

ACCELERATED READER

Bishop's Castle Primary School's Guide to Accelerated Reader

"At its heart, Accelerated Reader is simple. A student reads a book, takes an online quiz, and gets immediate feedback. Students respond to regular feedback and are motivated to make progress with their reading skills" - Renaissance

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What is Accelerated Reader?

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

Your child chooses a book (with support) based on their interests and at his/her own level (this is a very important part of the programme) and reads at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz online - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and direct ongoing reading practice.

We have introduced this across our school in Year 3 upwards to Year 6.



What is a STAR Reading Test?

A computer-adaptive reading test used to assess pupils' reading ability to determine recommended reading levels for Accelerated Reader.

This is a multiple-choice reading assessment, completed on the computer, lasting approximately 20 minutes. Questions continually adjust to your child's response, so if their answer is correct, the difficulty will increase. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced.

The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement, assists us in identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range. (Don't worry - more about 'ZPD' in the next section!)

Children who are taking part in the programme will usually complete a STAR reading test at least 3 times a year.

Taking a Star Reading test

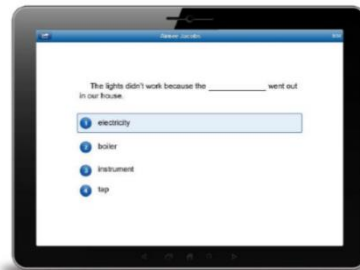
- There is a time limit to each question.
- You will see a warning when you are almost out of time.
- Don't panic!
- If you cannot answer a question, **do not guess**. Let the time run out and wait for the next question to load.

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Questions 1 - 10

The first ten questions will ask you to pick the best word to fill a gap in a sentence.



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What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?













After your child takes a STAR reading test the teacher will assess the results and give them a ZPD range. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or a loss of motivation. In other words the book should be 'not too easy' or 'not too hard'!

For example a ZPD could be 2.4 - 3.6, this shows the range of texts your child should aim to read with books nearer 3.6 being more difficult. Books not within the range may be too easy/too challenging at this time.



We have invested a lot of time and effort into relabelling and organising our school and class libraries to make it easier for children to find a book their own level. Class teachers and/or Teaching Assistants will help the children to find a suitable book at their ZPD level.

The AR Reading books (fiction and non-fiction) are now colour coded according to their book level. To ensure children experience success from the outset they should begin by taking books at the lower end of their ZPD range. Your child will know their ZPD range/colour and the books they should be choosing. This will also be indicated in their learning diary as a reminder. A ZPD can change through the year based on STAR reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results.

<u>Reading Level</u>		<u>ZPD Range</u>
	Gold Star	7.0 +
	Silver Star	6.0 – 6.9
	Red Star	5.5 – 5.9
	Green Star	5.0 – 5.4
	Blue Star	4.4 – 4.9
	Lime	4.0 – 4.3
	White	3.5 – 3.9
	Gold	3.9 – 3.4
	Purple	2.5 – 2.9
	Turquoise	2.0 – 2.4
	Orange	1.6 – 1.9
	Green	1.3 – 1.5

1 - Book Level Colour Guide

Quiz No 219982
Billionaire Boy

Walliams, David
B.L.: 4.1
Points: 4.0

MY

2 - AR Book Label

Information about the Accelerated Reader books (from the school library) can be found on a label on the back of the cover.

This label tells you the:

- Quiz Number
- Title and author
- Book level
- Points the child will earn if they complete the quiz
- Interest level of the book e.g. LY - Lower Years (5-8 years), MY - Middle Years (9-13 years) and UY - Upper Years (14+ years)

What are Accelerated Reader Quizzes?

When your child has finished reading a book they will be given time to take a quiz independently online in school only. It is best if a quiz can be taken within 48 hours of finishing a book, but this will depend on class timetables and availability of computers/ipads. Depending on the book level of the quiz this may be 5, 10 or 20 questions long and will take around 5 minutes to complete. The quiz assesses general comprehension of the book and results are calculated and shown to the child instantly.

Please note: not all books have a quiz but quizzes for new books are added frequently so we continually check.

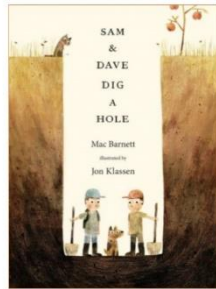
Your child can take a quiz when they have read a book independently, or had a book read to them as the Class Story.

Taking a Renaissance Accelerated Reader™ quiz

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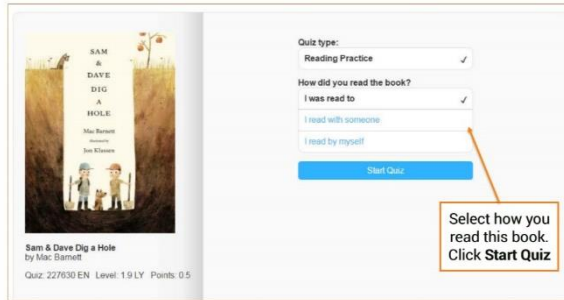
How to choose a book:

- Check that it is in your ZPD range
- Look at the cover
- Read the blurb
- Look for authors you like
- Read the introduction
- Read the first page



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Take your time

- Read the question and all four answers
- There are no time limits



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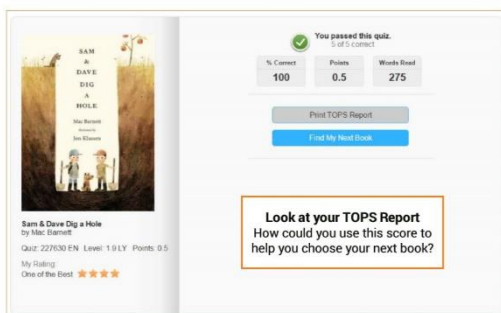
Only quiz books you have recently read!

- Take the quiz as soon as possible after finishing your book.
- If you do not understand a question, ask a teacher to explain it.



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What does my score tell me?

100%	This book was comfortable for you, perhaps try a book higher up in your ZPD range next time.
90%	This book was perfect for you. Perhaps try one or two book levels higher next time.
80%	This book was a little difficult for you. Perhaps choose one or two book levels lower next time.
70%	This book was quite challenging for you. Perhaps try a book at the beginning of your ZPD range next time.
60% or below	This book was too challenging. Perhaps try a book at the beginning of your ZPD or speak to your teacher for help.

Your child can bring in books from home or the local library as part of Accelerated Reader if their teacher feels they are suitable. Book levels can be checked at home by using the website www.arbookfind.co.uk

The screenshot shows the 'Accelerated Reader Bookfinder' website interface. At the top right, it says 'United Kingdom' with a map of the UK. The main navigation includes 'Student', 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Collections'. A search bar contains the text 'horrid henry' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, the 'Search Results' section shows 'Titles 1 - 20 of 61'. There are navigation links for 'Previous', 'Page 1 of 4', 'Next', and 'Go to Page' with a 'Go' button. A 'Sort By' dropdown menu is set to 'Relevance'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with 'AR BookBag' and 'Enter Keycode' fields. Below that, there are sections for 'Refine Your Search' with filters for 'Interest Level' (Lower Years (44), Middle Years (17)), 'Fiction/Non-fiction' (Fiction), and 'Topic' (Adventure (1), Arts (1), Award Winners/Nomi... (3), Behaviour (36), Careers/Occupation... (1), Community Life (5), Family Life (14), Food (1), Holiday Periods (5), Horror/Thriller (1)). The main search results list the book 'Horrid Henry' by Simon, Francesca, with details like 'AR Quiz No. 205786 EN Fiction', 'IL: MY - BL: 3,3 - AR Pts: 1.0', 'AR Quiz Types: RP, VP', and a 'Rating: ★★★★★'. A green 'Add to AR BookBag' button is visible. Below the first result, another result 'Horrid Henry Strikes It Rich/Horrid Henry Gets Rich Quick' is partially visible.

How can you get involved?



As with anything, practice improves performance. The more reading your child does at home, the better they will get at it. We provide lots of opportunities for reading in school but you can help by providing a culture of reading at home.

- Listen to your child read out loud at home every day because this has been shown to be one of the best ways for a child to get better at reading. It's also a chance to share their reading with their parents. If you are buying books, or borrowing from the library, find out what your child's ZPD is and help them to read books at their own level.
- Ask what books they are reading and how they are getting on with any quizzes completed.
- Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, have some books available at home, visit your local library and by letting your child see you reading too.
- When reading with your child, stop and ask them questions about the text to be sure your child is understanding what they have read.
- Try to regularly discuss books that everyone in your family is reading or has read.

Reading with your child, no matter what age, is an important part of developing good reading skills and a lifelong love of reading.

Why are we using Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader is proven to help children become better readers.
- Accelerated Reader encourages children to read more and rewards them for their effort and achievement.
- When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success and grow in confidence and reading stamina.
- The teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading ability.
- Children can choose their own books to read. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What classes are taking part in Accelerated Reader?

At the moment Year 3 - 6 are taking part in AR.

2. How do I know what my child's ZPD is?

Once your child has taken part in a STAR test we will advise your child of the result and guide them on the book level they are on.

3. How is a book level chosen?

The book levels are calculated by Accelerated Reader and are based on varying sentence length and vocabulary difficulty. However, teachers will also listen to your child read and have the final decision on what is an appropriate difficulty of reading band.

4. How do I find books at my child's level?

The school library book will have a coloured sticker on the spine should have an AR sticker stuck inside of the front cover of the book. You can also use the website www.arbookfind.com to find out the level of any book. If the book does not appear on the website then it is not an AR book...yet!

5. Can my child take a quiz at home?

No, quizzing will only take part in school. We encourage you to read with your child and discuss what they read with them at home instead.

6. Will taking quizzes not take the fun out of reading?

In most cases, children enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books of their own choice, at their own reading and interest levels, they are more likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

7. Why is my child's ZPD so wide or narrow?

This depends of skills your child has mastered and the skills they need to develop. The ZPD will broaden as your child becomes secure with a skill, for example decoding, word recognition, inferring what will happen next or retrieving information from the text.

Useful Links

UK website www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/

Parent's Questions and

Answers <https://resources.renlearnrp.com/UK/AcceleratedReader/RPRTParentsGuideToARUK.pdf>

Parent's Guide PDF www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Parents-Guide-to-Accelerated-Reader_2016-17.pdf