Banned Books Personal Reading Assignment

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this assignment is for students to link a book they are reading outside of class with an author study. The culminating project for the book will be a research paper.

Get a novel to read!
1. Pick a novel that is banned or “challenged.” The book may be currently banned/challenged or banned/challenged in the past, either way fulfills this requirement.
2. Pick a novel that is age appropriate. Please also respect what your parents would want you to read or not as a 9th grader.
3. Struggling to pick one? Think about one with that is also found on the IB book list or a New York Times best seller.
4. Be sure that the title is approved by Mrs. Aten. This is to insure that you do not read a title that may surface in another English class in high school or that was possibly read in middle school. (These titles include The Catcher in the Rye, Fahrenheit 451, The Great Gatsby, Their Eyes Were watching God, To Kill a Mocking Bird, Animal Farm, Of Mice and Men, Lord of the Flies, Separate Peace, The Giver.)

Read! You will need to finish reading this novel by **Wednesday, September 24, 2014**.

Research your author and information on its banning.
*Thursday, September 25 and Friday, September 26 in room 100M*
Questions to seek answers for:
- **History on the ban:** For what reasons did the novel get banned/challenged? Who challenged it? How did the challenge turn out? How long did the challenge last? What ultimately reversed the ban allowing the book back in libraries?
- **Author information:** What is interesting about the author’s life? What influenced the author as a writer? What influenced the author in particular to the novel you read? What was the author’s reaction to the ban, if there was one?
- **Information on the book:** How many copies were published and sold? What role does the novel play in schools and literature today?

Write a paper
*Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30 in room 100D*
In a 2-3 page double-spaced paper, write an analytical paper in which you briefly study the author and the novel’s ban, and make a final commentary on what you think about the ban of the book.