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.

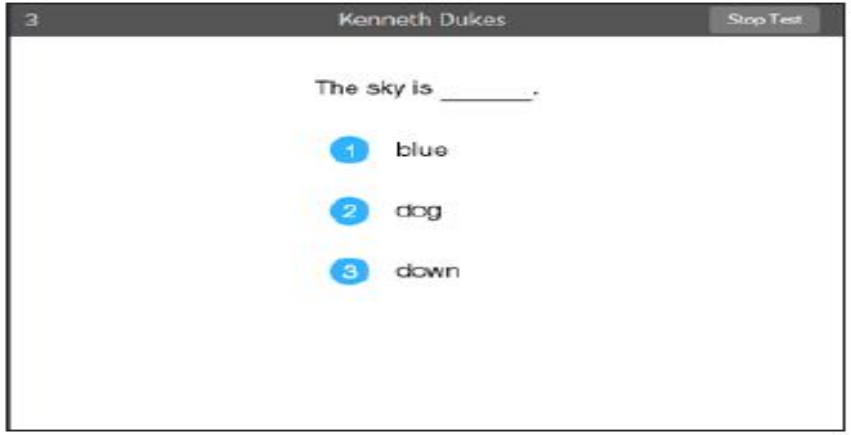
Once the student has completed the test, they will be given a *ZPD* score by their teacher.

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.



Web browser

Examples of how the questions may look.

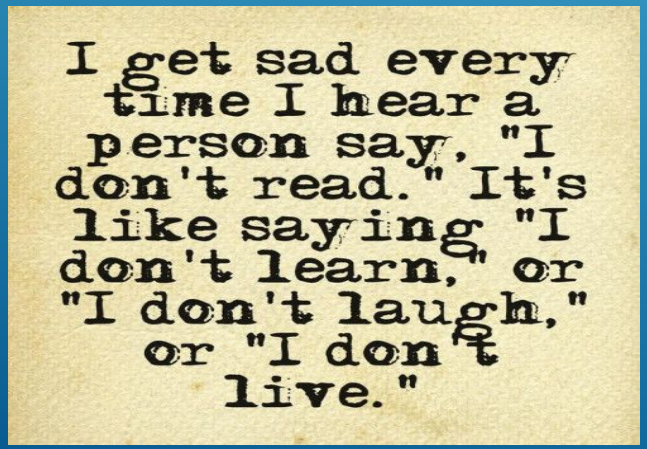
Short-answer questions have a text passage at the top, followed by a question about the passage. There will be a list of three or four possible answers. Your job is to choose the best answer to the question.

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

3.2 – 4.6

Lowest number

Highest number



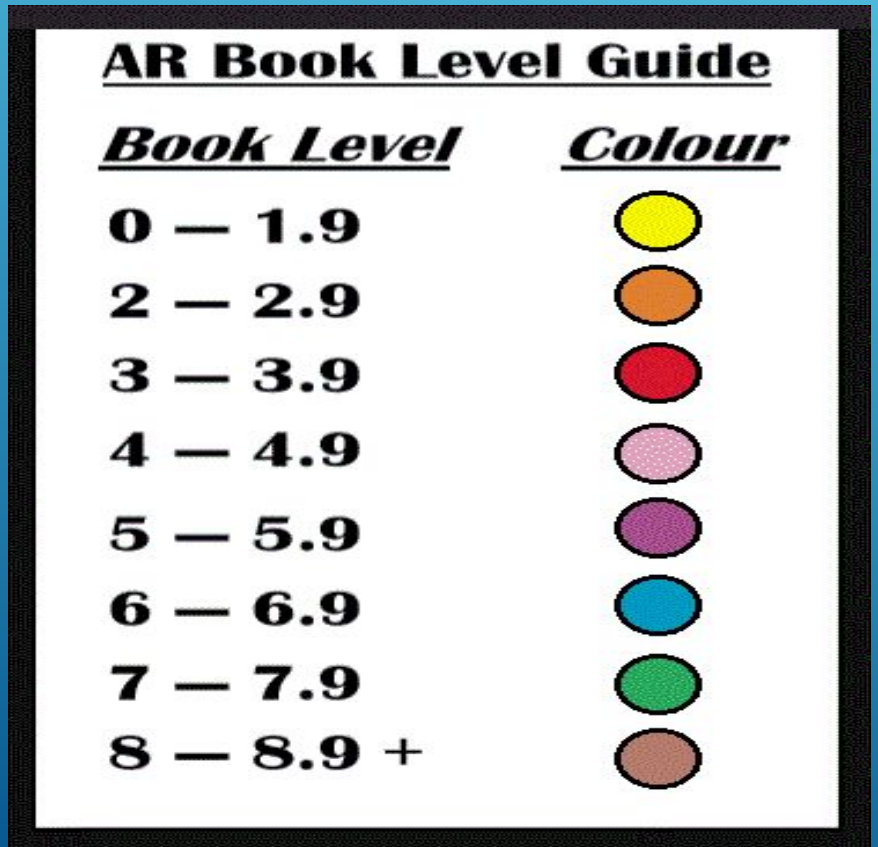
ZPD is two numbers that the student uses to choose their next reading book.

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

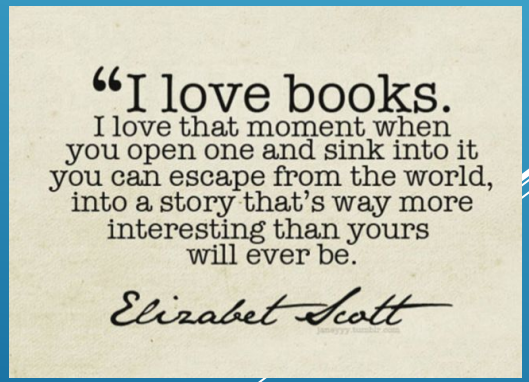
The highest number is the highest level of book the student should be choosing.

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

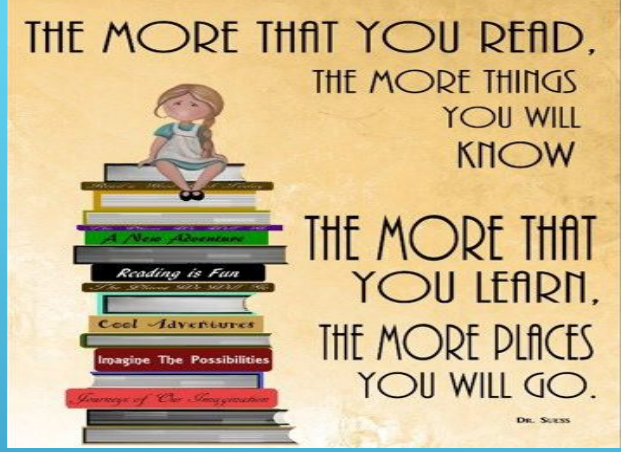
ALL THE AR BOOKS ARE COLOUR-CODED TO HELP THE STUDENT FIND THE RIGHT ONE.



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



AR QUIZZES

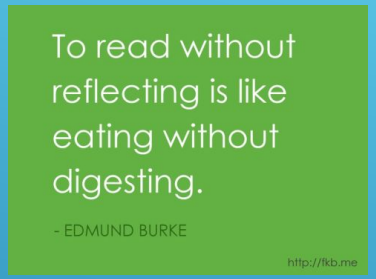


A quiz is different to a STAR test because students only take a quiz <u>after</u> they have *finished* a book.

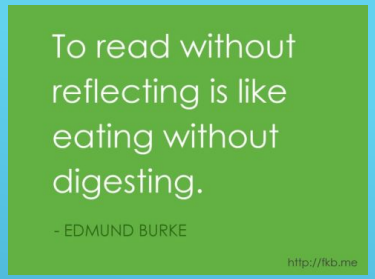
There are usually about 10 questions on the book that has been read. At the end of the quiz the students are given a percentage to show them how well they have done.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

1) **The book the child is quizzed on <u>must be a book they have read in the last two weeks</u>. 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.**



FEEDBACK



- 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 <u>at least</u> 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

- Therefore, your child should have <u>at least</u> 20 minutes set aside for reading during day.
- English teachers set reading homework on top of the other English homework they set.

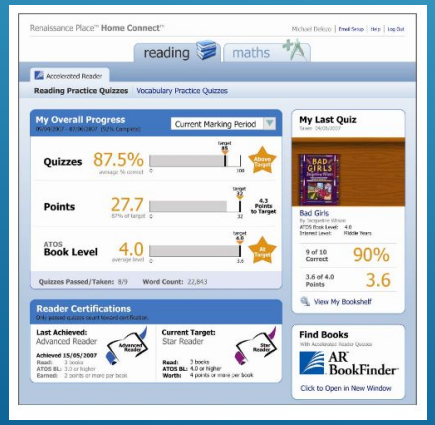
“How can I help?”

- 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?

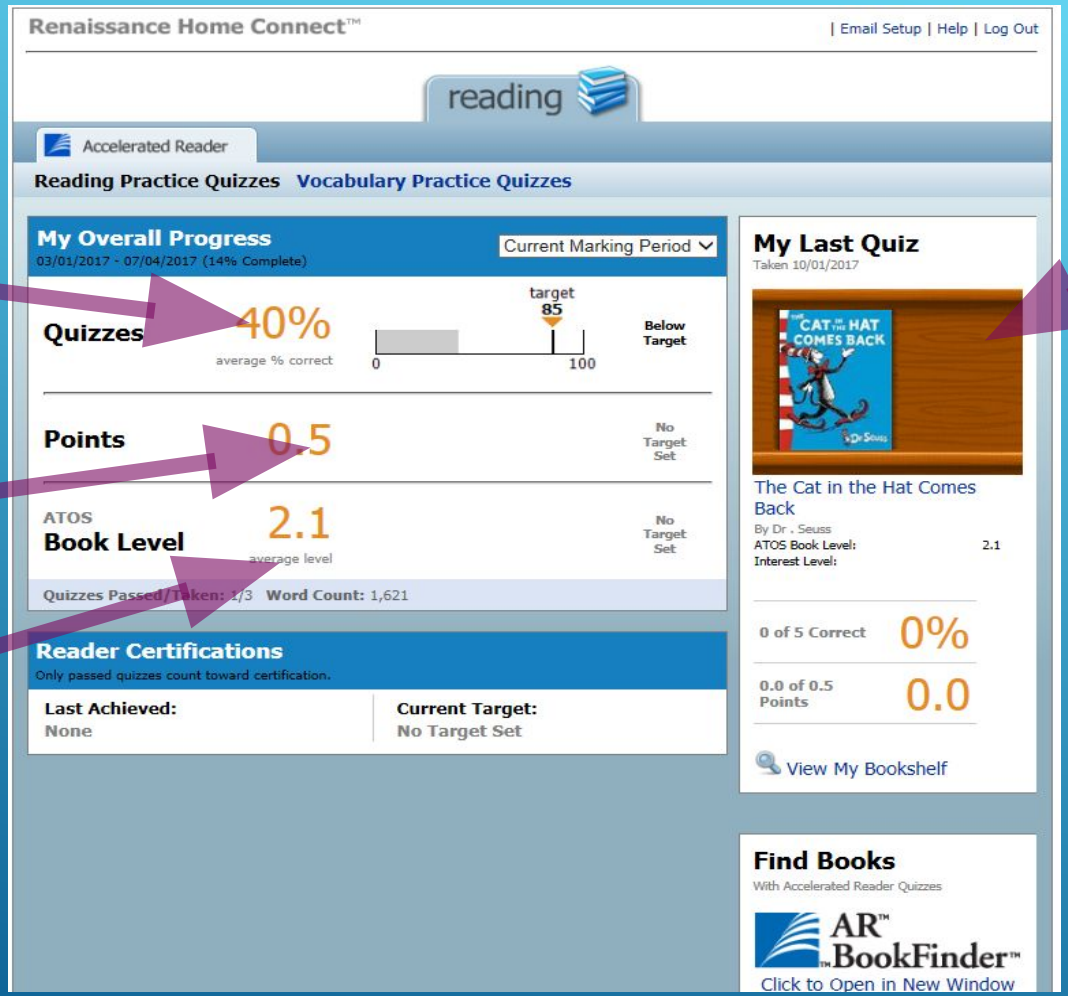
- You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer.
  - Once in the programme, you can view your child's progress towards targets, points and books read.
  - You can also access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest.
  - You can only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



Average quiz score

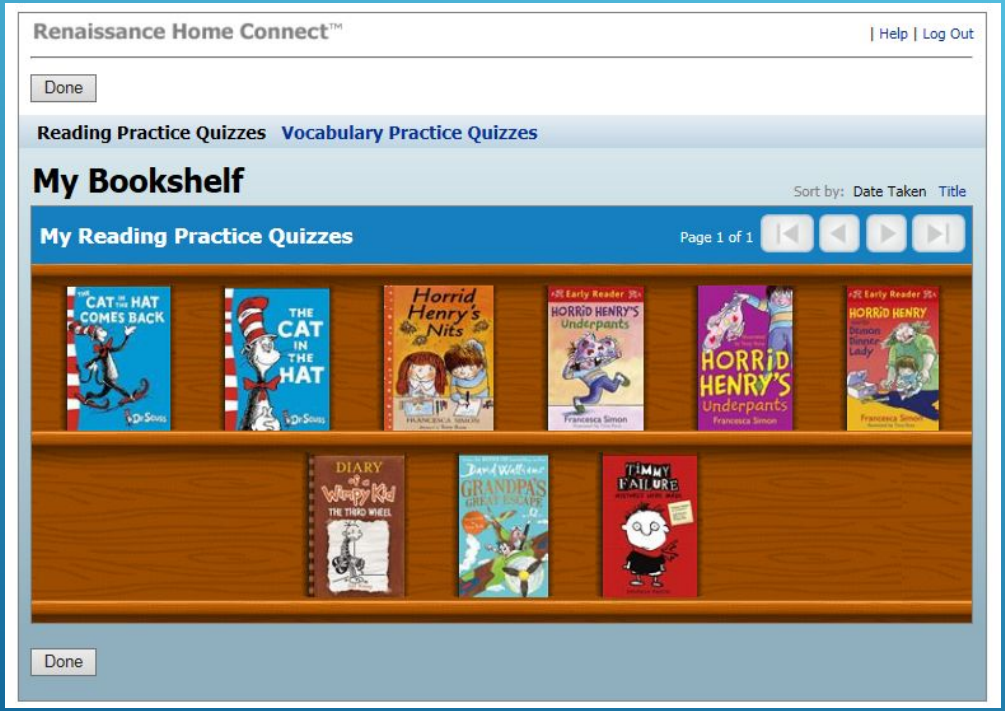
Points earned

Average book level.



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

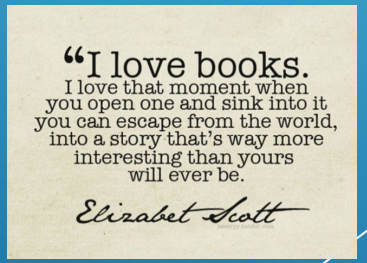
Your child's bookshelf

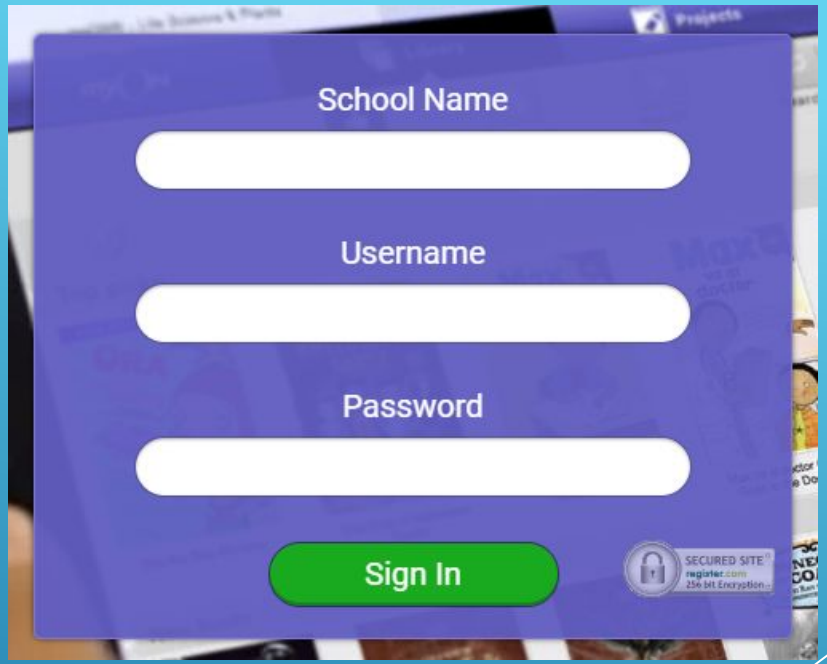


All of the books that your child has read will appear on their bookshelf.

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.