



Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents



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From year 2 upwards, pupils take part in the **Accelerated Reader** programme, which is designed to do the following things:

- Find books that are the right ability for your child
- Encourage your child to read more
- Improve your child's reading ability.



How it works...

Every pupil takes a **Star Test**, which is a computer-based test that measures a pupil's reading ability through a series of 34 questions. These tests are done in school.

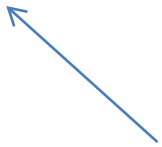


Every test for every pupil is different, and the computer selects different questions for each boy dependent on how well they answer the previous questions. Essentially, the computer adapts the test to suit your son.

Once the pupil has completed the test, they are then given a **ZPD score** by their teacher.

A ZPD score is given to your child after completing the STAR test

2.9 – 3.6



Lowest
number



Highest
number

ZPD is two numbers that the pupil uses to choose their next reading book.


The lowest number is the lowest level of book he should be choosing.

The highest number is the highest level of book he should be choosing.

Pupils will keep a record of all their ZPDs in their Reading Record.

A new STAR tests will take place every term, so pupils can see improvements in their reading ability, but also choose more challenging books.

All the AR books are colour-coded to help the student find the right one.

AR LEVELS	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

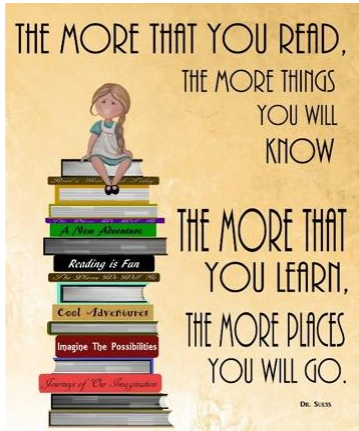
Pupils should only choose books within their numbers and the colours make it easier for them to choose the right book.





AR Quizzes

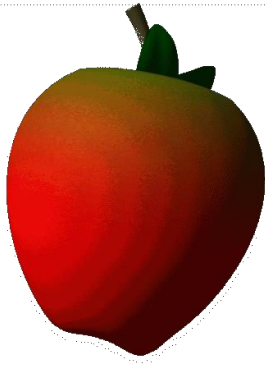
A quiz is different to a STAR test because pupils only take a quiz after they have *finished* a book.



There are usually about 10 questions on the book that has been read. At the end of the quiz the pupils are given a percentage to show them how well they have done. The number of questions will vary.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

- 1) The book the child is quizzed on must be a book they have read in the last two weeks. AR is not a memory test but rather measuring reading ability. They can look at the book to find the title of the book, but must then not use it for the quiz.
- 2) A pupil cannot take a quiz until they have read the entire text.
- 3) Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.
- 4) A Vocabulary Practice quiz should also be taken if available.
- 5) All quizzes can be done at home or in school.



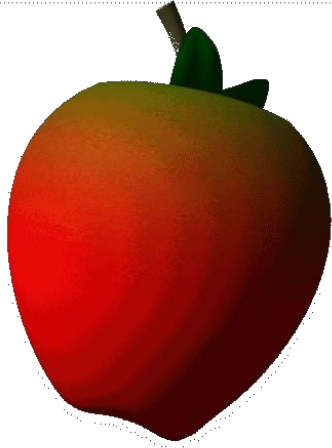
“How much should my child read each day?”

- According to Renaissance Learning’s research, children who read an average of 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.
- Therefore, your child should have time set aside for reading during day.
- During school, the boys also have time in the week put aside to read independently and with the class teacher or Teaching Assistant.
- The boys also have comprehension lessons where they study one text and practise answering questions that cover all aspects of reading.



***“Children are made readers on the laps
of their parents.”***

Emilie Buchwald



“How can I help?”

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”

Emilie Buchwald

- As with anything, performance improves with practice.
- Encourage your child to read at home.
- Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library, charity shop or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you reading.
- When reading with your child stop and ask questions to be sure your child comprehends what they have read and in general make a habit of discussing books that each of you has read.
- Please refer to the next page for ideas of types of questions.

You will find these useful questions in the Teams file.

Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 2

Before reading the book:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What might happen in the story?
- What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, adventure.
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

At the end of the book:

- Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?

Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 2



During the reading of the book:

- Where does the story take place?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting.
- Who is the storyteller? How do you know?
- How are some words made to stand out? Why?
- What adjectives has the author used to describe the character and setting?
- What physical features tell you how the character is feeling?
- What does this phrase add to the story? How?

ARBookFind.co.uk

It's not just books from The Mall that students can read, they can read books from home and take quizzes on them!

You can use ARBookFind.co.uk to check whether your child's current book is on Accelerated Reader.

Not all books are on Accelerated Reader, although books are being added all the time. Your son can still read other books, however, he will not then do a quiz.

Book Level

Book Levels represent the difficulty of the text. The Star Reading test tells your child what range of Book Levels to read within. This is called the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).

Points

Books are assigned Points based on their word count. Points are earned by passing quizzes. Students are set personalised targets each term by their teacher.

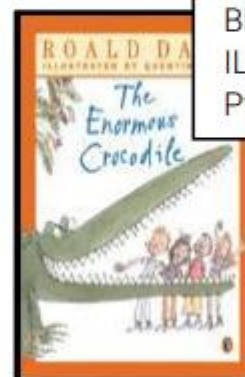
Interest Level

The Interest Level indicates for which age group a book is suitable for. It does this based on the content and themes.

Interest Level	Age (in years)
LY - Lower Years	5-8
MY - Middle Years	9-13
MY+ - Middle Years+	12+
UY - Upper Years	14+



BL: 4.0
IL: UY
Pts: 14



BL: 4.0
IL: LY
Pts: 0.5

The two examples above both have a Book Level of 4.0. This is because both have short sentences and simple vocabulary. However, 'Noughts and Crosses' is worth 14 Points because it's quite a lengthy text and is intended for Upper Years' students. Meanwhile 'The Enormous Crocodile' is worth 0.5 Points as it is much shorter, and it is intended for Lower Years.

Please use the following link if your son wishes to complete AR quizzes at home.

<https://ukhosted59.renlearn.co.uk/2260802/default.aspx>