, and Kindle Fire. It was available to anyone with a Facebook account or an iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android, or Kindle Fire. It is currently not available on an iPhone 3GS or iPod 3. Players can create their own character, complete challenges, do quests, unlock new things, and explore the world of Panem. The game was released on the same day as the film: March 23, 2012. Development of this game ceased circa late 2017. As of December 2020, this game is no longer available.



Hunger Games: Panem Run

Hunger Games: Catching Fire - Panem Run released in 2013 is another mobile game based on the novel and film series. The mobile game is based on *Catching Fire* and it was developed by Reliance Games. *Hunger Games: Panem Run* is an endless runner where you need to run through all the districts of Panem while dodging all kinds of

obstacles, shooting arrows at targets distributed throughout the level, and fleeing from killer bees. Hunger Games: Panem Run is an endless runner with slightly more elaborate gameplay than the majority of games in the genre, which typically only allow you to run and jump. And it's worth noting that Hunger Games: Panem Run has outstanding graphics, and the official The Hunger Games license.

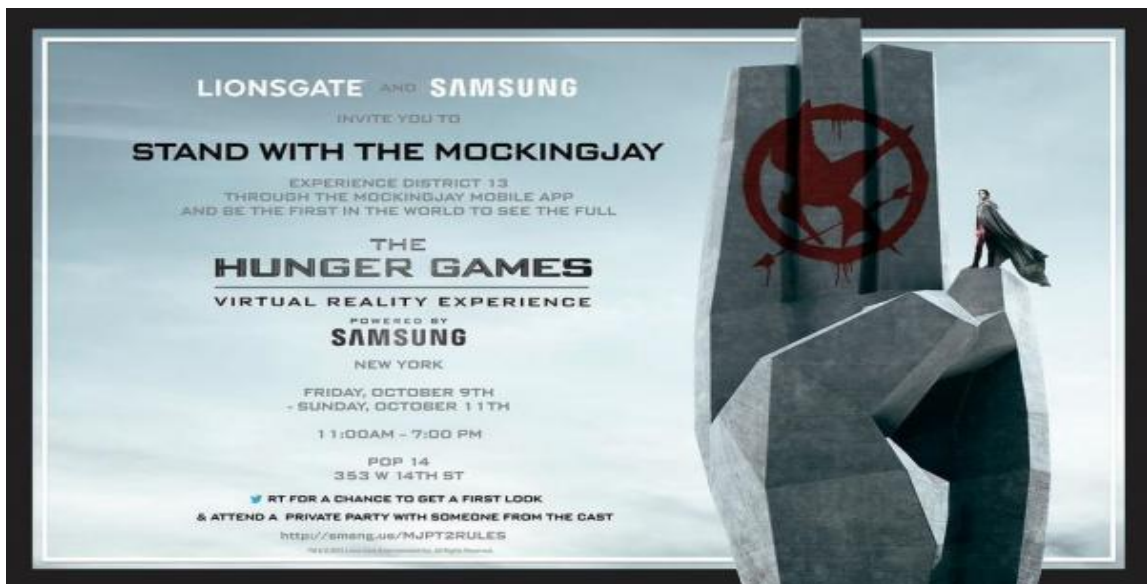
The Hunger Games: Panem Rising

The Hunger Games: Panem Rising is a game available on iPhone and iPad created by Kabam Beijing Studios to leverage the release of The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1 film. It is based off another Kabam Beijing Studios game, Heroes of Camelot, where gameplay is almost identical but the graphics and characters have changed to match the movie and book's intellectual property. While you get to battle through the districts the game does not have an ending. Ultimately it does not allow you to overthrow the Capitol nor fight President Snow.

It is a CCG (Card Collecting Game)-style game that sets itself in Panem during the Second Rebellion. The goal of the game is to collect the rarest and most powerful characters' cards as you explore through the districts. To fully leverage the intellectual property, Kabam released multiple versions of key characters in the game (e.g. there may be at least 4 versions of Katniss' cards in the game). It was released on Nov 5th, 2014 and is available in English, Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and German.

The Hunger Games – Virtual Reality Experience

“The HUNGER GAMES- VR EXPERIENCE” is an immersive 360 Narrative exploring key moments throughout Katniss’s journey, spanning all four films in the series. Built for Lionsgate in Unreal 4 and combining custom-made assets with actual CG assets from the Hunger Games movies, the final output was used to publicize the launch of the Samsung Gear VR headset. Further roll-outs launched on Oculus and YouTube 360. The game was written, designed, and directed by Colin McGreal at ReelFX. The Hunger Games Virtual Reality Experience has just been released on YouTube's new 'YouTube VR' platform!



3.9. Conclusion

The initial appeal for the Hunger Games definitely rose out of the books; with a compelling female protagonist who, at first, was not overtly bound to a romantic partner and was focused mainly on protect her family, The Hunger Games provided an excellent change of pace to the young adult section of literature. We can see that *The Hunger Games* rose into popularity shortly after the popularity of the *Twilight Saga*, which may also connect the rise of the book and its successive series' as a reaction to a rather poorly written, if not controversially passive, female lead. *The Hunger Games* earns its popularity with terrific, tension-filled prose, a dazzling story, and a memorable lead character. One major reason the book works as well as it does is that Collins chose to write it in first person present tense, from Katniss's perspective, and this immediacy and urgency gives the story its nearly non-stop tension.

It is an entertaining premise—the spectacle of a bunch of adolescents fighting to the death in a state-sponsored gladiatorial contest—and if it was badly done could be grossly voyeuristic. But the books are intelligently drawn, and the young heroine, Katniss, is a winning combination of courageous and vulnerable, talented and imperfect. Collins offers a dark, fun-house critique of our culture of instant celebrity, the beauty industry, and the now-familiar narrative arc of reality programming, from *Survivor* to *America's Next Top Model*. And she makes the contest about all the things that count: humanity, loyalty, honesty, authenticity.

The novel series was translated into a great number of languages from all parts of the world. It also served as inspiration for several young adult novels, science fiction,

post-apocalyptic and dystopian novels. More than that, dedicated Facebook pages, twitter accounts, fan pages and YouTube channels were introduced to celebrate the success of the novel and film franchise.

The *Hunger Games* series is definitely one of the most successful film franchises in recent history. The first three films grossed over \$2.3 billion worldwide, launched careers and started trends. The success of the latter surely helped launch the former as Hollywood took notice of the big box office numbers that could result from adaptations of young adult novels. In the words of Nasim Mansuri:

The filmmakers got it, too. The *Hunger Games* movies weren't only good — they added to the original story, a feat few adaptations can achieve. Not only was the film budget good enough to show us the advanced technology the books spoke of, but the cast was incredible. Jennifer Lawrence first became known worldwide, as did Amandla Stenberg, and the appearances of actors with powerful presences, such as Donald Sutherland and Julianne Moore, made the performances weighty in a way that can only be achieved when a film has a wealth of experience available.

There are dozens of films based on YA novels released after the success of *The Hunger Games*, including *Divergent*, *The Maze Runner*, *Ender's Game*, *The Fifth Wave*, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, and *Ready Player One*.

But more importantly, the films succeeded in depicting the chilling nature of the games and the Capitol in a way that the books couldn't, by virtue of a novel's physical

limitations. I'm still floored by how skillful some added scenes in the first movie were, such as the footage of the winners of previous games, and the contrast between District 12 and the interior of the train when Katniss was first reaped. These scenes gave us a more profound sense of horror that our minds might have normalized in the books, which only served to make the movies more powerful. Reception Theory and Reader Response Criticism can be applied to a number of cultural artifacts and media came into existence from the immense success of The Hunger Games trilogy. Reviews, ratings, exhibition, artifacts, symbols and pendants are good examples.

As the Novel trilogy and the film trilogy was highly successful, it paved the way for more sequels or prequels based on the same fictional universe. It is much similar to how the immense success of the Harry Potter film series led the way to the film adaptation of Rowling's *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Suzanne Collins planned to write a prequel for a long time since the publication of the original trilogy and she took years to complete it. It was finally published in May 2020. Fans of the Hunger Games series were highly excited about the release and they organized several events in relation to the prequel publication. Scholastic officially promoted the book's release in various countries including India. A film adaptation of the novel is under development.

One of the most important achievements of the series is that it was part of a worldwide poverty eradication scheme organized by the United Nations: World Food Programme in collaboration with the Feeding America Programme. The Hunger Games franchise's participation in charity and worldwide social welfare activities is wonderfully elucidated in the article "UN food relief agency partners with Hunger Games film". In 2012, The United Nations food relief agency announced its partnership with the

producers of the then upcoming film *The Hunger Games*, based on the best-selling science fiction novels, to raise awareness about hunger around the world.

A video starring the film's cast, Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth, was launched by the World Food Programme (WFP) and film studio Lionsgate urging fans to help end hunger. The video can be found on a website created for the cause where users can test and expand their knowledge on global hunger and can make contributions to help fight it.

They asked fans to donate 5 dollars to feed at least twenty people who need food most:

The Hunger Games movie, World Food Programme and Feeding America want you to join us in the fight against hunger. No matter where you live, hunger isn't as far away as you might think – often, it is right around the corner. But by teaming up, we can build a better future for hungry children and families all over the world. Are you in?

“This partnership will help us spread the word that hunger is the world's greatest solvable problem,” said Nancy Roman, WFP Director of Communications, adding that millions of readers identified with the characters in *The Hunger Games* trilogy, and are excited about the upcoming movie, which will be released next month.

“We want to tap into that excitement,” Ms. Roman said. “If all of us did just one small thing to fight hunger we could end hunger around the world. We are deeply grateful for the support of Suzanne Collins, who writes as though she understands hunger in the world, as well as Lionsgate and *The Hunger Games* cast – who have the power to change lives as they feed people worldwide,” she added.

Previously mentioned Article on Marstudio explores the dystopian themes and the real life contribution of The Hunger Games franchise to the worldwide poverty issues. The franchise has participated in few charities (and the amount of money devoted to them is miniscule compared to money devoted to other deals). Most recently, the Hunger Games movie has joined forces with the World Food Programme and Feeding America to educate our population about worldwide hunger and persuade individuals to donate money to this worthy cause.



Another significant achievement of the novel and film series is that these have had a symbolic role to play in the recent Myanmar protests. Myanmar protestors borrowed the three-finger salute from *The Hunger Games* as a symbol of revolution rebellion against the totalitarian regime. It is interesting to note here that the films' message and the gesture were mostly used by the protestors in South East Asian countries and this is also a testament of the franchise's global reach.

The three-finger gesture used to express unity with the rebellion has also been used in real-life protests in Thailand (2020) and Myanmar (2021). The salute was also a major symbol in the protests of people in Hong Kong against the invading Chinese totalitarian regime.



The Hunger Games can be considered as a seminal book in an extremely influential series, and the novel series will always be remembered for its commitment to telling a story, no matter how painful it is. Its messages of war, love and sacrifice will make it a classic for years to come — teaching generation after generation to fight against injustice. Writer and critic Meghan Lewit proclaimed the protagonist of *The Hunger Games series* Katniss Everdeen the most important female character in recent pop culture history (*The Atlantic*). Overall, Collins' compelling writing, analysis on political warfare, and consequences of brutality and rebellion are what make *The Hunger Games* special among most young adult novels; and the trend was successfully carried on by similar dystopian novels like *Divergent*, *The Maze Runner* and *Ready Player One*.

Chapter 4

***Divergent* Trilogy and Popular Culture**

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4.1. Introduction

Veronica Roth is a very young author. She was born in 1988 and began writing from a very young age. Her vast reading of literary works shaped her interest in writing and she was highly inspired by Lois Lowry, especially from Lowry's young adult dystopian novel *The Giver* (1993). *The Giver* is considered by many writers and critics as a prototype or the first original young adult dystopian novel. Roth completed her graduation in 2010 from Northwestern University. It is to be noted here that Roth studied creative writing at the University. She was able to publish her first novel *Divergent* in 2011, when she was just 23 years old. It was during the winter break of her senior year that Roth had written the first draft of *Divergent*. Along with *The Hunger Games* trilogy, Roth's *Divergent* trilogy is the most well-known series in the young adult dystopian category.

Roth was born on August 19, 1988 in New York. She grew up as the youngest of three children in Barrington, Illinois, which is an affluent suburb situated northwest of Chicago. Her parents were separated when she was five, and she describes herself as a serious and intense child. After the divorce of her parents, Roth lived with her mother, an artist and painter who read books to Roth every night. Roth acknowledges that this creative environment shaped her creativity as a writer. As Roth grew older, she began writing and took the craft seriously, which eventually led her to pursue a creative writing degree from Northwestern University. Her life and experiences in the Chicago and nearby places prompted her to place *Divergent* in a futuristic version of the Midwest City.

Roth was taking classes in psychology when the idea for *Divergent* first came to her. In these classes, she learned about exposure therapy, a phobia treatment that involves the process of confronting your fears regularly, and the well-known Milgram experiment, which tested the loyalty of people to figures of authority. The influence of these studies can be seen in her emphasis on personality traits, phobias, rankings, and hierarchies as described in the novels. Roth's personality also influenced her decision to make Tris, protagonist of the *Divergent* series, some sort of daredevil. In contrast to the character of Tris, Roth suffers from the problem of anxiety disorder and does not take physical risks. However, in an interview with the *Chicago Tribune*, she says she stepped out of her comfort zone by temporarily relocating to Romania, getting married young and cutting her hair short.

Roth's mother grew up feeling oppressed by the religious beliefs of her parents, who were Polish concentration camp survivors, so she raised her own daughter non-religious. However, after Roth joined a Bible study group during high school, she became an ardent and devout Christian. She wrote from a religious perspective throughout her time at Northwestern University, and some critics read *Divergent* through that framework. In the book, Tris mentions that she was baptized as an infant and implies that she believes in God, suggesting that she is a Christian. Additionally, Roth's first acknowledgment at the end of *Divergent* thanks God for his son and blessings. She also notes that certain scenes were inspired by songs of Flyleaf and Evanescence, both popular bands in the Christian rock community. Still, Roth makes it clear in interviews and on her blog that *Divergent* has no intention of preaching any particular message, Christian or

not. Rather, she hopes to encourage readers to reflect on the meaning of virtue and whether being good should be an important goal in life.

When Roth started *Divergent*, she wanted to write a utopian novel. However, she soon realized that a world where everyone strives to be perfect could actually be an unsettling, even terrifying place. The book thus became a dystopian novel, a popular genre in contemporary young adult literature. As we have discussed before, Dystopian Fiction deals with themes like understanding oneself and protesting against totalitarian governments and regimes, this turns the genre into an intriguing format for young readers in general. Though Roth says she was unaware of Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games series when she wrote *Divergent*, the two trilogies share many themes. Both the novel series are set in futuristic societies. *Divergent* is set in an alternate Chicago, while Panem in *The Hunger Games* is a fictional country in North America. Both series feature capable teenage female protagonists struggling against the limitations society has placed on them as individuals. Both these novel series also have a common bird motif: crows and bird tattoos in the *Divergent* series are reminiscent of the mockingjay bird in *The Hunger Games*' series.

The aim of this chapter is to have a look at the multifaceted inculcation of the *Divergent* trilogy in popular culture. The chapter concentrates on the importance of dystopian fiction, especially young adult dystopian literature as a literary subgenre at present. This chapter focuses on the close analysis and cross examination of the novel series and its tremendous and continuing impact on the society which includes a number of factors ranging from the book sales, film adaptation and the exhibition exclusively based on the novel and film series.

4.1.1. Divergent and the Publisher: Harper Collins

All the books in the Divergent series are published by Harper Collins publishers. HarperCollins Publishers LLC is one of the largest English-language publishing companies in the world. The headquarters of the company is in New York and is a subsidiary of News Corp. News Corp or News Corporation is an American media and publishing company operating across digital real estate information, news media, book publishing, and cable television. Harper Collins has regional offices in several countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and India. The publisher also has many imprints like Amistad, Anthony Bourdain Books, Dey Street Books, Harper Perennial, Harper Voyager, Katherine Tegen Books, and William Morrow Books.

Divergent was first published by Katherine Tegen Books in April 2011. *Insurgent* was first published by Katherine Tegen Books in May 2012 and *Allegiant* was released in October 2013. Before the release of *Allegiant*, a companion book to the trilogy titled *The World of Divergent: The Path to Allegiant* was released online. As the follow up to the series, a short story collection titled *Four: A Divergent Collection* was released in July 2014 by HarperCollins. This collection serves as the prequel to the Divergent novels. Roth concluded the series with the short story, “We Can Be Mended” (2018), also published by HarperCollins.

Harper Collins/ Katherine Tegen Books also published Roth’s latest young adult science fiction novels: *Carve the Mark* (2017) and its sequel *The Fates Divide* (2018). Roth’s collection of science fiction short stories for young adults *The End and Other*

Beginnings was also published by Harper Collins in October 2019. Her upcoming dystopian novel, *Poster Girl*, is also under the banner of Harper Collins.

4.1.2. Bestseller List and Copies Sold

The book debuted at number six on *The New York Times* Children's Chapter Books Best Seller list on May 22, 2011, and remained on the list for 11 weeks. It also spent 39 weeks on the Children's Paperback list in 2012, reaching number one. The Times changed its Children's Best Seller lists in December 2012, eliminating the Children's Paperback list and recognizing "middle grade" and "young adult" books separately; *Divergent* continued its run on the new Young Adult Best Seller list. The novel stayed on the list for 47 weeks until November 3, 2013. According to *Publishers Weekly*, the combined three volumes of the Divergent series sold over 6.7 million copies in 2013 (three million hardcovers, 1.7 million paperbacks, and just under two million e-books). In the lead-up to the release of the film adaptation, Roth's novel topped *USA Today's* Best-Selling Books list in January 2014.

Angela Chen from *The Wall Street Journal* reports that the Divergent trilogy sold more than thirty two million copies as of March 2015. Natalie Robehmed from the *Forbes* Magazine placed Veronica Roth as the sixth top earning author of the financial year 2013-14. She writes: "Young adult author Veronica Roth ranks 6th on account of her "Divergent" trilogy which sold a combined 6.7 million copies in 2013, earning her around \$17 million from print and ebook sales between June 2013 and June 2014. She also benefited from the book's 2014 film adaption, which grossed \$270 million at the

global box office. At just 26, Roth is the youngest newcomer on the ranking, and one of seven women on the 17-person list.”

Veronica Roth is one of three newcomers to the highest earning authors list in 2014, alongside Gillian Flynn and John Green. She joins the rankings thanks to the runaway success of "Divergent", a young adult trilogy which propelled her to \$17 million in earnings. The dystopian novels have sold more than 7 million copies in the U.S. over the last 12 months alone. "Divergent"'s 2014 film adaption grossed more than \$270 million worldwide. Roth penned the trilogy's first novel, "Divergent," while on winter break during her senior year at Northwestern University. The 26-year-old is also the youngest author on the ranking; she boasts 350,000 Twitter followers.

Forbes ranked Veronica Roth as the second best earning author of the year 2015. Both John Green and Roth were newcomers to the Top-Earning Authors ranking in 2014. Green's income leaped \$17 million on last year's \$9 million paycheck, while Roth's earnings increased \$8 million. All told, Young Adult (YA) authors pocketed a combined \$83 million this year, up 53% from the \$54 million haul top-earning YA authors recorded in 2014. “When a great book finds a new life on the big screen, it drives people who have never discovered them from movies to the books,” explained Ellie Berger, president of Trade Publishing at Scholastic, the house responsible for Harry Potter and The Hunger Games series. According to Berger, publishers can see more than a 10 percentage increase in book sales around the time a movie version is released. “Once the movie comes and goes, we are still able to sell strongly as we do now with the Hunger Games,” Berger said earlier this year.

Hunger Games author Suzanne Collins banked an estimated \$13 million in the last 12 months, thanks in part to the success of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*, which grossed \$752 million worldwide. Though the Hunger Games trilogy no longer records the riotous sales it once did -- 27.7 million copies in 2012 alone -- Collins' earnings are bolstered by the movie versions of the novels. In fact, three of the four authors on the ranking saw adaptations of their books hit the silver screen during our scoring period. *The Fault in Our Stars* grossed \$307 million worldwide on a \$12 million budget last year, helping shift 3.5 million copies of the book domestically. (Its movie tie-in version sold some 900,000 copies alone.)

Roth, the youngest author on the list, had a similarly stellar run at the box office. The \$110 million adaptation of her second book, *Insurgent*, grossed \$295 million at the global box office in 2015, while 2014's *Divergent* clocked \$288 million. The 26-year-old's 2014 book sales saw a lift, too: The *Divergent* trilogy shifted 3.9 million units in 2014. The multi-million dollar publicity budgets swirling around these films boosts awareness for the books, which already have a die-hard fan base. That youthful crowd aligns with frequent moviegoers: people aged 12-17 is just 8% of the population but represent 14% of tickets sold in 2014 according to the MPAA. Consider the built-in PG rating, which appeals to risk-averse studios, and you've got a cinematic winner that aids print sales. At 26, Roth is the youngest member of Hollywood's power-authors club, with her *Divergent* trilogy inheriting the YA mantle from *Hunger Games* and *Twilight*.

The Hollywood Reporter magazine prepared a list of Hollywood's 25 Most Powerful Authors in 2014. These writers were ranked on the basis of their influence on films and media until that time. J.K. Rowling was ranked first in this list and it contained

the names of pioneering writers like Stephen King, George R.R. Martin, Hilary Mantel, and Cormac McCarthy. *The Hunger Games'* author Suzanne Collins, whose works are also crucial to this thesis, is ranked 12th in this list. The 26 year old Veronica Roth is the youngest writer of this influential Hollywood authors list with her *Divergent* trilogy pursuing the steps of *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight* series.

4.1.3. Book Reviews and Ratings

Divergent trilogy received positive reviews from most of the critics. More than the critics, famous authors like James Dashner and Melissa Marr who praised the series on various platforms. James Dashner, author of *The Maze Runner* series wrote that “DIVERGENT is a captivating, fascinating book that kept me in constant suspense and was never short on surprises. It will be a long time before I quit thinking about this haunting vision of the future.” Melissa Marr, bestselling author of young adult fantasy series *Wicked Lovely* described *Divergent* as “A taut and shiveringly exciting read! Tris is exactly the sort of unflinching and fierce heroine I love. I couldn’t turn the pages fast enough.”

Sandra Scholes in her review for the *Fantasy Book Review* website writes: “With over four-hundred-and-eighty pages *Divergent* and its later novels in the series are something to invest time in, like the *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games* series. Tris, like Katniss, is the sort of heroine teens will warm to as there is something of her in all of us.” She gave the series a rating of 9 out of 10. Susan Dominus from the *New York Times* says that “*Divergent*” holds its own in the genre, with brisk pacing, lavish flights of imagination and writing that occasionally startles with fine detail.

Hans Han from *The Guardian* reviewed *Divergent* like this: “The book was very intriguing from the very start to the end. The plot line was unique and kept me reading. Many people say it is just like *The Hunger Games*, but I have read and enjoyed both books and I can tell you they are very different. I would recommend this book to people who enjoy adventure books and love books like *The Hunger Games*.” Sandie Angulo Chen in her review for the book, films and entertainment review website *Common Sense Media* calls *Divergent* an exciting, violent dystopian thriller which is original, addictive. She also gave the book a rating of 5 out of 5. Again, Sandie Angulo Chen writes about *Insurgent* as an excellent dystopian sequel is terrifically twisty, intense. She once again gives *Insurgent* a rating of 5 out of 5.

AT Ross writes in the *Fantasy Book Review* writes: “*Insurgent* is a remarkable adventure which I enjoyed almost more than *Divergent*. Roth's terse and clipped writing style keeps the story ripping along at breakneck speed, a prose style as utilitarian and unadorned as the world it describes.” Ross also says that *Insurgent* and gives it a rating of 9 out of 10. When it comes to the last part of the trilogy *Allegiant*, Sandie Angulo Chen from the *Common Sense Media* calls the book as the “Controversial finale to a thrilling dystopian trilogy”. Chen gave the book a rating of 4 out of 5. Nicole B. for the *Pikes Peak Library District* reviews *Allegiant* saying that “Overall, it is a very good book”. She gives the book a four star rating indicating that the novel is really good.

From the part of Indian writers, Mumbai based novelist, journalist and book reviewer Kankana Basu describes the *Divergent* trilogy as “An exceptionally well-written trilogy that is an ode to people who dare to be different and refuse to be pigeonholed”.

We can have a look at the reviews provided by readers on online shopping sites and social cataloging sites. These ratings and reviews help us understand the reception of the books by reading public and their impact on popular culture. Let us go through the ratings on amazon, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, and Goodreads.

Divergent has a rating of 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon from 22,991 global ratings from all around the world. It is quite an interesting fact to note that 72 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 18 percentage gave it a four star rating. This proves to us how popular the book is among the reading public. On Amazon, *Insurgent* is having a rating of 4.6 out of 5 from 19,320 ratings. Again, seventy two percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and eighteen percentage gave it a four star rating. *Allegiant* has a rating of 3.9 out of 5 on Amazon from 24,386 ratings. Fifty one percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and seventeen percentage gave it a four star rating.

On the social cataloging website Goodreads, *Divergent* has a rating of 4.16 out of 5 based on the ratings from 3,478,902 readers. *Insurgent* has a rating of 3.99 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 1,350,374 readers. *Allegiant* has a rating of 3.61 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 952,136 people. On the online bookstore Barnes & Noble, *Divergent* has a rating of 4.6, *Insurgent* has a rating of 4.6, and *Allegiant* has a rating of 3.4.

From the Indian perspective, *Divergent* has a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on the Indian shopping site Flipkart. *Insurgent* has a rating of 4.4 out of 5 on the website. *Allegiant* has been given a rating of 4.6 by the customers.

4.1.4. Editions and Reprints

The first edition of *Divergent* was published in the USA on 26th April 2011. This was followed by several editions and reprints. Only the important editions and reprints are discussed here. *Insurgent*'s first edition was published on May 1, 2012 by Katherine Tegen Books. The first edition of *Allegiant* was published by HarperCollins and Katherine Tegen Books on October 22, 2013. Joel Tippie was the cover artist for all the first editions of the *Divergent* trilogy.

The second paperback edition of *Divergent* was published in the UK on 2nd February 2012 by HarperCollins Children's Books. First edition of *Insurgent* was published in the UK by Harper Collins Children's Books on May 1, 2012. *Allegiant*'s edition in this series was published in the UK by Harper Collins Children's Books on October 22, 2013. A new Black Paperback Edition of the Divergent Trilogy was released on 10th March 2014 by HarperCollins UK.

The Movie Tie-in Edition of *Divergent* with photographs taken by Nicolas Delort was first published in the US by Katherine Tegen Books on 11th February 2014. In relation with this edition, the Film Tie In edition of *Divergent* was published in the UK on the same date by HarperCollins UK. The Film Tie In edition of *Insurgent* was published on February 15th 2015 in the US by Katherine Tegen Books and in the UK by HarperCollins UK respectively. The Movie Tie-In / Film Tie In edition of *Allegiant* was published by HarperCollins and Katherine Tegen Books on February 16th 2016.

A four book box set of the Divergent series including the short story collection *Four: A Divergent Collection* was released specially in India by Harper Collins on

November 1, 2015. A new paperback edition of *Divergent* with red cover and the illustrations of crows was published on December 31, 2015 by HarperCollins Children's Books. Editions of *Insurgent* and *Allegiant* in this series was also published on the same date. The 10th anniversary edition of the series including *Four: A Divergent Collection* was released by HarperCollins Children's Books on September 2, 2021. This is the latest edition of the series published to this date.



Divergent series 10th Anniversary Edition (Copyright: HarperCollins Publishers,
<https://www.harpercollins.com/pages/childrens-divergent-10-anniversary-event>)

Cover art copyright: Victo Ngai

4.1.5. Official Websites, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook Pages

Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation owns the digital rights of the film series and the official movie and novel merchandise. This media corporation handles the official website of the Divergent franchise. The website provides comprehensive information about the series and features the “Dauntless Fear Simulator” which is an open-world VR experience that invites fans of the Divergent franchise to take on their fears. Lionsgate also manages attractions based on the Divergent franchise in different

parts of the world including China and Dubai. Links to the Facebook, twitter and instagram pages are also provided in the website.

Divergent movie has a website on its own. The website is with the domain name divergentthemovie.com. All the factions from the novel like Abnegation, Dauntless and Erudite are explained effectively on the website. The website also has subsections including a gallery, link to the books and an about the film section.

Veronica Roth has a dedicated website to promote her works. The website is called veronicarothbooks.com and it features detailed information of all the books written by Roth from *Divergent* to the upcoming novel *Poster Girl*. In a special section of the website named classroom, PDF copies of discussion guides on *Divergent* and *Insurgent* are provided for school teachers and librarians. The website also provides the links to Veronica Roth's official social accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

Divergent series has an official twitter account which is named Divergent Series itself. It is the exclusive account for the book series. This verified twitter account was created on April 2014. It features the images of the three novels and the short story collection *Four*. The account is having 107K followers as of now.

The Divergent film series has a separate twitter account which goes by the name TheDivergentSeries @Divergent. It features the film poster showing the main cast of the film series. This verified account was created on February 2011 and it is followed by 533.7K followers.

Divergent@ DivergentSeries is the official Facebook page of the book series. This Facebook page is liked by 2,880,181 people and followed by 2,844,054 people. The

Divergent movie trilogy has an official Facebook account named Divergent Series @TheDivergentSeries. This page is liked by 5,377,364 people and followed by 5,342,401 people. It also features 146,598 reviews which rated the films with five stars.

The official Instagram account of the Divergent franchise is named thedivergentseries. This Instagram account has shared 1,140 posts and has a number of 584K followers. It features the images of the books, cast of the film series, quotes from the books and films, and images of Veronica Roth.

<https://divergentofficial.tumblr.com/> is the official Tumblr account of the Divergent series. This account is not active currently but it features detailed information of the series and provides links to the Facebook and the Twitter accounts of the series.

4.1.6. Fan Sites, Groups, and YouTube Channels / Videos

The Divergent Life is a specialised fan site dedicated to the fandom of the Divergent series. This website provides extensive information about the series and is divided into sections like the books, the movie, the author, the factions, and the music. In addition, the fan site provides information about the companion books to the series including *Divergent: Official Movie Companion* and *Inside Divergent: The Initiate's World*. It also provides the links official websites of the Divergent series including the Divergent Series Facebook Page and the page of Divergent on HarperCollins website.

There is an official fan group of the series on Facebook. This group is called Divergent Series: Official Fan Group and is public (open for anyone to join). The group includes 2.8k members and it has several features like the community home and an

events section. Divergent fan club is another fan group of the series on Facebook and it has 10 members and 10 likes.

Divergent Wiki is a Wikipedia like website which provides the most comprehensive information available on the internet about the Divergent series. The website includes 29 sections on *Divergent* and one of these sections is about the differences between the novel and film adaptation of *Divergent*. Detailed descriptions of all the characters in the series are also provided on the website. This page also discusses the themes in the series and the reception of the book series by the public including the awards it received and the film adaptations.

Divergent series also has a fan group on the book review site Goodreads. This fan group is titled the DIVERGENT FAN CLUB. This is a public group and it has a number of 2178 members. There are also other Divergent fan clubs on Goodreads and the most popular among these are the Diverge into Divergent group and the Divergent Series (Veronica Roth) group.

Lauren Levitt from the Department of Communication, Tulane University conducted a wonderful thematic research on the reception and political discussions based on the Divergent series on fan forums titled “Divergent Fan Forums and Political Consciousness Raising”. Let us have a look at her conclusion from the study:

A thematic analysis of a selection of threads about sociopolitical issues on the Divergent Fans and Divergent Wiki forums reveals that discussion on these two forums does allow fans to talk about political issues raised in the content world, and it sometimes enables the civic imagination through a

dialectical response to the dystopian world. However, it does not conclusively raise political consciousness among fans. How, then, can we account for these civic successes and failures? Because shared knowledge, trust, and spaces are relatively strong in online fan communities, and fans may experience their identities as relatively fixed, if we want to improve the consciousness-raising potential of YA dystopian fan forums, we should focus on values and skills. Cultivating democratic values in young people and teaching them political skills could empower them to take advantage of the political opportunities offered by YA dystopian texts and fandoms.Young people need to practice these skills for their participation in YA dystopian fan forums to lead to civic outcomes (336).

This particular study throws light into the relevance of Young Adult dystopias including *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* series and how these books facilitate discussions from the readers just like how it is explained in the theories of reader response criticism and reception theory as these argue that the reader is a producer rather than a consumer of meanings.

4.2. Film Adaptations

Inspired from the success of the young adult fantasy series *Twilight*, Summit Entertainment purchased the rights for the film adaptation of *Divergent* with the production company Red Wagon Entertainment in March 2011. Neil Burger was officially selected as the director of *Divergent* in August 2012. The Film series is produced by Lucy Fisher, Douglas Wick, and Pouya Shabazian. Red Wagon

Entertainment and Summit Entertainment are the production companies of the film series and the series was distributed by Summit Entertainment and Lionsgate. The films had a total budget 305 million US dollars and they earned 765 million US dollars from the worldwide box office collection.

Kate Egan explains this in detail in her *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion*:

Red Wagon Entertainment producers Doug Wick and Lucy Fisher came upon the manuscript before it was published and were smitten with what they read. They immediately brought the book to Gillian Bohrer, Executive Vice President of Production and Development at Lionsgate. Gillian remembers reading *Divergent* for the first time one weekend in January 2011. As the book wasn't published yet, she was reading photocopied pages in a coffee shop, and the page that described Tris's decision at the Choosing Ceremony was . . . missing. "I had to know what happened!" says Bohrer. "I read ahead and figured it out. And then I couldn't stop reading. I just couldn't put it down."

That Monday morning, she started spreading the word at Summit. "I knew the story would break through to a movie audience," Bohrer remembers. "It had so many themes that would resonate with teens, from challenging your limits to finding your own family. Plus it had these amazing set pieces, from the Choosing Ceremony to the Ferris wheel and the zip lining. . . . I could see them in my head, just when I was reading, and I knew they would make for a fantastic film." (22)



(Copyright: Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation)

The Divergent trilogy of films released from 2014 to 2016. Films in this trilogy have exactly the same names as the novels, which are: *Divergent* (2014), *Insurgent* (2015), and *Allegiant* (2016). An interesting trivia about the films is that Veronica Roth had also starred in them. The cast of the film series include Shailene Woodley and Theo James in the lead, supported by famous actors like Kate Winslet, Miles Teller, Ansel Elgort, Zoë Kravitz, Ashley Judd, Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer, Jai Courtney, and Ray Stevenson. The details of these films that seemed important to me are discussed in the following section.

***Divergent* (2014)**

The first movie in the series with the same name of the novel was released on March 21, 2014 in the United States. The film premiered or had the first screening at Los Angeles. *Divergent* is directed by Neil Burger and the screenplay is written by Evan Daugherty and Vanessa Taylor. It stars Shailene Woodley as the protagonist Tris Prior

and Theo James as the male protagonist of the series Tobias “Four” Eaton. The cast includes Ashley Judd, Zoë Kravitz, Ansel Elgort, Miles Teller, Jai Courtney, Ray Stevenson, Tony Goldwyn, Maggie Q, and Kate Winslet. Production of the film took place mostly in Chicago where the novel is also set.

Insurgent (2015)

Insurgent or *The Divergent Series: Insurgent* was released on March 20, 2015 in the United States. Before its official release, the film premiered in London on March 11, 2015. The film is directed by Robert Schwentke. Brian Duffield, Akiva Goldsman, and Mark Bomback wrote the screenplay of the film. Additional cast of the film include Octavia Spencer, Naomi Watts, Daniel Dae Kim, Rosa Salazar, and Suki Waterhouse. Filming of *Insurgent* took place mostly in Atlanta, Georgia.

Allegiant (2016)

The Divergent Series: Allegiant (also known as *Allegiant*) is the third and final film in the Divergent trilogy and it was released in the United States on March 18, 2016. The film premiered in Bangkok on March 8, 2016. *Allegiant* is directed by Robert Schwentke and the screenplay is written by Noah Oppenheim, Adam Cooper, and Bill Collage. Additional cast of the film include Jeff Daniels, Bill Skarsgård, Jonny Weston, Rebecca Pidgeon, Xander Berkeley, and Keiynan Lonsdale. Filming took place in Atlanta, Georgia and some scenes were shot at the Lindale Mill in Lindale, Georgia.

4.2.1. Celebrities: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Ansel Elgort

Shailene Woodley plays the role of Beatrice “Tris” Prior, the female lead and the main protagonist of the series. She was not that much famous before acting in the Divergent series. Shailene started her acting career as a child artist and acted mostly in TV shows until 2011. Her first major role was in *The Descendants* (2011) alongside George Clooney. Then she acted in movies like the critically acclaimed *The Spectacular Now* (2013), and *White Bird in a Blizzard* (2014). For her performance in *The Descendants*, Shailene won a Cannes Trophée Chopard and received nominations for the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress and for three Critics’ Choice Movie Awards. She won a special jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival for her acting role *The Spectacular Now* (2013). Shailene’s most important acting credit other than Tris is the role of Hazel Grace Lancaster in the young adult romance film *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014) based on John Green’s 2012 novel of the same name. *The Fault in Our Stars* is also of special importance in my work because it is also a popular young adult novel with a popular film adaptation and also starring Shailene’s costar Ansel Elgort from the Divergent series.

British actor Theo James portrays the role of the male protagonist Tobias “Four” Eaton. He was rather unknown as an actor before the Divergent series and acted small roles in movies and TV shows. His first major film role was in *Underworld: Awakening* (2012) with the famous British actress Kate Beckinsale. He is still busy with his film and TV series schedule and his latest noteworthy role is that of Henry DeTamble in HBO series *The Time Traveler’s Wife*.

Ansel Elgort started his acting career with a supporting role in the Stephen King adaptation *Carrie* (2013) and has acted in a number of coming of age and well received films including *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014) *The Divergent Series*, *Baby Driver* (2017), and *The Goldfinch* (2019). He is also the main lead actor in the latest Steven Spielberg film *West Side Story* (2021).

4.2.2. Critical and Commercial Success

Divergent (2012) received mixed reviews and ratings from the film critics. Shailene Woodley's performance was well received as well as the action sequences of the film. Shailene and Theo James won the MTV Movie Awards, People's Choice Awards, and the Teen Choice Awards. At the 2014 MTV Movie Awards, Shailene Woodley won the Favorite Character award for her portrayal of Beatrice "Tris" Prior. The film also won the 2014 Teen Choice Awards in the categories of Choice Movie: Action, Choice Movie Actor: Action for Theo James and Choice Movie Actress: Action for Shailene Woodley. At the 41st People's Choice Awards, *Divergent* bagged the awards for the Favorite Action Movie and the Favorite Movie Duo for Shailene Woodley and Theo James.

Considering the reviews of the film critics, *Divergent* has a rating of 41% on the movie review website Rotten Tomatoes from 237 critics' reviews. Rotten Tomatoes also provided an Audience Score which is 69% calculated from more than 100,000 ratings. Critics consensus of Rotten Tomatoes for the film is "With an adherence to YA formula that undercuts its individualistic message, *Divergent* opens its planned trilogy in disappointingly predictable fashion". Christy Lemire from the film review website Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of 2.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common

Sense Media gave the film a rating of three out of five. Helen O'Hara from the Empire movie magazine gave the movie a rating of three out of five. From our Indian perspective, Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from *The Times of India* rated *Divergent* with 3.5 out of 5. The movie was very well received by the audience in North America as indicated by TIME and the movie rating system CinemaScore. Richard Corliss from TIME writes: "The early audience — 59% female, 50% under the age of 25 — awarded *Divergent* a golden "A" in the CinemaScore survey of first-nighters. Those under 18 gave the movie a giddy A-plus".

Divergent collected approximately 288.9 million US dollars worldwide against a budget of 88 million dollars and it was a box office success. On its opening weekend in North America, *Divergent* earned 54.6 million US dollars and its final domestic (North American) box office collection stands at an impressive 150.9 million. The film is ranked 18 in the list of highest grossing films in North America in 2014 and 28 in the 2014 worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

Insurgent also received mixed reviews from the critics. Again, performance of Shailene Woodley was well received as well as the visual appeal and the action scenes of the film. The film was nominated for and won several awards including the MTV Movie Awards, Teen Choice Awards, and the People's Choice Awards. At the 2015 Teen Choice Awards, Shailene Woodley won the Choice Movie Actress award in Action category. Again, Shailene won the Favorite Action Movie Actress award at the 42nd People's Choice Awards.

Considering the reviews of the film critics, *Insurgent* has a rating of 28% on Rotten Tomatoes from 209 reviews of critics. Audience Score of the movie on Rotten Tomatoes is 58% calculated from more than 50,000 ratings. Their Critics consensus of the movie is: “Shailene Woodley gives it her all, but *Insurgent* is still a resounding step back for a franchise struggling to distinguish itself from the dystopian YA crowd”. Susan Wloszczyna from the film review website Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of 2.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of three out of five. Helen O’Hara from the Empire movie magazine also gave the movie a rating of three out of five. Indian film critic Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from *The Times of India* rated *Insurgent* with 3 out of 5. Bryan Alexander from the *USA TODAY* writes: “*Insurgent* overcame tough reviews, earning a lowly 32% critical rating on RottenTomatoes.com. Audiences were far kinder, giving it an A-minus on CinemaScore.”

Insurgent grossed approximately 297.3 million US dollars worldwide against a budget of 110 million and it was also a box office success like its predecessor. The film collected 52.2 million on its opening weekend and was number one at the domestic box-office at that time. *Insurgent* made 130.2 million from North America alone 166.8 million from the rest of the world. The film is ranked 22 in the list of highest grossing films in North America in 2015 and 26 in the 2015 worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

Allegiant generally received negative reviews from the audience and critics alike. It is the film with most unfavourable reviews in the *Divergent* series. Because the film was not a success as the producers intended, they decided to cancel the sequel titled *The*

Divergent Series: Ascendant. Anyways, the film was nominated for and won awards as its predecessors. *Allegiant* was nominated for the Hollywood Music in Media Awards, 37th Golden Raspberry Awards and the 2016 Teen Choice Awards. Shailene Woodley won the Choice Movie Actress in Action category at the Teen Choice Awards.

When it comes to the reviews from the Hollywood critics, *Allegiant* has a rating of 11% on Rotten Tomatoes from 199 critics' reviews. Audience Score of the movie on Rotten Tomatoes is 41% calculated from more than 25,000 ratings. Critics consensus of Rotten Tomatoes for the movie is: "Allegiant improves on previous entries in The Divergent Series on a few superficial levels, but they aren't enough to counteract a sense of growing boredom with a franchise that's gone on too long".

The film has a rating of 5.6 out of 10 on the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) from 121,322 ratings. Susan Wloszczyna from the film review website Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of 1.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of two out of five. James Dyer from the *Empire* movie magazine also gave the movie a rating of two out of five. Indian film critic Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from *The Times of India* rated *Allegiant* with 1.5 out of 5. North American audience gave the film a CinemaScore of B on an A+ to F scale. Pamela McClintock and Rebecca Ford from *The Hollywood Reporter* writes: "Allegiant, costing north of \$100 million to make, is projected to gross \$30 million for the weekend; *Insurgent* debuted to \$52.3 million, and *Divergent*, \$54.6 million. The third installment is likely getting dinged by poor reviews and a B CinemaScore".

Allegiant is the least successful movie in the *Divergent* series at the Box office. The film has a collection of 179.2 million at the worldwide box office against a production budget between 110–142 million US dollars. On its opening weekend, *Allegiant* collected 29 million from 3740 theaters in North America, second at the box office right after *Zootopia* (2016). *Allegiant* made 66.2 million in North America and 113.1 million from the rest of the world at the end of its theatrical run. The film is ranked 46 in the list of highest grossing films in North America in 2016 and 52 in the 2016 worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

In total, films in the *Divergent* series collected an amount of more than 765 million US dollars at the worldwide box office against the production budget of 330 million. This makes it clear that the film series was moderately successful at the box office. As we have discussed here, the series also received mixed or moderate reviews while the audience were more in favour of the film than the critics. We have to also consider the fact that several other young adult adaptations were also made at the same time following the success of *The Hunger Games* series, especially *The Maze Runner* series (2014-2018) and *The Fault in Our Stars* (2014), also starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort in the lead. These films were also successful at the box office as young adult adaptations were particularly popular in the last ten years.

4.3. Parody or Spoof Literature, Movies based on *Divergent* Series

Like we had discussed before, *Divergent* series also have several parodies and spoofs owing to its influence on popular culture much like *The Hunger Games* and *The Maze Runner* series.

Divergent Parody: Detergent is the most relevant direct parody book aimed at the novel *Divergent*. The book is written by Reid Mockery which is a pen name and the real name of the author is unknown. Reid Mockery has also written the parodies of *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green titled *The Fault in Our Stars Parody: The Fault Is All Yours* and E. L. James' *Fifty Shades of Grey* series. It is provided on the author's Amazon page that this fellow is currently working on the parody that makes fun of Delia Owens' novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

As we had discussed before, *Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death* is a parody play or drama written by Don Zolidis. The play was published on 29th May 2015. The title of the play is an amalgamation of the names of highly successful young adult dystopian novel and film series including Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* and *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner. This play was performed by various high school students and theatre companies in the United States.

Divergent, especially the movie has been parodied by a number of YouTube channels. Filmd2bEpic made a video titled *Divergent Spoof* which is the spoof of the *Divergent* trailer. *Convergent (Divergent Parody)* is the video created by the channel ripster478. Pegg Krrromuch channel produced a video titled *Divergent Parody* which is approximately six minutes in length. Allyson King made a video titled *Divergent Series Parody* on her YouTube channel.

Allegiant was parodied by Free Beer Productions and JustBecause channel on YouTube. Free Beer Productions made a video titled *The Divergent Series: Allegiant Full Movie Parody* and it features the performances of Georgette Brotherson and Joshua

Hinson. This video was uploaded on YouTube on 26th February 2016. JustBecause channel on YouTube produced a video titled *The Divergent Series: Allegiant Parody – DETERGENT*. The video was uploaded on YouTube on 6th March 2016.

In this context, it is also necessary to discuss the parodies based on *The Maze Runner* series by James Dashner, another young adult dystopian novel series released and adapted into films almost at the same time of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent Series*. The most notable parody work of the series is titled *Maze Runner: Parody - The Dazed Runner* written by The Parody Brothers and illustrated by Online Monkeys both with unknown real names. This book is particularly relevant here because its description from Amazon sums up the popularity of young adult dystopian novels efficiently: “Oh, the modern young adult dystopian novel. From The Hunger Games to Divergent to The Giver this is a genre that is hot as it can get. Fans of all ages love to read these tales of plucky teenagers fighting an unjust system and coming out on top. The latest example of this genre to explode onto the public consciousness is James Dashner’s *The Maze Runner*. Is it ripe for the Parody Brothers treatment? We think so, and here it is!”.

Another parody of *The Maze Runner* is titled *The Maze Bummer: A Parody of The Maze Runner*. The book is written by Steve Lookner and it was published by Sfuzzi Publishing on 10th December 2014. Steve Lookner has also written parodies of other influential young adult fantasy/ science fiction novels like *City of Boneheads: A Parody of City of Bones (The Mortal Instruments Book 1)*, parody of the *Mortal Instruments* series by Cassandra Clare.

4.4. Influence on other works / films

Much like The Hunger Games series and all the other popular book series, Divergent series also played an important role in the the development of a wide variety of cultural byproducts. This includes a VR game, attractions in theme parks located at different parts of the world, influence on other works and events, and the list goes on.

4.4.1. Lionsgate Entertainment World

Lionsgate studios opened a theme park with the name Lionsgate Entertainment World in Hengqin Island in Zhuhai, a city and special economic zone in the Guangdong Province of the People’s Republic of China. The theme park features attractions based on well-known Hollywood film franchises: *The Hunger Games*, *The Twilight Saga*, *Divergent*, *Now You See Me*, *Gods of Egypt*, and *Escape Plan*.

There are two attractions based on the *Divergent series* here according to the *Variety* website: First one is the “Fear Simulator,” a Virtual Reality walk-through which tests experience, bravery, and willpower as participants navigate precarious passageways and traps; and the second attraction is called “The Chasm Climbing Course,” in which players climb walls, suspended bridges and vertical drops in a zig-zag path.

Dauntless Fear Simulator

The ‘Dauntless Fear Simulator’ at Lionsgate Entertainment World is an open-world VR experience that invites fans of the Divergent franchise to take on their fears. Immersed in a completely computer generated world created by Framestore’s immersive

team for Thinkwell Group, visitors are challenged to see if they are worthy to be a member of the Dauntless faction.

The widest brief that Framestore got for an attraction at Lionsgate Entertainment World was for this fear-based VR experience that takes place within the world of the Divergent film series. As the Writer and Director of the media, Jason Fox created the concept for the “Dauntless Fear Simulator”, a location-based attraction that gives participants agency to progress through the world however they choose. This means they can repeat the experience but get different outcomes each time. Jason Fox describes it like this: “What we’ve created is a terrifying VR environment designed to put visitors on edge. It’s tied to the physical world so if someone reaches out to touch an object or a textured surface, it’s really there”.



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<https://www.framestore.com/work/lionsgate-entertainment-world>

4.4.2. University of Missouri Free Outdoor Movie Event: *Insurgent*



This was a free outdoor movie screening of *Insurgent* organised by the University of Missouri. The event took place on Friday, June 26, 2015 at 8pm at the Lowry Mall. This event also included food, drink and *Insurgent*-themed activities.

4.4.3. DIVERGENT: Choose Your Faction

This is a roleplaying fan fiction game inspired by the *Divergent Series*. The game was created by the user KatnissD12 for the online story games website chooseyourstory.com. KatnissD12 created the game in June 2016. In the game, we are provided with instructions to respond with intimidating situations in life in order to determine the faction to which the player belongs to. This procedure corresponds with the faction test all the characters in the *Divergent Series* have to take as they choose their path in life. The game is still being played by members and non-members of the gaming platform as it is free to play.

4.4.4. Novels written by Roth after the *Divergent Series*

After the success of her first novel series, Veronica Roth dedicated her time to a writing career and she wrote another series with the name *Carve the Mark* and is still busy with writing new books. Let us have a look at her new and upcoming works:

Carve the Mark

This is Roth's first novel to be published after the *Divergent Series*. This novel requires special mention here because it also belongs to the category of young adult science fiction. *Carve the Mark* was published on January 17, 2017 by HarperCollins Publishers. The book received mostly positive reviews and ratings. It has a rating of 3.8 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.4 out of 5 on Amazon, and 4.3 out of 5 on the bookseller website Barnes & Noble.

The Fates Divide

This novel is the second part of the book *Carve the Mark*. It was first published on April 10, 2018 by HarperCollins. As usual for the books of Veronica Roth, this novel also received highly positive reviews and ratings. The novel has a rating of 3.9 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon, and 4.3 out of 5 on the Barnes & Noble website. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the book a rating of 4 out of 5.

The End and Other Beginnings

Veronica Roth's next book is titled *The End and Other Beginnings*. The book contains illustrations by Ashley Mackenzie. It is a collection of young adult science fiction short stories. The book contains six short stories in which two of these belong to the *Carve the Mark* universe. It was first published on October 1, 2019 by HarperCollins.

The book also received positive reviews and it has a rating of 3.5 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.5 out of 5 on Amazon, and 5 out of 5 on Barnes & Noble.

Chosen Ones

Veronica Roth's latest novel to be published is titled *Chosen Ones*. The novel was published on April 7, 2020 by William Morrow Books. *Chosen Ones* is described as Roth's first novel for adults as all her previous works were aimed at young adults. This novel also belongs to the dystopian subgenre and it received positive reviews mostly. The book has a rating of 3.6 out of 5 on Goodreads, 4.2 out of 5 on Amazon, and 4 out of 5 on Barnes & Noble.

Upcoming Works

Poster Girl

Roth's upcoming novel is titled *Poster Girl*. This novel also has a dystopian setting and is expected to be published on 18th October 2022 by HarperCollins. Elena Nicolaou from the *TODAY* website writes about the book: "Veronica Roth, author of the *Divergent* series, made a name for herself writing dystopian novels. Her upcoming mystery novel, *Poster Girl*, almost falls within the dystopian genre. "Poster Girl is about what happens after a dystopian regime falls," Roth told *TODAY* in an email interview".

Arch-Conspirator

Veronica Roth has already completed her next novel after *Poster Girl*. The novel is titled *Arch-Conspirator* and it is said to be a reimagining of *Antigone* by Sophocles. The book is expected to be published on February 21, 2023 by Tor Books.

4.5. Books about *Divergent Series*

We can see a number of books centered on *Divergent Series* published officially and unofficially about the series, author Veronica Roth and about the film adaptations. In this subchapter, we will discuss the content of some books which are referred by me as hard copies and all the other soft copies which I downloaded from the Internet which ultimately discuss the same thing: *Divergent Series* and everything related to it.

The first book discussed here is *The Divergent Companion: The Unauthorized Guide to the Series* by Lois H. Gresh. It was published on 18th February 2014 by St. Martin's Griffin Books. Lois Harriet Gresh is the author of several science fiction books, short story collections, and popular culture reference guides and companions. She is the author of several children's, young adult science fiction and fantasy reference books like *The Unauthorized Eragon Guide*, *The Unauthorized Guide to His Dark Materials*, *The Fan's Unauthorized Guide to the Spiderwick Chronicles*, *The Unauthorized Guide to Artemis Fowl*, *The Twilight Companion - The Unauthorized Guide to the Series*, *The Mortal Instruments Companion*, and *The Hunger Games Companion*. *The Divergent Companion* comprises of nine chapters on different themes like factions and free will, authoritarian rule and prejudices, and a description of what is a Utopia.

The *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion* is a companion book by Kate Egan about the *Divergent* movie adaptation. Kate is the editorial director of KCP (Kids Can Press) Loft. She has edited a good number of young adult and children's books. Kate has also written several children's books, most notably a picture book with the title *Kate and Nate Are Running Late* and book series for children named *The Magic*

Shop, co-authored with magician Mike Lane. She is also the author of *The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire: The Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The World of Hunger Games*, *The World of A Wrinkle in Time: The Making of the Movie*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: The Movie Storybook*. *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion* was published on March 4, 2014 by Katherine Tegen Books. This is an illustrated guide to the novel series and the *Divergent* film and it provides us insights into the story, interviews with the author Veronica Roth, actors Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Miles Teller, director Neil Burger, co-screenwriter Evan Daugherty, sketches of costume designers and the 3D concept art, and comprehensive details of the film production.

Next book for discussion here is *Inside Divergent: The Initiate's World* by Cecilia Bernard. The book was published on February 11, 2014 by Katherine Tegen Books. Victor Joseph Ochoa is the designer of this movie companion book. The book comprises of more than a hundred photographs from the movie *Divergent*. Chapters of the book extensively discuss the characters, the factions and the dystopian setting of the movie and the novel.

Divergent and Philosophy: The Factions of Life is a collection of critical essays edited by Courtland Lewis. Court Lewis is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville, Tennessee in the United States. This book is a part of the Popular Culture and Philosophy series. This series also consist of the critical readings of several other popular children's and young adult literature like *Harry Potter*, *Ender's Game*, and *The Catcher in the Rye*. It was published on 24th December 2015 by the Open Court Publishing Company in the United States. As the name suggests,

Divergent and Philosophy investigates the series using the methodology of philosophy. The book is divided into five parts and nineteen essays. These parts deal with various themes and ideas like divergent behavior, compassion and peace, wisdom, courage, and political philosophy.

Divergent Thinking: YA Authors on Veronica Roth's Divergent Trilogy is a collection of twelve articles about the *Divergent* trilogy edited by Leah Wilson. Leah Wilson is Editor-in-Chief of the Smart Pop imprint of Dallas-based publisher BenBella Books. The book was originally published on March 4, 2014 by Smart Pop/ Benbella Books. Smart Pop published several relevant criticism books on young adult literature including *The Girl Who Was on Fire: Your Favorite Authors on Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games Trilogy*, *The Panem Companion: An Unofficial Guide to Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games*, *From Mellark Bakery to Mockingjays*, *Demigods and Monsters: Your Favorite Authors on Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, *A New Dawn: Your Favorite Authors on Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Series*, *Ender's World: Fresh Perspectives on the SF Classic Ender's Game*, *Through the Wardrobe: Your Favorite Authors on C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia*, *Mind-Rain: Your Favorite Authors on Scott Westerfeld's Ugliers Series*, and *Shadowhunters and Downworlders: A Mortal Instruments Reader*. The book features the articles written by Elizabeth Wein, Maria V. Snyder and Jenna Snyder, V. Arrow, Jennifer Lynn Barnes, Mary Borsellino, Rosemary Clement-Moore, Debra Driza, Julia Karr, Dan Krokos, Elizabeth Norris, Janine K. Spendlove, and Blythe Woolston. The essays in the book indulge in and explore almost everything about the *Divergent* trilogy like the personality traits in psychology and the

novels, choices and life decisions of young adults, the futuristic Chicago as the setting for the trilogy, and the resistance against the dystopian regime.

Divergent Series: The Ultimate Quiz Book is written by Sarah Davids and it was first published on May 19, 2014 by Get Publishing. This quiz book covers all the three novels in the *Divergent* series and it features questions and answers about the characters, factions, and settings of the series. It is especially aimed at the hardcore fans of the *Divergent Series*.

Divergent Quiz Book by Wayne Wheelwright is written by Wayne Wheelwright and it was first published on 22 July 2014 by Andrews UK Limited. Wayne Wheelwright is also the author of several other quiz books and Trivia books based on popular novels, films, and TV shows like *The Da Vinci Code Quiz Book (Novel Trivia 1)*, *Game of Thrones the Quiz Book - Season One*, *The Walking Dead Quiz Book*, *The Supernatural Quiz Book - Season 1*, *American Horror Story - Murder House Quiz Book*, *American Horror Story - Asylum Quiz Book*, *50 Quick Facts About the Walking Dead*, and *50 Quick Facts About Game of Thrones*. *Divergent Quiz Book* includes questions on the novel and its film adaptation, the characters, factions, locations and all other important details about *Divergent*.

DIVERGENT - Ultimate Trivia Quiz Book is written by T.D. Cleary and it was first published on 18 April 2014 as an eBook and the publisher's details are unavailable. T.D. Cleary is also the author of some very interesting trivia books based on *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* series and other popular young adult series. He or she has authored books like *JENNIFER LAWRENCE - The Hunger Games KATNISS: With J-Law's Own*

Words, SHAILENE WOODLEY – *Divergent's Tris: 101 Facts with Shailene's Own Words*, THEO JAMES – *Divergent's FOUR: 101 Facts with Theo's Own Words*, *The Fault in Our Stars - Ultimate Quiz Book*, and *THE MAZE RUNNER - Interactive Quiz Book*. This quiz book contains 30 rounds of questions with ten questions in each round.

Divergent Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know-it-All from the Hit Movie and Book? is an eBook edited by Ann Perth and it was first published on 20th January 2015 by R & J Publishing. Ann Perth is also the editor of several other quiz and trivia books on influential young adult novels, films, and TV shows like *The Hunger Games Movie Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know-it-All about the Hunger Games Movie?*, *The Hunger Games Movie Catching Fire Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know-it-All About The Hit Sequel?*, *The Maze Runner Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You "Know it All" About the Critically Acclaimed Series?*, *The Fault in Our Stars Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You Know it All About the Hit Film?*, and *Teen Wolf Trivia Quiz Book: How Much Do You "Know it All" from the Hit TV Show?*. *Divergent Trivia Quiz Book* contains 175 questions about the novel and the film. It is written in the book that it is dedicated to all the fans of *Divergent*.

Divergent Film Quiz: Amazing Facts and Trivia about Divergent is written by Nyesha Watson and was published on 21 October 2021 by Macmillan Books. Nyesha Watson has also authored several books on popular culture like *The Good Place Film Trivia: Facts and Quizzes about Film Series for Fans*, *Firefly Facts and Quizzes: Trivia about Space Western Drama TV Series*, *Lost in Space Trivia Challenge: Quizzes about Science Fiction Series*, *The Umbrella Academy Quizzes: Fun Facts and Trivia about Superhero Streaming TV Series*, and *Downton Abbey Trivia Quiz: Fun Facts and*

Questions about Downton Abbey. This book *Divergent Film Quiz: Amazing Facts and Trivia about Divergent* includes 24 facts about the Divergent film series. The book also features quizzes and fun facts about the film series.

The Unofficial Divergent Aptitude Test: Discover Your True Faction! is written by Noel St. Clair and was published on 15 March 2015 by Adams Media. Noel St. Clair is an experienced writer of real life themes like personality and relationships. This book is all about taking the aptitude test and discovering the faction of the reader on the basis of the factions or the grouping based on personality traits as described in the *Divergent series*.

4.6. Translations

German Translation

The German Translation of *Divergent* is titled *Die Bestimmung*. It was translated into the German language by Petra Koob-Pawis. *Insurgent* is translated into German under the title *Tödliche Wahrheit* (Die Bestimmung, Band 2). This book is also translated by Petra Koob-Pawis. *Letzte Entscheidung* (Die Bestimmung, Band 3) is the German translation of *Allegiant*. Once again, this book is translated to German by Petra Koob-Pawis. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into German under the title *Die Bestimmung – Fours Geschichte: Die packende Fantasy-Dystopie aus Fours Perspektive* (Die Bestimmung-Reihe 4). This collection is translated by Michaela Link. All these books are published in Germany by the publisher cbj: C. Bertelsmann Jugendbuchverlag (C. Bertelsmann Youth book publishing). CBJ publishes fiction and non-fiction books for children and young adults as well as illustrated children's books. The film adaptation of

Divergent is dubbed into German also under the title *Die Bestimmung – Divergent*. All the German translations of the *Divergent* series have a minimum rating of 4.2 out of five on Amazon.

Spanish Translation

The Spanish Translation of *Divergent* is titled *Divergente*. *Insurgent* is translated into the Spanish language under the title *Insurgente*. *Leal* (Divergente) is the Spanish title of *Allegiant*, the third book in the trilogy. The short story collection set in the *Divergent* universe, *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Spanish under the title *Cuatro: una historia de la saga Divergente*. Pilar Ramírez Tello translated all the books of the series into Spanish. Tello is also known for his translations of *The Hunger Games* series into Spanish. All the Spanish translations of the *Divergent* series are published by Molino RBA. All the Spanish editions of the *Divergent* series have more than 4.3 star rating out of five on Amazon and this is indicative of the significant influence of the series on popular culture around the world.

French Translation

Divergent is translated into French under the title *Divergente*. *Divergente 2: L'insurrection* is the title of the French translation of *Insurgent*. *Divergente 3: Au-delà du Mur* is the French title of *Allegiant*, the third book in the trilogy. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into French under the title *Divergente raconté par Quatre*. Anne Delcourt translated all these books into the French language. All these books are published by the French publishers Pocket Jeunesse and Nathan. As usual, all the French translations of the *Divergent* trilogy have a minimum rating of 4.5 out of 5 on Amazon.fr.

Portuguese Translation

The Portuguese Translation of *Divergent* is titled *Divergente, Uma Escolha Pode Te Transformar* (Trilogia Divergente Livro 1). *Insurgente, Uma Escolha Pode Te Destruir* - Trilogia Divergente. Livro 2 is the title of the Portuguese translation of *Insurgent*. *Convergente, Uma Escolha Vai Te Definir* (Trilogia Divergente Livro 3) is the Portuguese title of *Allegiant*, the third book in the trilogy. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Portuguese under the title *Quatro: Histórias da Série Divergente*. All these books are translated into Portuguese by Lucas Peterson. *Divergent* series is published in Portugal and Brazil by Porto Editora and Rocco Jovens Leitores respectively. All the Portuguese translations of Divergent trilogy have a minimum rating of 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon.co.br., and this is quite remarkable.

Italian Translation

Divergent is translated into Italian with the same title *Divergent - Una Scelta può Cambiare il tuo Destino*. *Insurgent - Una scelta può Annientarti* 2 is the title of the Italian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Italian under the title *Allegiant - Una Scelta può Segnarti*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Italian under the title *Four: Una Scelta può Liberarlo*. All these books are translated into Italian by Roberta Verde. Italian editions of the *Divergent* series are published by De Agostini. All the Italian translations of the *Divergent* series have a minimum rating of 4.4 out of 5 on Amazon.it.

Dutch Translation

Divergent is translated into Dutch under the title *Inwijding: Haar keuze verandert alles*. *Opstand: haar keuze kan alles vernietigen* is the title of the Dutch translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Dutch under the title *Samensmelting: haar keuze bepaalt alles*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Dutch with this title: *Het verhaal van Four*. All these books are translated into the Dutch language by Maria Postema. All the Dutch versions of the series are published by Van Goor.

Danish Translation

Divergent is translated into Danish under the title *Divergent: Afvigeren*. *Divergent 2: Oprøreren* is the title of the Danish translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Danish under the title *Divergent 3: Fornyreren*. *Divergent Four: Tobias' fortællinger* is the title of the Danish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. The series is translated into Danish by John Lysmand. John Lysmand also translated Cecilia Bernard's *Inside Divergent: The Initiate's World* into Danish with the title *Divergent - Den Officielle Guide*. All these books are published in Danish by Forlaget Alvilda.

Finnish Translation

Divergent is translated into Finnish under the title *Outolintu*. *Kapinallinen* is the title of the Finnish translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Finnish under the title *Uskollinen*. *Neljä* is the title of the Danish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. All these books are translated into the Finnish language by Outi Järvinen. Otava Publishing Company Ltd (Finnish: Kustannusosakeyhtiö Otava) is the publisher of all these books in Finnish.

Norwegian Translation

Divergent is translated into Norwegian with the same title *Divergent* itself. *Insurgent* is translated into Norwegian under the title *Divergent: Opprøreren. De Lojale: Allegiant* is the title of the Norwegian translation of *Allegiant*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Norwegian with the title *Divergent: Four – Tobias' Historie*. Torleif Sjøgren-Erichsen translated all these books into the Norwegian language. Lydbokforlaget and Vigmostad & Bjørke published the Norwegian editions of the *Divergent series*.

Icelandic Translation

Divergent is translated into Icelandic under the title *Divergent Bók 1: Afbrigði*. *Divergent Bók 2: Andóf* is the title of the Icelandic translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Icelandic under the title *Divergent Bók 3: Arfleifð*. Magnea J. Matthíasdóttir translated the *Divergent* trilogy into the Icelandic language. Björt bókaútgáfa published the trilogy in Iceland.

Swedish Translation

Divergent, *Insurgent*, and *Allegiant* are translated into the Swedish language under their same titles. Katarina Falk translated the *Divergent* trilogy into Swedish. The trilogy is published in the Swedish language by Modernista Group AB. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Swedish with the title *Four: en Divergent-samling*. Helena Stedman translated the short story collection into Swedish and it was also published by Modernista Group.

Hungarian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Hungarian language under the title *A Beavatott. A Lázadó* is the title of the Hungarian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Hungarian under the title *A Hűség. Négyes: A Beavatott Trilógia Kiegészítő Kötete* is the title of the Hungarian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. *Divergent series* is published in the Hungarian language by Ciceró Könyvstúdió Kft. and translated by Logos.

Polish Translation

Divergent is translated into Polish under the title *Niezgodna*. The novel is translated into Polish by Daniel Zych. *Zbuntowana* (*Niezgodna*, #2) is the title of the Polish translation of *Insurgent*. *Insurgent* is translated into Polish by Marta Czub and Ewa Ratajczyk. *Allegiant* is translated into Polish under the title *Wierna* (*Niezgodna*, #3). *Cztery* (*Niezgodna*, #0.1 - 0.4) is the title of the Polish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. Marta Czub translated *Allegiant* and *Four: A Divergent Collection* into Polish. All the Polish language editions of the *Divergent series* are published by Wydawnictwo Amber.

Czech Translation

Divergent is translated into the Czech language under the title *Divergence*. *Rezistence* is the title of the Czech translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Czech under the title *Aliance*. *Čtyřka: Divergentní povídky* is the title of the Polish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. All the books of the series are published in

the Czech language by CooBoo publishers and translated by Radka Kolebáčová. Linda Marečková designed the covers of all the Czech editions of the *Divergent series*.

Romanian Translation

Divergent and *Insurgent* are translated into the Romanian language with the same titles. *Allegiant* is translated into Romanian under the title *Experiment. Four: o Antologie*. *Divergent* is the title of the Romanian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. Shauki Al-Gareeb and Adrian Deliu translated the *Divergent series* into the Romanian language. Editura Leda is the publisher of the Romanian editions of the *Divergent series*.

Estonian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Estonian language under the title *Lahkulööja. Mässaja* (Lahkulööja, #2) is the title of the Estonian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Estonian under the title *Murdmatu* (Lahkulööja, #3). Pille Kruus translated the *Divergent trilogy* into the Estonian language and the books are published in Estonian by Pegasus.

Slovak Translation

Divergent is translated into the Slovak language under the title *Divergencia. Rezistencia* (Divergencia, #2) is the title of the Slovak translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Slovak under the title *Experiment* (Divergencia, #3). *Štyri – Zbierka poviedok k megaúspešnej sérii* is the title of the Slovak translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. All these books are translated into the Slovak language by Elena Guričanová and the books are published in Slovak by Vydavateľstvo SLOVART.

Slovenian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Slovenian language under the title *Razcepljeni*. *Neupogljivi* is the title of the Slovenian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Slovenian under the title *Povezani*. *Divergent trilogy* is translated into the Slovenian language by Darja Marinšek and the books are published in Slovenian by Učila International.

Croatian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Croatian language under the title *Različita*. The novel is translated into Polish by Ivana Šojat-Kuči and Tomislav Kuzmanović. *Pobunjena* is the title of the Croatian translation of *Insurgent*. Slaven Lendić translated *Insurgent* into Croatian. *Allegiant* is translated into Croatian under the title *Odana*. Ela Varošaneć translated *Allegiant* into the Croatian language. *Four: priče o različitim* is the title of the Croatian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection* and it was translated by Slaven Lendić. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Croatian language by Naklada Ljevak (Ljevak Publishing house).

Serbian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Serbian language under the title *Divergentni*. *Pobunjeni* is the title of the Serbian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Serbian under the title *Odani*. *Četiri: Zbirka priča o Divergentima* is the title of the Serbian translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. *Divergent series* is translated into the Serbian language by Jasmina Marković Karović and the books are published in Serbian by Urban Reads.

Latvian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Latvian language with the name *Citādie: Divergent*. *Dumpinieki: Insurgent* is the title of the Latvian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Latvian under the title *Sabiedrotie: Allegiant*. *Divergent trilogy* is translated into the Latvian language by Laura Dreiže and the books are published in Latvian by Zvaigzne ABC.

Lithuanian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Lithuanian language with the name *Divergentė*. *Insurgentė: Antra Divergentės Knyga* is the title of the Lithuanian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Lithuanian under the title *Lojalioji: Trečia Divergentės Knyga*. *Divergent trilogy* is translated into the Lithuanian language by Aušra Kaziukonienė. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Lithuanian with the name *Ketvertas: Divergentės Rinkinys* and it was translated by Daumantas Gadeikis. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Lithuanian language by Alma littera.

Albanian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Albanian language with the name *Divergjentja*. *Kryengritësja* is the title of the Albanian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Albanian using the title *Besnikja*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Albanian with the name *Katra: Seria Divergjentja*. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Albanian language by Morava publishers and translated by Taulant Hatia.

Bosnian Translation

Divergent is translated into the Bosnian language with the name *Različiti*. *Pobunjeni* is the title of the Bosnian translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Bosnian using the title *Odani*. *Divergent* trilogy is translated into the Bosnian language by Jasmina M. Karović and the books are published in Bosnian by Biblioteka Neverland.

Turkish Translation

Divergent is translated into the Turkish language with the name *Uyumsuz*. *Kuralsız* is the title of the Turkish translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Turkish using the title *Yandaş*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Turkish with the name *Dört - Bir Uyumsuz Koleksiyon Kitabı*. All the books in the *Divergent* series are translated into the Turkish language by Uğur Mehter. İlgin Sönmez edited the Turkish translation of *Four: A Divergent Collection*. Artemis Yayınları is the publisher of the Turkish editions of the *Divergent* series.

Vietnamese Translation

Divergent is translated into the Vietnamese language with the name *Divergent - Những kẻ bất khả trị*. *Insurgent - Những kẻ nổi loạn* is the title of the Vietnamese translation of *Insurgent*. *Allegiant* is translated into Vietnamese using the title *Allegiant - Những kẻ trung kiên*. *Four: A Divergent Collection* is translated into Vietnamese with the name *Số Bốn: Divergent Ngoại Truyện*. All the books in the *Divergent series* are published in the Vietnamese language by NXB Trẻ publishers and translated by Phạm Nữ Hồng Quyên.

Chinese Translation

Divergent, *Insurgent*, and *Allegiant* are translated into the Chinese language with the same titles by Wang Mingda. Sichuan Literature & Art Publishing House published the *Divergent trilogy* in Chinese.



Divergent series is also translated into Russian, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, Persian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Thai, and most of the major languages of the world. The series can be placed among the books which are translated to the most number of languages. In this aspect, the series can be compared to the highly popular and well-known young adult literature in the Science Fiction and Fantasy genre like Harry Potter, The Hunger Games trilogy, The Twilight Saga, and the Percy Jackson series.

4.7. Awards and Honours

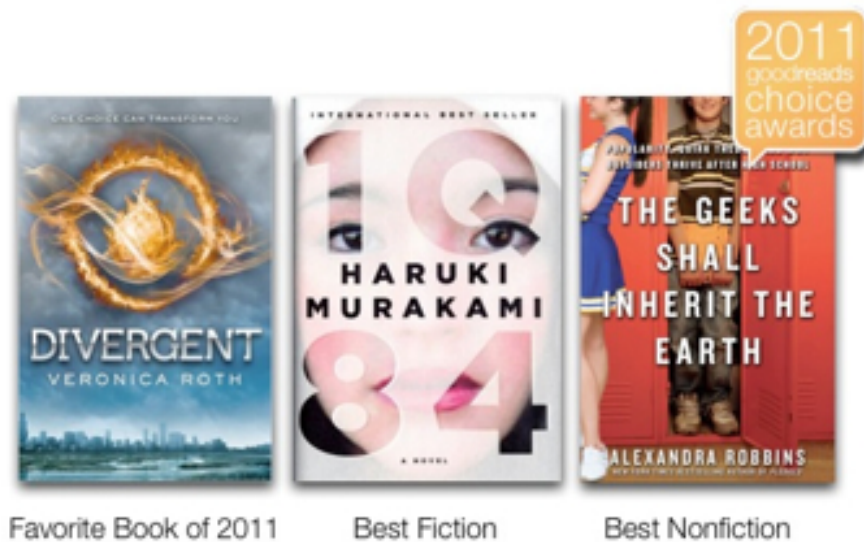
Divergent series was nominated for and received a good number of well-known awards and honours. The books were featured in several lists for children's literature, young adult literature, science fiction and fantasy literature lists. Owing to the trilogy's popularity, the books were added to different library collections and recommended by librarians and library associations. *Divergent* comes at the top of this list in the series.

Divergent: Awards, Honours and Book Lists

The first book in the series, *Divergent* won and was nominated for several prestigious awards. *Divergent* was also featured in book lists of literary importance. Let us start this discussion by examining the website of the American Library Association (ALA), which hosts and manages various book awards and lists. *Divergent* was included in the 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults List administered by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association. The novel was also featured in the Amelia Bloomer Book List, a prestigious annual annotated book list (or bibliography) of well-written books with significant feminist content, intended for young readers administered by the Amelia Bloomer Project of the ALA. *Divergent* was also a part of the ALA 2012 Teen's Top Ten Book List. The novel was also included in the 2012 Readers' Choice List prepared by the YALSA. 2012 Quick Picks Nominations by the YALSA also featured *Divergent* in the list.

Divergent won the awards like the Goodreads Award for the Favorite Book, Goodreads Choice Award for the Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction and Veronica

Roth was a Nominee for the Goodreads Author Awards in the year 2011. Roth's novel also secured the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award for the Young Adult Protagonist. The book was also featured in the list curated by Barnes & Noble Booksellers as the Best Books of the Year 2011.



(Picture Courtesy: Goodreads, Inc.)

In 2012, *Divergent* successfully claimed and was nominated for several awards including the Georgia Peach Book Award, Soaring Eagle Book Award, Isinglass Teen Read Award for Grades 6-8, Nominations for the Milwaukee County Teen Book Award and the Children's Choice Book Award in the Teen Choice Book of the Year category, DABWAHA Romance Tournament Award in the category of Best Young Adult Romance. The novel was also a Finalist in the Children's Book Council (CBC) Children's & Teen Choice Book Awards list the in 2012.

Divergent bagged the awards like the Rhode Island Teen Book Award and the Green Mountain Book Award in the year 2013. The novel also received impressive

awards like Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award -- Grades 9-12, South Carolina Book Award in the Young Adult category, New Mexico Land of Enchantment Award in the Young Adult category, Gateway Readers Award in the High School category, Green Mountain Book Award for Grades 9-12, Iowa High School Book Award for Young Adult Books, Kentucky Bluegrass Award for Grades 9-12, Nevada Young Readers' Award in the Young Adult category, Rhode Island Teen Book Award for Ages 12 and up, all in the year 2013.

In 2014, *Divergent* won a good number of awards including the, Connecticut Nutmeg Children's Book Award, Evergreen Teen Book Award, Sakura Medal (selected by the students from international schools in Japan each year), Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award, California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult books, The Magnolia Award for readers for grades 6-8, Louisiana Teen Readers' Choice Award, Gateway Readers Award, and the Oklahoma Sequoyah Award in the High School section. The list of awards for *Divergent* in 2014 also include the Colorado Blue Spruce Award in the Young Adult category, Evergreen Young Adult Book Award, Garden State Teen Book Award for Fiction (Grades 9-12), Young Reader's Choice Award in the Senior category(Grades 10-12), and the Grand Canyon Reader Award in the Teen category. *Divergent* was also nominated for a Lincoln Award in 2014.

Divergent also won several other awards from the United States including the Florida Teens Read Award, Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Awards, Tennessee Volunteer State Book Awards, and the novel was also featured in the educational book lists like the CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison) Choices, SLJ (School Library Journal) Best Books. The book was also included in the

book lists from the state of Texas like the Texas Tayshas Reading List, and the Texas Lone Star Reading Lists.

Divergent also won and was nominated for foreign book awards like the Sakura Medal from Japan in 2014, and was nominated for the Premio El Templo de las Mil Puertas Magazine Award in the category of Mejor novela extranjera perteneciente a saga in the year 2011.

***Insurgent*: Awards, Honours and Book Lists**

The second novel in the *Divergent Trilogy*, *Insurgent* had also won and was nominated for several important awards. The list includes the 2012 Goodreads Choice Award in the category Goodreads Author for Veronica Roth (for *Insurgent*), 2012 Goodreads Choice Award in the category of Young Adult Fantasy, and the 2012 RT Reviewers Choice Award in the Young Adult Futuristic Fiction category. *Insurgent* was also included in the esteemed book lists like the 2013 Teens' Top Ten List of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), 2013 Readers' Choice List also prepared by the YALSA, Finalist in the Children's Book Council (CBC) Children's & Teen Choice Book Awards list, Barnes & Noble Best Books of the Year 2012 list, and as a Top Pick in the 2012 RT Book Reviews list. *Insurgent* was also nominated for the 2013 Buckeye Children's Book Award in the Teen category and the 2015 Sequoyah Book Award in the High School category. Veronica Roth was also nominated for Author of the Year Award given by the Children's Book Council (for *Insurgent*).

***Allegiant*: Awards, Honours and Book Lists**

Allegiant, the final part of the *Divergent Trilogy* had also won and was nominated for a number of awards as usual. The novel was the winner of the Children's Book Council (CBC) Teen Book of the Year 2014. *Allegiant* also won the 2013 Goodreads Choice Award in the category of Young Adult Fantasy. The book was also a part of the list curated by Barnes & Noble Booksellers as the Best Books of the Year 2013. *Allegiant* also earned a Starred Review in the 2013 School Library Journal. The novel was also nominated for the 2014 Buckeye Children's Book Award in the Teen category. Veronica Roth was also nominated for Author of the Year Award given by the Children's Book Council (for *Allegiant*).



(Picture Courtesy: The Divergent Life; <http://www.divergentlife.com/2014/05/allegiant-wins-ccba-teen-book-of-year.html>)

Finally, *Divergent* series won 5 awards in the 2013 Epic Reads Book Shimmy Awards namely the Most Emotionally Crippling Ending for *Allegiant*, Tris as the Most Badass Heroine, World Series Champion award for the *Divergent Series*, and The Best Author or Pagemaster award for Veronica Roth, and the Best of Shelf - Overall best book of 2013 Award for *Allegiant*.

4.8. Artifacts and Games based on the *Divergent Series*

Divergent series also culminated in the production and business of merchandise including artifacts, toys, action figures, video games and notebooks. Many of these items are available to purchase offline and from popular online shopping sites including Amazon, Flipkart and eBay. These artifacts are highly popular in North America and Europe, especially among women and kids. People from India have also purchased several of these items from the online shops as evident from the ratings and reviews provided on the Amazon and Flipkart product pages. This section explores a number of the above mentioned artifacts, games and other merchandise based on the *Divergent series*.

Unofficial Coloring Books

Divergent Film Series inspired designers and stationery manufacturers to develop coloring books for children. There numerous unofficial coloring books available on the *Divergent series* with pictures and themes from the films. These books include *Divergent Coloring Book: Relaxation Nice Books for Adults, Boys, Girls Unofficial Unique Edition*, *Divergent Coloring Book: Premium Fantastic Fun High-quality Adult Books*, *Divergent Coloring Book: Perfection Nice Books High Quality Unofficial For Kids And*

Adults, Divergent Coloring Book: The Unofficial Illustrations Stunning Relaxing Activity Pages Books For Women And Men Paperback, Divergent Dots Lines Spirals Coloring Book: Divergent Great Gift Dots-Lines-Spirals Activity Books For Kid And Adult, Divergent Color By Number: Divergent Book An Adult Coloring Book For Stress-Relief, Insurgent Dots Lines Swirls Coloring Book: High-Quality Color Dots Lines Swirls Activity Books, Allegiant Dots Lines Swirls Coloring Book: Allegiant Perfect Book Activity Color Puzzle Books For Adults, Teenagers, and many more.

Divergent and Insurgent Calendars

The film series also inculcated in Calendars from every year since the films were released. It is interesting to state here that the Calendars based on the series are still available in the market for the current year 2022. The calendars include Divergent 2022 Calendar: OFFICIAL Divergent calendar 2022 Weekly & Monthly Planner with Notes Section for All Divergent Fans!, Insurgent 2021 Calendar released on January 12, 2021, and many other versions.



Toys, Action Figures and Collectibles

Divergent series also inspired the manufacturing of toys, stickers, action figures, magnets, bookmarks and similar merchandise especially aimed at children and young adults. Most of these collectible items are still available for purchase in all the major online shopping platforms like Amazon, Flipkart and eBay. All the important merchandise currently available on the market is included in this research.



Video Games based on the Divergent Series

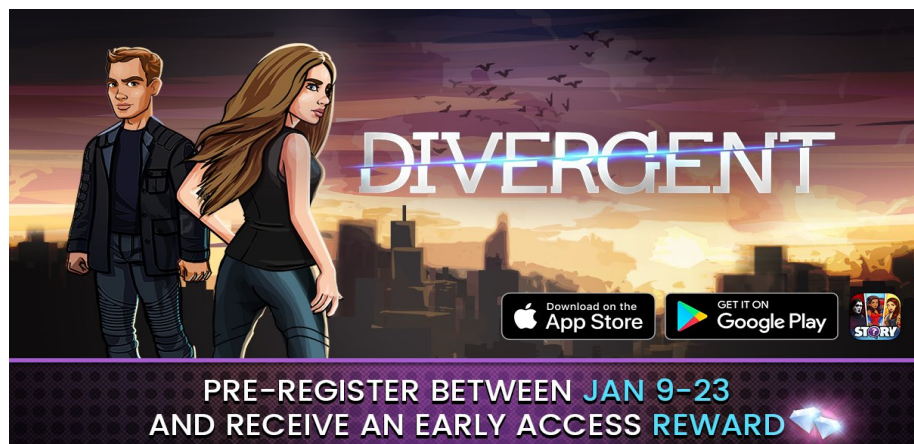
LEGO Divergent Series: The Video Game

Divergent Series inspired the development of a video game by LEGO. LEGO is a line of plastic construction toys that are manufactured by The Lego Group, a privately held company based in Billund, Denmark. As of 2021, Lego was the largest toy company in the world. This video game includes most of the characters, themes, and features levels based on the series. The Divergent part of the game consists of the levels The Faction Test, Capture the Flag, The Four Fears, The Simulation Test, and Attack on Abnegation. The Insurgent part of the game consists of the levels The Amity Farm, The Candor

Courts, House Flies, The City Crumbles, and The Message. The game also features most of the characters from the series including Tris Prior, Tobias “Four” Eaton, Christina, Will, Caleb Prior, Marcus Eaton, Peter, Uriah, Natalie Prior, Evelyn, Molly, Jeanine Matthews, Andrew Prior, Jack Kang, Johanna, Tori Wu, and Edith Prior.

Divergent Mobile Game

A Video Game for Mobile Phones based on *Divergent* was developed by the Canadian video game developer Ludia Inc. The game was released on January 25, 2018 and it was available to download from the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.



The Divergent Series: Insurgent – Shatter Reality (Virtual Reality Experience)

This is a fully-immersive 3D Virtual Reality video game based on the *Insurgent* novel and film. The video game is directed by Cory Strassburger and it features the cast from the film: Kate Winslet, Miles Teller, Mekhi Phifer, and Patrick Cronen. The VR game was developed by ReelFX and published by Lionsgate. It was released on March 10, 2015 and is available on platforms like Google Play, LG 360 VR, Samsung Gear VR, and Google Cardboard VR.



The Divergent Series: Allegiant VR Experience

Allegiant's immersive VR experience was released on 18th March 2016. The VR game was developed by Wevr Inc, Big Red Button Entertainment and published by Summit Entertainment LLC, a subsidiary of Lionsgate. The game also features most of the cast from *Allegiant*. The VR experience is available on platforms like Google Play, LG 360 VR, Samsung Gear VR, and Google Cardboard VR.



4.9. Conclusion

Divergent series has been highly influential in almost all the criteria a book series is supposed to excel. It produced a separate fan base following the footsteps of Young Adult Dystopian, Science Fiction, and Fantasy predecessors like the Harry Potter series, Twilight series, Percy Jackson series, and *The Hunger Games* trilogy. Official website of HarperCollins publishers confirm that more than thirty two million copies of the series have been sold all over the world. When *Divergent* was first released in 2011, it was positioned at number six on the New York Times best-seller list. But the second book in the series, *Insurgent* climbed up to the first spot of the same book seller list in 2012. *Allegiant* became the most most-preordered book ever published by HarperCollins when it came out in 2013. The 10th Anniversary Edition of the novel series was released in June 2021 to celebrate the immense success of the series. It is also noteworthy that the *Divergent* series is published from India for sale only within the subcontinent, which is different from the editions of the English speaking countries.

The novel and film both have a setting of the dystopian and post-apocalyptic Chicago. Veronica Roth was raised in Barrington, Illinois. *Divergent* is set in the futuristic dystopian Chicago because of the author's fondness of Chicago and its surrounding places. In Roth's own words: "I wrote the rough draft and I felt like it needed a more grounded sense of place, and I looked at the city I had described, which is all these trains constantly moving, and this lake marsh, and these rivers. And I realized it was Chicago already, and that was just because it's the city I've known and loved the longest." Certain prominent contemporary Chicago landmarks are noted throughout the series. For example, portions of the important Chicago streets, State Street, Michigan

Avenue, and Lake Shore Drive are all mentioned in the series. Millennium Park in Chicago is described as a barren pile of grass and a large steel beam. In this future Chicago, Lake Michigan has dried up, becoming a marsh rather than a lake. In short, Chicago is one of the most important characters in the series which plays a good part in shaping the lives of characters. Even though Divergent series depicts most of the city of Chicago uninhabitable, the landmarks are still pretty prominent and easily distinguishable. Some landmarks worth mention are, The Sears/Willis Tower, The 'L' train system which connects the entire city, The Merchandise Mart, The Navy Pier, The John Hancock Center, and The Bean.

Veronica Roth is an alumna of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She majored in the creative writing program and graduated from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University. Roth was able to impress the students and faculty of Northwestern including her MFA supervisor. Joseph Diebold, Editor of *The Daily Northwestern* reports: "English Prof. Averill Curdy, who directed the honors seminar for creative writing majors when Roth was graduating from the program, said Roth's work stuck with her".

The novel series was translated into most of the major languages from around the world. Roth was also able to win several prestigious awards in young adult and teenage category for the book series. The film series based on the books were also successful at the box office as these films collected an approximate total of 765 million US dollars against the budget of 305 million. As evident from the film market research firm CinemaScore, the films received positive scores between A and B from the audience who

watched these in theatres. Merchandise and artifacts based on the films are still available for sale online and especially the *Divergent* Calendar is there for the year 2022-2023.

Veronica Roth wrote several other books for children and young adults following the immense success of the *Divergent* franchise. Her books in the Carve the Mark duology, *Carve the Mark* was released in 2017 and *The Fates Divide* was released in 2018. *Carve the Mark* was Roth's first novel to be published after *Allegiant* (2013). She repeated her success with these novels and also wrote a short story collection *The End and Other Beginnings* and it was published in 2019. Roth's first novel aimed at adults, *Chosen Ones* was released in 2020. She is still quite busy with writing and her two latest novels, *Poster Girl* and *Arch-Conspirator* are expected to be released very soon.

Harper Collins publishers put together a list of 200 books they had published from the 19th century to present. This collection consists of fiction and non-fiction books that had a significance influence on literary and popular culture. This list includes classics of literature like *Moby Dick*, *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Brave New World*, and winners of prestigious literary awards and prizes such as the Booker Prize and the Pulitzer Prize like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Hours*, *The God of Small Things*, and *The White Tiger*, and children's classic novels like *The Hobbit*, *Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* and *Bridge to Terabithia*. It is very important from my perspective of research that *Divergent* is a part of this collection.

In conclusion, *Divergent* series has been highly influential in all the ways a bestselling novel series is expected to be. After *The Hunger Games* series, it is the most successful and popular young adult dystopian/ post-apocalyptic franchise with a female

lead. Veronica Roth also inspired several young writers and women novelists to take creative writing more seriously with her success. The franchise still remains as relevant in popular culture as more works from Veronica Roth and the adaptations of her works like *Chosen Ones* are on their way. The series continues to be globally popular as the books, films, and the merchandise are still at large on websites and shopping sites including the market of India.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

Literature for children and young adults always had a special place in the history of literature in English language. British authors started writing novels for children and teenagers not long after the formal invention of the literary genre Novel possibly by Henry Fielding in the eighteenth century. The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes published in 1765 by John Newbery is widely considered as the first novel for children. For his work, John Newbery is also known as the Father of Children's Literature and there is an award in his name called the John Newbery Medal, awarded to an American writer of children's literature every year by the Association for Library Service to Children, a subdivision of the American Library Association. From the first work for children in English literature, the genre flourished rapidly and contributed numerous classics to the field of literature. A separate subgenre for the young adults or teenagers was properly recognized and marketed as the young adult literature separated children's literature from the adolescent literature at least for the publishers and the critics. Now the classification ranges from books for children between ages five to eighteen because of the difference in reading interests and habits.

Even though children's literature and the literature for young adults were highly popular in the western countries and especially the English speaking countries, the genres achieved popularity in India definitely with the publication of the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling between 1997 and 2007. The film adaptations of the series starting from 2001 also played a massive role in converting the franchise to a worldwide sensation. I

was in lower primary school when the first novel in the series was published and the last film in the Harry Potter film series was released when I was in college. The actors who play the characters of Harry Potter and his friends are almost of my age group. So, I was a part of the generation which celebrated the peak of young adult literature and this is reflected in all my works.

Moving on to the primary texts of this thesis, *The Hunger Games* was first published in the year 2008 and it is about the sixteen year old teenage protagonist Katniss Everdeen. This is my exact same age when the novel was released and the novel is also targeted at the teenagers. Many critics are of the opinion that *The Hunger Games* resurrected the field of young adult literature and the YA literature in general. The novel's film adaptation was released in March 2012 and it reached more audience around the world and received international recognition. *Divergent* was first published in 2011 following the young adult dystopian trend initiated by *The Hunger Games* trilogy. The movie adaptation of *Divergent* was released in 2014 and it helped in the worldwide recognition and in increasing the sales of the book series.

When the most of these novels were first published, I was also a young adult or a teenager like the protagonists in these works. The film adaptations of *Harry Potter*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Maze Runner*, *I am Number Four*, *The Twilight Saga*, *Percy Jackson*, and *Divergent* played an important role in leading me to this project. I was much thrilled when one of my favourite directors, Steven Spielberg, adapted the YA dystopian novel *Ready Player One* into a film. Also, there are a number of TV shows like *Teen Wolf*, *The 100*, *Riverdale*, and *13 Reasons Why* with characters

and actors almost my same age and this strongly influenced me in my academic and entertainment life.

Before moving on to the impact of The Hunger Games and Divergent trilogies on popular culture, we can have a look at how the Harry Potter franchise influenced the popular culture around the world in different ways. First of all, all the novels in the Harry Potter series were adapted into movies between 2001 and 2011. All the movies were highly successful at the box office both in North America and worldwide. At that same time, live action film versions of Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings trilogy directed by Peter Jackson was also released between 2001 and 2003, again turning out to be highly profitable. The third film in the series, The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) went on to win eleven awards at the seventy sixth Academy Awards in 2004. This stupendous success of the children's and young adult novel adaptations made way for the adaptation of more novels belonging to the same genre. The Chronicles of Narnia (2005-2010), The Twilight Saga (2008-2012), and Percy Jackson & the Olympians (2010 – 2013) followed suit. In short, The Lord of the Rings and the Harry Potter film series paved the way for the adaptations of almost all the popular children's and adolescent literature in English language and even other languages like Inkheart (2008), the film adaptation of Cornelia Funke's German novel Inkheart or Tintenherz (2003).

Continuing with the influence of the Harry Potter series on popular culture, the books were translated into more than sixty four languages including the Indian languages Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil. Rowling and the series also instrumental in the formation of a type of music called the "Wizrock". The novel and the film series also produced a huge amount of merchandise including the replicas of the magical assets like hats, broomsticks

and wands, common merchandise like mugs, stickers, t-shirts, colouring books and a long list of other items. A newly discovered Dinosaur species from the United States was given the name *Dracorex Hogwartsia* in honour of J.K. Rowling and Harry Potter (Gunelius 10). Rowling found the “Wizarding World” (previously known as Pottermore) to deal with all the official business regarding the Harry Potter franchise. Wizarding World is also the name of the fictional universe which consists of the Harry Potter series and the Fantastic Beasts series. Fantastic Beasts is the prequel series of the Harry Potter series and is produced and co-written by Rowling. The film series consist of three films, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (2016), *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* (2018), and the final film of the series *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* was released in April this year (2022). Finally, new editions of all the books in the series were released in accordance with the twentieth anniversary of the first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* in 2017. The twenty fifth anniversary edition of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* was released this year in 2022. All these facts are included in the conclusion part because both the *Hunger Games* and *Divergent* series followed the same strategy in dealing with pop culture.

In the case of *The Hunger Games series*, the books have been translated in to more than fifty languages so far including the prequel of the series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* published in May 2020. The book series had a sale of more than a hundred million copies and this is a remarkable achievement for a series that was published within the past fifteen years. By 2014, more than sixty five million copies of the first three books were sold in North America alone. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* which was released after a gap of ten years after Collins’ last novel *Mockingjay*,

had a sale of more than half million copies in its first week of release and sold almost three hundred thousand copies in second week.

Film adaptations of The Hunger Games series were released between 2012 and 2015. The last book *Mockingjay* was divided into two parts and released as two movies in 2014 and 2015. The four films in total collected almost three billion US dollars at the box office and are among the top grossing movie franchises of all time, ranked at number 21 according to the latest box office collections list. The movie franchise was extremely successful and this is why the prequel novel *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is also being adapted into a film next year. This film is going to be released in November 2023. In the case of India and Kerala, *The Hunger Games* (2012) had a limited release outside North America and was screened only in a few theatres in India. It was not released in Kerala and Thrissur because I had noticed the Hollywood films released in Kerala at that time. But from the second film *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, all the films in the series received wide release in India and were release in theatres of Kerala. This in my own way proves that the film series and the books slowly attained popularity worldwide.

The Hunger Games franchise also inspired several attractions on different parts of the world in association with the film distributors Lionsgate Entertainment Corporation. These attractions and exhibitions include The Hunger Games: The Exhibition located at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, United States; Panem Aerial Tour, Capitol Bullet Train, and Effie Meet and Greet at the Motiongate Theme park in Dubai, and the Hunger Games Mockingjay Flight Rebel Escape as a part of the Lionsgate Entertainment World in Zhuhai Hengqin, China. The Hunger Games Exhibition was originally conceived as an exhibition touring around the world and the crew visited places around the globe

including Australia and Singapore. The exhibition is still active at the MGM Grand and they are currently celebrating the tenth anniversary of The Hunger Games film with an art competition for the high school students of Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada. Attractions in the exhibition also include the largest interactive touch screen in the world (included in the Guinness Book of World Records), Office of President Snow (An important character in the novels and the film series), an interactive map of Panem (futuristic fictional North America in the series), Dystopian costumes from the film series, Hall of Justice, and the Tribute Train. This exhibition's specialties also include a retail shop with collectible items, an interactive control table for the game makers, and galleries with pictures of District 13. All these attractions provide excellently immersive and entertaining experiences to the children and the adults.

The series went on to create a wide variety of editions both in the United States and in different countries like Australia, the UK and even India. Film tie in editions of all the books were published in correspondence with the releases of the three films. Scholastic published the special editions of the trilogy in 2018. Tenth anniversary editions of The Hunger Games series were released as a box set in 2018 to celebrate the magnificent success of the novel series all over the world. The audiobook of The Hunger Games novel narrated by the actress Carolyn McCormick was first released in 2009. The complete audiobook of the trilogy narrated again by Carolyn McCormick was released in October 2015. A special edition of The Hunger Games trilogy audiobook read by the actress Tatiana Maslany and published by Scholastic Audio was released in 2019. The audiobook version of the prequel The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes read by Santino Fontana and published by Scholastic Audio was released in May 2020.

The Hunger Games series also inspired several spoof literature and films. The list includes *The Hunger Pains: A Parody* by The Harvard Lampoon, *The Hunger but Mainly Death Games: A Parody* written by John Bailey Owen and Aaron Geary under the pseudonym Bratniss Everclean (a mock name for the Hunger Games' protagonist, Katniss Everdeen), *The Humping Games: A Parody* written by Jack Gallow, and the films *The Hungover Games* directed by Josh Stolberg and *The Starving Games* directed by Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. The spoofs or parodies of The Hunger Games also include the play *Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death* written by Don Zolidis and the comic book "Hunger Games: Parody - The Starvation Games Starring Jennifer Lawrence!" written by an anonymous author using the name The Parody Brothers.

The novel series claimed a large number of awards and honours within North America and from different parts of the world. Most important and relevant awards secured by the series include the Golden Duck Award in the Young Adult Fiction Category (Hal Clement Award), California Young Reader Medal, Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards (Cybils Awards) in the category of fantasy and science fiction, West Australian Young Readers' Book Award for Older Readers, Sakura Medal for Middle School Book, the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award, Premio El Templo de las Mil Puertas, Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis for Preis der Jugendjury, and the Prix Et-lisez-moi for The Hunger Games, the Goodreads Choice Award for Favorite Young Adult series and book, Best Books for Young Adults list inclusion by the American Library Association, Hal Clement Award (Golden Duck Award for Young Adult), Teen Choice Book of the Year, Soaring Eagle Book Award for, and the Indies

Choice Book Award in YA category for *Catching Fire* and the Favorite Book and Young Adult Fantasy awards at the Goodreads Choice Awards (2010), Notable Books of the Year by New York Times [2010], Best Book of the Year selected by the magazine Publishers Weekly (2010), Barnes & Noble Best Teen Books of 2010, Best Young Adult Book of the Year by Kirkus, and nominations for the prestigious Locus and Nebula Awards for the novel *Mockingjay*. This long list provides more than enough proof about the reception of The Hunger Games trilogy by the book critics and the readers.

The franchise also played a key role in the development of a few Virtual Reality experiences and video games. The Hunger Games - Virtual Reality Experience is the 360 degree immersive VR experience developed by the collaboration between Lionsgate Studios, Animation and Graphics Designers Reel FX and Samsung. The Hunger Games: *Girl on Fire* was an exclusive game designed for the iPhones. The Hunger Games *Adventures* was a game released on Facebook and developed by the video game developers Funtactix. It was made available for the android and iOS based mobile phones and devices. This game was also released on the same day of the release of The Hunger Games movie in 2012. *Hunger Games: Catching Fire - Panem Run* released in 2013 is another mobile game based on the novel and film series. The mobile game is based on *Catching Fire* and it was developed by Reliance Games. Most probably the last video game based on the series is *The Hunger Games: Panem Rising*. The game was developed by Kabam Beijing Studios for the iOS platforms. It was released in 2014 as a part of the promotion of the film *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1*.

The merchandise and collectible items based on The Hunger Games series have become a part of the global popular culture. Many of these items including the pendants,

action figures and pins are of high demand and people still purchase these items from online stores even in India. Members of the Facebook group called The Hunger Games: Official Fan Group usually post pictures of the merchandise based on The Hunger Games they purchase online and their collection of artifacts. The series is still actively discussed in various forums and fan groups on the internet like The Hunger Games: Official Fan Group, The Official Hunger Games Group, The Hunger Games Fan Page, The Hunger Games Fan Club, The Hunger Games Addicts, and the THG Fansite on YouTube.

It can be argued that the most relevant contributions of The Hunger Games series are the influence of the series on real life problems like the Food and Hunger Campaign and the Myanmar and Thailand protests. When the first film in the series *The Hunger Games* was released, the film's team along with Suzanne Collins joined hands with the World Food Programme and Feeding America in support of the awareness campaign about hunger around the world and the importance of donating money for a good cause. They developed a special website wfp.org/hungergames for the promotion of the film and in support of the Feeding America campaign. The website included a public service announcement with the actors of the film and a quiz for the awareness about the campaigns and hunger problems worldwide, and a link to make donations for the cause.

Another significant achievement of the novel and film series is that these have had a symbolic role to play in the recent protests against totalitarian governments around the world. Protestors in Myanmar borrowed the salute using three fingers from The Hunger Games movies as a symbol of protest against their authoritarian and oppressive government. The symbol was first used probably in an Asian country in Thailand; people used the same gesture in solidarity with the protestors against the military coup in 2014.

The themes of censorship and oppression which are prevalent in the novels and the movies turned out to be real in the case of the Thailand protests as it was reported that more than seven people were arrested for anti-governmental activities. CBS reported that protesters in Hong Kong also used the Hunger Games gesture to protest against the totalitarian Chinese government who constantly tries to take control of Hong Kong. China even tries to censor Google and Internet usage within the country.

Citing another real life example, Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart reported on protests in Baltimore, Maryland on 27 April 2015. The protests were organised by local communities in response to the death of Freddie Grey on 19 April 2015, a week after he sustained severe spinal injuries during an arrest and subsequent transportation by Baltimore Police. To satirise the media's apparent indifference to the events in Baltimore in favour of a night of self-congratulatory entertainment, *The Daily Show* segment featured "senior civil unrest correspondent" Jessica Williams dressed as the character Effie Trinket from director Gary Ross's 2012 film adaptation of *The Hunger Games*. By explicitly comparing racialised police violence with Collins's dystopian novel, Williams' skit narrated an important point about the lived experience of Black Americans in the here and now: Black Americans live in dystopian times. All these real life incidents explicitly demonstrate the relevance *The Hunger Games* series in particular and dystopian literature and films in general.

Moving onto the *Divergent* Franchise, the novel series was released during the peak time of young adult dystopian novels. Several other acclaimed novel series like *Delirium* and *Legend* were published almost at the same time as the *Divergent* series. But *Divergent* series was highly popular like *The Hunger Games* series and *The Maze Runner*

series and this led to the adaptation of all these novels into feature films. Just like *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* was also translated into more than fifty languages. According to the publisher HarperCollins, more than thirty five million copies of the series were sold globally. The book is published in all English speaking countries along with India.

Because of the huge success and extreme popularity of the *Divergent* series, Veronica Roth carried on with her career in writing and she continues to write dystopian and science fiction novels to the date. Roth penned a number of acclaimed novels after the *Divergent* series including *Carve the Mark*, *The Fates Divide*, *Chosen Ones*, *Poster Girl*, and *Arch-Conspirator*.

All the three novels in the series were adopted into films between 2014 and 2017. The film trilogy collected more than seven hundred and sixty five million US dollars at the worldwide box office. All the three films were widely released in India and were also screened in theatres of Kerala and Thrissur to the best of my knowledge. Even though the films were not that much well received as compared to the novels, these helped the novels to reach a worldwide audience and high circulation within North America and English speaking countries.

Divergent series also served as the inspiration for a variety of attractions and events following the path of *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games* series. “The Dauntless Fear Simulator” located in the Lionsgate Entertainment World in China is a great example. This is a virtual reality experience that enables fans of the series to experience the fear test taken by the Dauntless faction members in real life. Another attraction inside the Lionsgate Entertainment World based on the *Divergent* series is the “Chasm

Climbing Course” which also tests the strength and fears of the participants by asking them to climb suspended bridges and walls. University of Missouri organized a free outdoor screening of the film *Insurgent* in 2015 shortly after the film’s theatrical release. This must be due to the educational and entertainment aspects of the film series.

The second and third films in the series inspired the development of Virtual Reality games based on the series. The VR experience focusing on the *Insurgent* film and novel is titled *The Divergent Series: Insurgent – Shatter Reality*. This VR video game features many of the cast members from the film including Kate Winslet and Miles Teller. The VR video game based on the *Allegiant* movie is titled *The Divergent Series: Allegiant VR Experience*. The *Allegiant* VR game features the entire lead cast from the movie including Shailene Woodley and Theo James. *Divergent* series also inspired the development two other video games: *LEGO Divergent Series: The Video Game* and *Divergent Mobile Game*.

The awards and honours received by the *Divergent* series are also indicative of its relevance and acceptance in popular culture. *Divergent* novel won the awards like the Goodreads Award for the Favorite Book, Choice Award in the category of YA Science Fiction and Fantasy by Goodreads, Georgia Peach Book Award, Soaring Eagle Book Award, Isinglass Teen Read Award for Grades 6-8, Gateway Readers Award in the High School category, Green Mountain Book Award for Grades 9-12, Connecticut Nutmeg Children’s Book Award, Evergreen Teen Book Award, Sakura Medal (selected by the students from international schools in Japan each year), California Young Readers Medal in the category of YA novels, The Magnolia Award for readers for grades 6-8, and the Grand Canyon Reader Award in the Teen category. *Insurgent* won the Goodreads Choice

Award in the category Goodreads Author for Veronica Roth, Goodreads Choice Award in the category of Young Adult Fantasy, and the RT Reviewers Choice Award in the Young Adult Futuristic Fiction category. *Allegiant* was the winner of the Children's Book Council (CBC) Teen Book of the Year 2014. The novel also secured the 2013 Choice Award for Young Adult Fantasy awarded by Goodreads.

Just like The Hunger Games series, *Divergent* series also culminated in releasing different editions of the novels in different countries and on special occasions. Separate editions of the series are published in the countries like The UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and India. Harper Collins also released a special collector's edition of all the books in the series. Film tie in editions of all the books were published in correspondence with the releases of the three films. Tenth Anniversary editions of the books including *Four: A Divergent Collection* were published in June 2021 to celebrate the success and demand of the series. Harper Collins published the audiobook versions of *Divergent* and *Insurgent* narrated by Emma Galvin in December 2012. Audiobook version of *Allegiant* narrated by Emma Galvin and Aaron Stanford was published by Harper Collins in October 2013. All these audiobooks are available for download and still being purchased from Audible, Google Play Books, and audiobooks.com.

The merchandise based on *Divergent* series was popular at the time of the film releases and many of these are still available to purchase online. The products inspired by the series include bookmarks, colouring books, laptop skins, mobile phone covers, toys, stickers, action figures, magnets, pendants and calendars. Calendars based on the *Divergent* series deserve special mention here because *Divergent's* physical calendar for this year 2022 is available online.

Lauren Levitt from the Department of Communication at Tulane University in the United States says that the online fan forums and other discussions on the *Divergent* series lead to a healthy debate on political consciousness and the relevance of contemporary dystopian fiction in the facilitation of arguments and counter arguments about the political systems and the sociopolitical issues we face today and those issues we may have to face in the future. She also argues that “cultivating democratic values in young people and teaching them political skills could empower them to take advantage of the political opportunities offered by young adult dystopian texts and fandoms”.

From what we have seen from the evidence here, *Divergent* series has been highly influential in all the ways a bestselling novel series is expected to be. After *The Hunger Games* series, it is the most successful and popular young adult dystopian/ post-apocalyptic franchise with a female lead. Veronica Roth also inspired several young writers and women novelists to take creative writing more seriously with her success. The franchise still remains as relevant in popular culture as more works from Veronica Roth and the adaptations of her works like *Chosen Ones* are on their way. The series continues to be globally popular as the books, films, and the merchandise are still at large on websites and shopping sites including the market of India.

In conclusion of the thesis, the franchises of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* cleared a path for the young adult novels and dystopian novels to be adapted and recognized even more than what was already there. Young Adult dystopian and science fiction novels from the twenty first century adapted into films after the release of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* series include *The Maze Runner series* (2014-2018) based on the books by James Dashner, *The Girl with All the Gifts* (2016) based on the novel by

Mike Carey, *The 5th Wave* (2016) based on the novel by Rick Yancey, *The Circle* (2017) based on the novel by Dave Eggers, *The Darkest Minds* (2018) based on the novel by Alexandra Bracken, and *Ready Player One* (2018) directed by the infamous Steven Spielberg based on the novel by Ernest Cline. The list also includes *The Host* (2013) based on the novel by Stephenie Meyer, *Mortal Engines* (2018) based on the novel series by Philip Reeve, and *Chaos Walking* (2021) based on the novel series by Patrick Ness. *The 100* novel series by Kass Morgan was adapted into a TV series of the same title spanning seven seasons and hundred episodes from 2014 to 2020.

The film series in particular and young adult dystopias in general played a crucial role in reviving old dystopian and young adult dystopian/ science fiction works. *The Handmaid's Tale* (2017 – present) based on the Atwood novel, and the adaptation of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* (2020) reintroduced the classics as TV shows. Because of the renewed interest in young adult dystopias, science fiction, and fantasy, old classics in this category were adapted into feature films for the first time at the same time as the new young adult adaptations. Classic works of young adult literature from the twentieth century adapted into films include *Ender's Game* (2013) based on the novel by Orson Scott Card, *The Giver* (2014) based on the novel by Lois Lowry, and *A Wrinkle in Time* (2018) adapted from the novel by Madeleine L'Engle.

The books also inspired the writing of young adult dystopian books by the coloured and indigenous authors. Cherie Dimaline, an indigenous writer from the Métis Nation of Ontario wrote two young adult dystopian novels with aboriginal characters. The first YA dystopian novel by Cherie Dimaline is *The Marrow Thieves* published in 2017. The book won several important awards like the Governor General's Award for

English-language children's literature, the 2017 Kirkus Prize in the young adult literature category, and the 2018 Sunburst Award for young adult fiction. Dimaline published the sequel to *The Marrow Thieves*, titled *Hunting by Stars* in 2021. Coloured author Jael Richardson wrote her first novel *Gutter Child: A Novel* in 2021 also following this trend.

The popularity of young adult literature with dystopian, science fiction, and fantasy tropes still continues as it is evident from the long list of films and TV shows that are released recently and going to be released in the future. The most recent young adult films and TV series released include *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* (2016), *Artemis Fowl* (2020), *Shadow and Bone* (2021), and *His Dark Materials* (2019 – present). The young adult adaptations awaiting release include the Disney Plus series *Percy Jackson*, *Ready Player One's* sequel *Ready Player Two*, season 2 of *Shadow and Bone* and the prequel to *The Hunger Games*, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. Original TV shows for young adults like *Stranger Things* and YA comic book adaptations like the *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* are also highly popular among the audience of all ages. All of these information leads to the proper conclusion of my thesis: young adult literature and media are still highly popular among the public and the dystopian, science fiction, and fantasy genres are the most popular genres among these.

As a last note, several totalitarian governments around the world tried to censor the *Hunger Games* books, movies and films with similar themes. Internet censorship is a global threat to human rights and economic opportunity. In this world of post-truth, propaganda, constant surveillance, and socio – political unrest, young adult dystopian works stand out because of their visionary themes of politics, democracy, individuality, and freedom.

Chapter 6

Recommendations

This study is limited to the most popular young adult dystopian literature and the adaptations of these works and other young adult science fiction and fantasy novels, films, and TV shows. The writings of coloured and indigenous people are not included in this research. English language works from Indian writers are also not a part of this topic. As Indians and coloured people from other countries are producing more works in young adult literature, it is important to research these works for a many different reasons. Also, young adult literature written by the young adults themselves is not getting the attention it deserves. S.E. Hinton was a teenager when she wrote *The Outsiders*. So the meritorious works produced by teenagers (both literature and media) is a good topic for research in the future which is not included in my thesis. Also the study of dystopias focusing on bio politics, medical humanities, and post humanism are also perfect for future research. These topics are more related to the science fiction aspects of dystopian works as how the humans evolve, problems with nature and ecology, and the technological advances are constantly discussed in futuristic dystopias.

Apocalyptic and post – apocalyptic literature are also not properly addressed in this research work as these subgenres frequently overlap with dystopian fiction. *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* trilogies also belong to the category of post – apocalyptic fiction. The relevance of dystopian and post – apocalyptic genres is evident from the high profile TV shows and web series released very recently, especially in the United States. Critically acclaimed TV shows like *Station Eleven* (2021) based on the novel of the same

name by Emily St. John Mandel, *The Stand* (2020) based on the novel of the same name by Stephen King, *The Last of Us* (2023) which is being broadcasted currently on the American television network HBO or the Home Box Office, and the recent Netflix adaptation of the Resident Evil fictional universe. There is great scope for the research in dystopian and post- apocalyptic TV shows and web series as they became more frequent and on high demand all over the world.

Another important category I have left out here is that of comic books and graphic novels. An abundant number of comics and graphic novels with dystopian, utopian and post- apocalyptic settings are published frequently and attracts a huge number of readers. Well-known examples of this category are *V for Vendetta* and *Watchmen* by Alan Moore, and 2000 AD (Judge Dredd comics) created by Kelvin Gosnell, Pat Mills, and John Wagner. Many of these works are also adapted as films and TV shows.

More than the adaptations of the novels and literary works as films and TV shows, video games deserve special mention in this context. A good number of video games with dystopian and post - apocalyptic video games were also adapted into movies and TV series. Previously mentioned works like *The Last of Us* and *Resident Evil* were video games originally.

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