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get a makeover.



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Celebrating
a canal



Books
A new
approach to camp

TIME FOR KIDS

FAMILY EDITION

ON THE ROAD

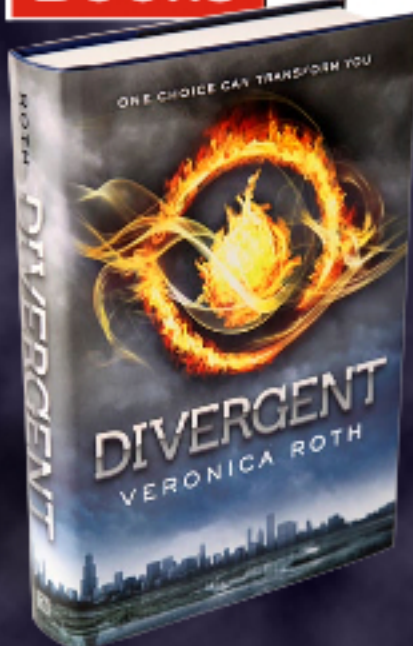
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AUGUST 2014

BOOKS GO TO CAMP

At Camp Half-Blood, activities are based on the Percy Jackson book series.

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You won't find s'mores and lanyards at Camp Divergent, a summer camp based on the popular young-adult series *Divergent*. Instead, campers meet with college professors to find the answers to brain teasers, plant vegetables, and study mixed martial arts. All the activities are inspired by the different factions, or groups, that are a key part of the plot in *Divergent*. The day camp, for kids ages 11 to 16, started this summer, and is run by the Illinois



**Camp Jupiter
is part of Camp
Half-Blood.
Here, a camper
shows off her
high-flying
moves.**

bookstore Anderson's Bookshop.

"This is a great way to make the book come alive," Candy Purdom, publicity and events manager at Anderson's Bookshop, told TFK. "The camp reinforces the joy of reading and the experience of the book."

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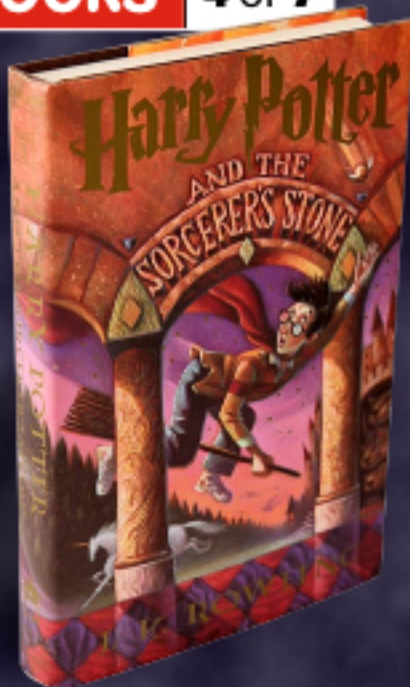


The Plot Thickens

Camp Divergent is part of a growing trend of camps based on popular books, including the Harry Potter and Ranger's Apprentice series and *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. Potter-themed camps were among the first to turn plots and characters into a camp experience. Harry Potter camps have been

Inspired by a plotline from the series, kids at Camp Divergent can climb a tall building.

COURTESY ANDERSON'S
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around for more than 10 years. And even though the series is not as popular as it once was, the camps continue to attract campers.

Inside Percy Jackson's World

Camp Half-Blood, based on the Percy Jackson series, is run by the bookstore BookPeople in Austin, Texas. More than 700 campers attended the camp in 2013, and some were treated to visits by author Rick Riordan. This summer's sessions are all sold out.

The book series was inspired by Greek mythology,



At Harry Potter Camp, wizards in training practice their craft.

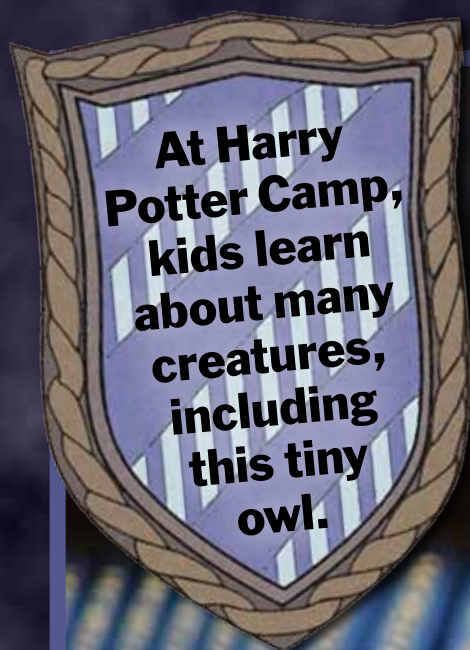


**Kids in the
Slytherin
group show
off their
awards at
Harry Potter
Camp.**

and campers—called demigods—are transported to Percy’s world. They learn how ancient Greeks lived and battled. “We incorporate activities based on art and literature,” says Topher Bradfield, the camp director and director of outreach for BookPeople. “We also do military drills, and we have obstacle courses and chariot games,” he says.



Campers at Harry Potter Camp watch a science experiment. It's just like magic!



At Harry Potter Camp, kids learn about many creatures, including this tiny owl.



Not All Fun and Games

While many adventure books are popular with kids, not all stories are suited for summer camp. Last summer, the Country Day School, in Florida, held a camp based on *The Hunger Games*, which is about a young woman competing for her survival. The camp came under fire from parents because some activities were considered too violent. The school is not offering the *Hunger Games* camp this summer.



Campers are called demigods at Camp Half-Blood. No one gets hurt in these battles.

More Book Camps on the Way

Divergent also has some violent and disturbing content. But don't expect to see any mind games, knife throwing, or train jumping at Camp Divergent. "Everything we do is very safe," Purdom says.

Attendance for the camp has far exceeded expectations, and camp organizers have already added more spaces to each of the sections this summer. Due to the success of Camp Divergent, Anderson's Bookshop may start camps based on other popular series. "We would love to do this with other books," Purdom says. "It helps engage kids on a whole other level."

— *By Melanie Kletter*

**Kids learn
archery at
Camp Half-
Blood.**



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