



Believe
Persevere
Succeed

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Accelerated Reader and STAR Reading tests – information for parents

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a reading system for some children in Year 2 and children in Key Stage 2. This programme is designed to motivate children to read and supports good reading habits and progress. It also helps teachers to manage and monitor children's reading practice.

How does Accelerated Reader work?

STEP1: School determines the reading level of your child.

How does the school do this?

- Your child takes a STAR Reading test
- Teachers use their knowledge of your child

What is a STAR Reading test?

- At the beginning of each academic year, your child will take a STAR Reading test. They will also retake the test throughout the year to monitor progress and adjust targets.
- STAR Reading is a computer-based reading assessment that features multiple choice questions and uses computer-adaptive technology (questions continually adjust to your child's responses e.g. if your child's response is correct, the difficulty is increased and vice-versa).

STEP 2: A ZPD score is given to your child after completing the STAR test.

ZPD is two numbers that the student uses to choose their next reading book. The lowest number is the lowest level of book the student should be choosing; the highest number is the highest level of book the student should be choosing.

Students keep a record of all their ZPDs in their homework diaries and reading record sheets in school.

STEP 3: Your child selects a book at their own level and reads it at his / her own pace.

What is Interest Level?

Interest Level	Age
LY - Lower Years	5-8
MY - Middle Years	9-13
UY - Upper Years	14+



The Interest Level indicates which age group a book is appropriate for based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only and teachers and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding pupils.

STEP 4: When finished a book, your child takes a short quiz on a computer / iPad.

Passing the quiz (60% is the pass rate) is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. Being a 'good reader' is not simply being able to decode words and read with fluency; it is thoroughly understanding what has been read that is important.

Take a sample quiz!

www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/sample-quizzes/

What happens to the results from the quiz?

Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results. The school then uses this feedback to set reading targets and support ongoing reading practice.

Teachers may assist your child by:

- helping them choose another book
- asking questions as your child reads and before quizzing
- sitting with your child whilst they are taking the quiz

How many Accelerated Reader quizzes are there?

There are over 30 000 quizzes available and more being written every month. The school has an increasing book stock but some children will have their own personal books at home at the correct level and can take a quiz on them in school too. Unfortunately, quizzes cannot be taken at home.

How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

The best way to find out is to search for a book on the free AR book finder service available at: www.arbookfind.co.uk

How much should a child read each day?

According to Renaissance Learning's research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Please do try to set this time aside to read with your child.

Home Connect

We are aiming to set up Home Connect for parents to be able to access their child's reading library and quiz scores during the course of this academic year.

Accelerated Reader can be motivational but...

...the most important thing is for reading and books to be enjoyable for your child.

**“If we don’t learn to love books, we don’t read.
And if we don’t read widely, we don’t think deeply.”**

Michael Rosen

Please help your child to read unknown words in the AR book. Your child does not have to read the book entirely independently if this reduces their enjoyment of 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.

More information: <http://www.renlearn.co.uk/parent-resources/>

- Contact your child’s class teacher
- Miss Miller and Mr Armstrong can also answer more general questions about Accelerated Reader
- Look at the Accelerated Reader website: <http://www.renlearn.co.uk/reading/>