

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers monitor and manage children’s independent reading practice. Each half term your child will take a Star Reading Test which is a test of vocabulary and comprehension. From this your child will get a reading level range (based on the AR scheme) from which to select books.

Your child picks freely from the books within the correct range for their AR reading level and reads it at his / her pace. When finished your child takes a short quiz on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help set targets. There are 11,000 reading quizzes currently available, and more are being added every month. You can visit the AR BookFinder at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

Children using AR have a label in the back of their reading journal detailing their AR reading level. This enables them to select library books that are at an appropriate reading level. These will be challenging without being frustrating and will also be at a level at which they can pass the quiz and experience success.

In most cases, children enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels they are likely to be successful.

**What is a Star Reading test?**

Star Reading is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. At the start of AR and at half termly intervals your child will take a star reading test. Questions continually adjust to your child’s responses. If the child’s response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If a child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple choice questions and takes about 20 minutes to complete.

**What is the ZPD?**

At the start of AR each child takes an initial ‘Star Reading’ assessment which has provided them with a reading age, reading level and Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) range.

This ZPD range will allow the children to select appropriate reading books that will be best suited to develop their reading ability and comprehension. Key Stage 1 children will continue to use Oxford Reading Tree scheme to develop their reading as well as being given a ZPD number to identify other books within their reading ability. Children are encouraged to extend their reading by using their ZPD. Books across school are labelled with a Book Level (B.L.) which refers to the Z.P.D. range and have been colour coded.

 A child’s ZPD could change during the year depending on the ‘Start Reading’ assessment which will be undertaken every half term.

**What is a Star Reading quiz?**

Once your child has finished a book they are required to take an Accelerated Reader Book Quiz which is done at school online. Your child will have their own log in and password to access the quizzes.

Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what they have read. Both children and staff receive feedback on the quiz results and quiz activity is monitored by class teachers. If your child does not do well in the quiz, it is possible that they have not read the book in adequate detail. It may also mean that they are choosing books that are not at the correct level.

**Is it ok for my child to read books outside of their reading level?**

Yes – this is fine. However, just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean that the content is appropriate. The interest level must also be considered. Interest level is based on content – a book’s themes and ideas and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. The chart below shows which years fall into each interest level.

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| --- | --- |
| **Interest Level** | **Year Level** |
| LY – Lower Years | Key Stage 1 |
| MY – Middle Years | Key Stage 2 |
| UY – Upper Years | Key Stage 3 |

**What are points?**

The most exciting part of Accelerated Reader is the quizzes that it provides. When your child has finished a book, they can take a quiz to test their knowledge of it and develop their comprehension skills. These quizzes will be taken in school.

Every book that has an AR Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book. Children earn points depending on how well they do in the quiz.

 **My child is not a strong reader. Can he / she still use Accelerated Reader?**

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers regardless of their reading ability.

When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set targets based on a child’s reading level.

**Can I find out which books are suitable for my child?**

You will be informed about the PD for your child via their school reading journal. This means that you would be able to select books for them from their exact level. If you wish to buy books for your child or loan them from a library it is possible to access a website called ‘AR bookfinder’ ([www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)). On this website you can search for a particular book and discover the book level, interest level etc, or alternatively you can type in the level that your child is reading and see a vast range of suggested books at the right level for your child. Unfortunately, not all books are on the AR system but the list is increasing every day.