

*ACCELERATED
READER: A GUIDE FOR
PARENTS*



Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

In Key Stage Two (Years 3 – 6) children 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...

At the start of the year every student will take a Star Test, which is a computer-based test that measures a student's reading ability through a series of 34 questions.

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

Once the student has completed the test, they will be given a *ZPD* score by their teacher.



HOW STAR TESTS WORK

- 1) The student must take their time. It is recommended that each child should spend at least 20 minutes on their tests. Students are used to working quickly in timed conditions, but during a STAR test it is about concentration, focus and careful reading.
- 2) Students should not guess answers to questions. Instead, they should wait for the question to time out. This is to ensure the computer is not given a false impression of the student's reading ability.
- 3) Tests are done in exam conditions without any help from other students or the teacher.



Picture 1

Fill-in-the-blank questions have a sentence with a word missing. There will also be a list of three or four words that could fit in the blank. Your job is to choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Examples of how the questions may look.

Short-answer questions have a text passage at the top, followed by a question about the passage. There will be a list of three or four possible answers. Your job is to choose the best answer to the question.



Web browser



A ZPD SCORE IS GIVEN TO YOUR CHILD AFTER COMPLETING THE STAR TEST

3.2 – 4.6

Lowest
number

Highest
number

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.

A new STAR test takes place every half term, so students can see improvements in their reading ability, but also choose more challenging books.

I get sad every
time I hear a
person say, "I
don't read." It's
like saying "I
don't learn," or
"I don't laugh,"
or "I don't
live."

ALL THE AR BOOKS ARE COLOUR-CODED TO HELP THE STUDENT FIND THE RIGHT ONE.

AR Book Level Guide

<u>Book Level</u>	<u>Colour</u>
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0 – 1.9	
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2 – 2.9	
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3 – 3.9	
----------------	---



4 – 4.9	
----------------	---



5 – 5.9	
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6 – 6.9	
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7 – 7.9	
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8 – 8.9 +	
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Students should only choose books within their numbers and the colours make it easier for them to choose the right book.

“I love books.

I love that moment when you open one and sink into it you can escape from the world, into a story that's way more interesting than yours will ever be.

Elizabeth Scott

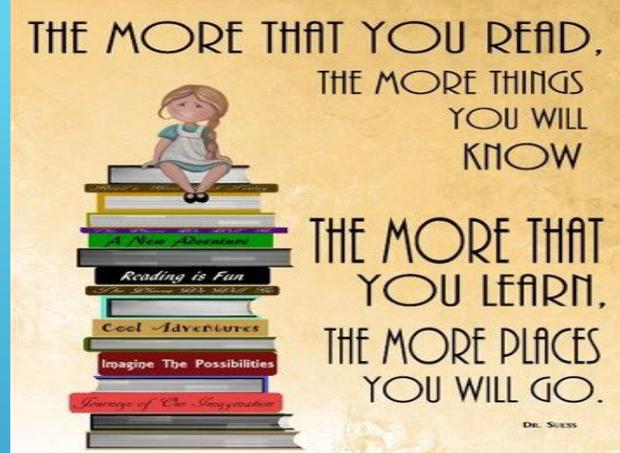
AR QUIZZES

A quiz is different to a STAR test because students 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 students are given a percentage to show them how well they have done.

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.
- 2) A student cannot take a quiz until they have read the entire text.
- 3) Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.



To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

- EDMUND BURKE

<http://fkb.me>

FEEDBACK

To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

- EDMUND BURKE

<http://fkb.me>

- ▶ **Every two weeks each English teacher has a dedicated AR lesson to work with your child and provide them reading feedback.**
- ▶ **The AR lesson with the English teacher will go through how well your child is doing and what they need to do to get better at reading.**
- ▶ **English teachers are also there to ensure students are reading the right level and type of books.**
- ▶ **The computer can tell teachers very specific information about your child's reading development. For instance, it can even explain how many minutes a day your child is reading.**



“How much should my 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.
- Therefore, your child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during day.
- English teachers set reading homework on top of the other English homework they set.



“How can I help?”

- 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.

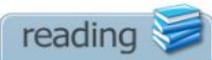
How will I know how my child is doing?



- You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer.
 - Once in the programme, you can view your child's progress towards targets, points and books read.
 - You can also access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest.
 - You can only access information about your own child.

The screenshot displays the Renaissance Place Home Connect interface for a user named Michael. The page is divided into several sections:

- My Overall Progress:** Shows progress for Quizzes (87.5%), Points (27.7), and ATOS Book Level (4.0). Each metric includes a progress bar and a star icon indicating performance relative to targets.
- My Last Quiz:** Displays details for a quiz titled 'Bad Girls', including the score (9 of 10 correct, 90%) and points earned (3.6 of 4.0 possible).
- Reader Certifications:** Shows the current target as 'Star Reader' and the last achieved certification as 'Advanced Reader'.
- Find Books:** Includes a link to AR BookFinder for searching books.



Accelerated Reader

Reading Practice Quizzes Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

My Overall Progress

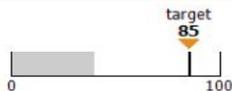
03/01/2017 - 07/04/2017 (14% Complete)

Current Marking Period

Quizzes

40%

average % correct



Below Target

Points

0.5

No Target Set

ATOS

Book Level

2.1

average level

No Target Set

Quizzes Passed/Taken: 1/3 Word Count: 1,621

Reader Certifications

Only passed quizzes count toward certification.

Last Achieved:

None

Current Target:

No Target Set

My Last Quiz

Taken 10/01/2017



The Cat in the Hat Comes Back

By Dr. Seuss
ATOS Book Level: 2.1
Interest Level:

0 of 5 Correct 0%

0.0 of 0.5 Points 0.0

[View My Bookshelf](#)

Find Books

With Accelerated Reader Quizzes



[Click to Open in New Window](#)

Average quiz score

Points earned

Average book level.

Last book read and quizzed on. Include % correct and points earned from book.

Your child's bookshelf

Renaissance Home Connect™ | Help | Log Out

Done

Reading Practice Quizzes Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

My Bookshelf

Sort by: Date Taken Title

My Reading Practice Quizzes Page 1 of 1

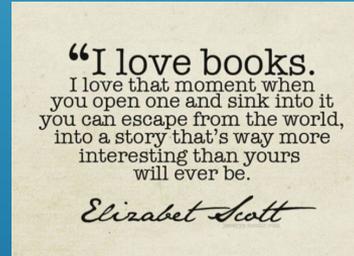


Done

All of the books that your child has read will appear on their bookshelf.

It's not just books from the school library that students can read, they can read books from home.

You can use MyOn (<https://www.myon.co.uk/>) to read books online and then take the quiz online!





The children can use the online platform MyOn to read even more Accelerated Reader books.

They can use this to help find new books and vary the style of books that they are reading.

A screenshot of the myON login interface. It features a purple background with three white input fields for "School Name", "Username", and "Password". Below the fields is a green "Sign In" button. In the bottom right corner, there is a "SECURED SITE" icon with a padlock and the text "register.com 256 bit Encryption". The background of the screenshot shows a blurred view of a bookshelf.