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Teaching Children Philosophy
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Lesson Plan Based on Reading

Topic: Exploring Self and Perception

Targeted Audience: Probably Middle school students, possibly high school students

Activities Students can do on their own: Journaling Every day, Reading chapters and annotating or making notes of specific thoughts

Beginning Question: What are 5 words to describe yourself?

- Give Everyone papers and pencils do write down the words
- Or doodle/draw things that represent you

Discuss with the class:

- Based on the words you used to describe yourself, who do you think you are? How would you introduce yourself to someone you just met vs how would you act with family or friends who have known you?
- What are situations where your attitude or character might change, and why do you think your attitude or how you act changes? Do you think you are still yourself when you act differently?
- Explore the phrase “I haven’t been myself much lately”
 - Do you think this phrase is accurate: if you are acting differently, does it mean you are not acting like yourself, or are you expressing another side or version of yourself?

Questions on Perception and Perspective along with Discussion about it:

- How do you think someone you just met would describe you?
- How would your friends(can specify which friends: family friends, school friends, etc) describe you?
- How would your family member describe you(i.e. Parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, etc)
- Why might people say different things about you; why is what your family might say different from what your friends might say?

Book to Read with the class and focus the lesson on:

- Divergent by Veronica Roth
- Probably would recommend reading 20 pages a day or certain chapters a day, and because I know how much work high school students might have, I would probably encourage them to at least skimp or spark notes the text they may not have much time to read so they are not completely clueless about what is being discussed in relation to the book.

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- The divergent series in itself is a great way to explore the idea of self and perception because of the idea of factions and who you are and what faction you belong to in relation to how you think about things.
- Relative to how you may see yourself and how others may see you based on your capabilities or your actions.
- Movies aren't as good as books, but I would consider watching the movie as well and discussing it instead of the book, and making the book an optional read.

How to tie in the first book in the Divergent series to individuals:

- How do students relate to different characters: Tris, Four, Caleb, Peter, Christina, Will etc.?
- Are the characters dynamic or static, who would you say they are? How do you perceive them to be?
- What do you think characters thought about when they thought about each other?
- What do you think the characters would say about themselves?
- What faction do you think you would fall into and why?

Ending Question for End of Lesson:

- Do you think people can have more than one "self"?
- Is there this idea of a "true self"? Explain why you think there would or wouldn't be.
- How do you think the way people perceive who you are affects the way you may perceive yourself?