

# A Guide to Accelerated Reader



## What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice.

## What is a Star Reading test?

Your child will undertake a Star reading test once every half-term. Star reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes.

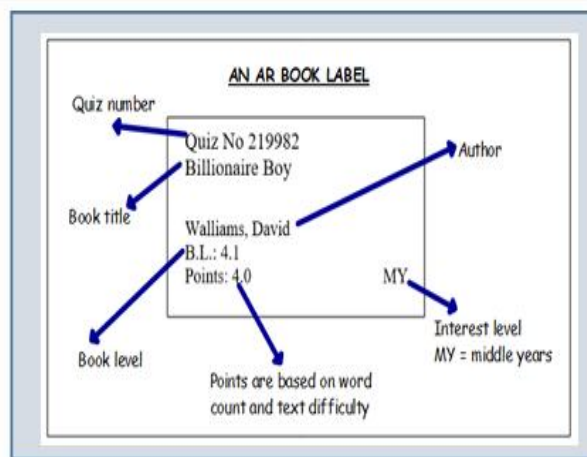
## How does the school determine my child's reading book level?

Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a Star reading test: the ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation and the book levels represent the difficulty of the text.

Teachers determine your child's reading level in several ways:

- Using the results of a Renaissance Star Reading test
- Making judgements on your child's reading fluency as well as their understanding of the text
- Monitoring reading practice quiz scores.

The teachers will use their best professional judgement to determine the book level at which your child should read. It's important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension as well as fluency and book levels may be adjusted based on the needs of your child.



### What happens when my child has read a book?

Your child will have the opportunity to read their AR book in school and home; therefore, they should be able to read the book with fluency and a good level of understanding. Then in a school reading session, your child will take a short reading practice quiz. Each quiz consists of 3, 5, 10, or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on book level and length. To support beginning readers, they are also available as recorded voice formats. They are professionally recorded by a narrator who reads the quiz questions and answer choices as they appear on screen. Your child will receive a score which will determine their understanding of the book and to provide immediate feedback.

### How does Accelerated Reader help my child develop reading independence?

Your child picks a book at their book level and reads it at their own pace. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. The book level will ensure the book is challenging for an independent read without being frustrating and hence experience success. If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may help your child in the following ways:

- Helping them choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as they read and before they take a quiz.
- Ensure that your child receives adult support to complete the quiz.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes and since they're reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful.

### What if I think my child's book is too 'easy'?

Accelerated Reader enables us to closely monitor individual reading progress and ensure that children are selecting books that are challenging enough to meet their individual needs. It may seem that your child starts on a book that does not appear to challenge them but as well as being able to decode the words and read with fluency, your child MUST be able to comprehend what they have read. Their level of comprehension will be shown in their reading practice quiz scores. Remember that your child's AR book is helping your child with learning to read independently. Accelerated Reader is one aspect of our wider reading curriculum.



### How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child. Perhaps visit your local library on a regular basis and enjoy choosing and discussing book preferences. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child has understood what they've read. Reading with your child, no matter what their age, is an important part of developing a confident reader and building a lifelong love of reading and learning.

### Book Level Colour Key:

