



# Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents



# The importance of reading

The more that you read,  
The more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
The more places you'll go.  
-Dr. Seuss



Reading is the **KEY** to learning

# Accelerated Reader

**Accelerated Reader** is a new program designed to do the following things:

- 1) Find books that are the right ability for your child;
- 2) Encourage your child to read more;
- 3) Improve your child's reading ability.



# Two parts to the program



## Introduction to the Program



### STAR Reading

A computer-adaptive reading test used to assess pupils' reading ability and to determine their recommended reading levels for Accelerated Reader. Measures growth over time.



STAR  
Reading

### Accelerated Reader

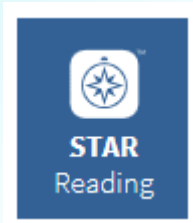
A database of a quizzes to test comprehension of books read. Provides instant feedback and monitoring.



Accelerated  
Reader







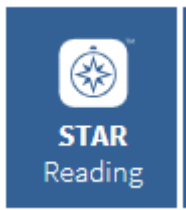
# Star Reading



At the start of this year, pupils across the school took 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.





# 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.
- 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 independently.



The next slide shows an example page from the test



## 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.

3 Kenneth Dukes Stop Test

The sky is \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1 blue
- 2 dog
- 3 down

Web browser

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.

11/54 Kenneth Dukes Show Test

Leslie curled up in a chair on the porch. She closed her eyes and tuned into her surroundings. She smiled at the familiar sounds of her neighbour rustling his newspaper and the floorboards creaking beneath his rocker. She laughed as the neighbourhood boys raced by on their bicycles. The rat-a-tat-tat of the cards pinned to the spokes of their wheels added a beat to the music of the street.

How does the author's use of sensory detail affect the story?

- 1 The sounds help the reader imagine the neighbourhood.
- 2 The music is too loud and bothers Leslie.
- 3 The creaking noises give it a mysterious mood.

# ZPD score (Zone of Proximal Development)

3.2 - 4.6

Lowest  
number

Highest  
number

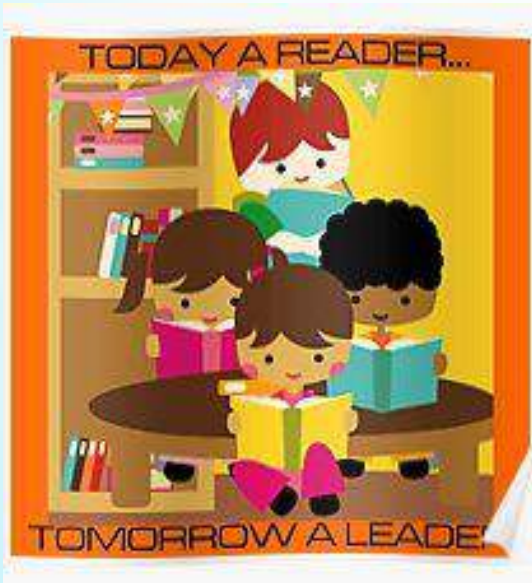
After each Star Reading test, children are given a ZPD range, which is two numbers that the pupil uses to choose their next reading book.

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

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

Pupils keep a record of all their ZPDs on their reading log in school.

A new STAR test takes place every term, so students can see improvements in their reading ability.





# Reading books



The range  
of books  
the child  
can read.

Joe Bloggs (Year 3)

Username: JBLOG  
Password: ARC  
ZPD: 2.6 - 4.0  
Interest level: LY

How suitable the book is.  
LY (Lower Years: Ages 5-8  
MY (Middle Years): Ages 9 - 13

The library is being set up with colour coded books so that children can easily be self directed when choosing books appropriate to their level.

# Accelerated Reader books

## AR Books and ZPD

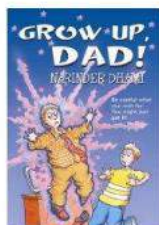


**AR Books** – Each quizzed book has a book level which represents the difficulty of text

**ZPD** - An individual range of book levels recommended for each pupil's reading ability

**Too Easy**

**2.8**



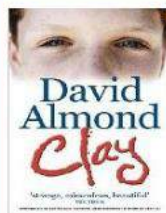
**ZPD: Just Right**

**3.2**

**3.8**

**4.4**

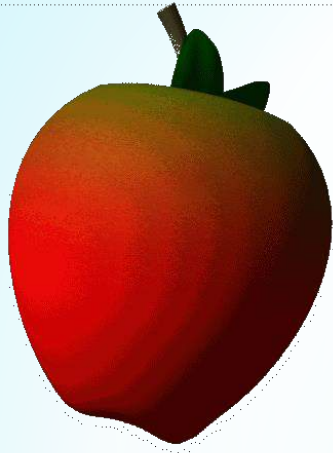
**5.0**



**Too Hard**

**5.4**





# 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.



reading



Accelerated Reader

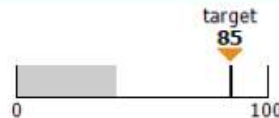
**Reading Practice Quizzes** **Vocabulary Practice Quizzes****My Overall Progress**

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

**AR™  
BookFinder™**[Click to Open in New Window](#)Average  
quiz  
scorePoints  
earnedAverage  
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

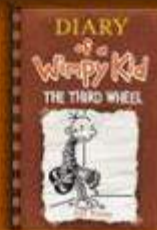
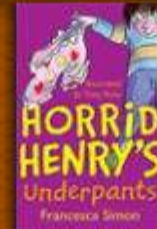
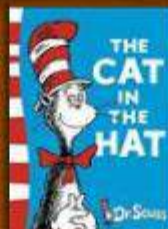
Reading Practice Quizzes Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

## My Bookshelf

Sort by: Date Taken Title

### My Reading Practice Quizzes

Page 1 of 1



Done

# Accelerated Reader books

**Book Level:** The difficulty of text (0.5 - 13.5) Pupils are recommended to read from the beginning of their ZPD

**Interest Level:** Relates to the content and appropriateness  
Lower, Middle and Upper Years

**Points:** Refers to length and the number of words within a book

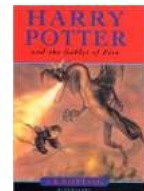
Quiz No 202678

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Rowling, J.K.

B.L.: 6.8

Points: 32.0



UY

Quiz No 231672

Barking for Bagels

Rosen, Michael

B.L.: 3.1

Points: 0.5



LY

Quiz No 211881

Air Raid!

May, Jean

B.L.: 3.7

Points: 1.0



MY





# Accelerated Reader quizzes

A quiz is taken after a book has been read.

There are usually about 10 multiple choice questions on the book. At the end of the quiz the pupils are given a percentage to show them how well they have done. Generally they need a pass rate of 60% or higher to earn the points, but children are encouraged to aim for a pass mark of 85%, which shows deeper understanding.

Points are based on pro rata basis depending on how well they do on their reading comprehension quiz.

Some vocabulary practice quizzes can be taken as well.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

- 1) The quiz should take place at school, preferably within 24 hours of finishing the book if possible.
- 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.

# “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.
- Your child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during day.



“I do believe  
something very magical  
can happen when you  
read a good book.”

*-J.K. Rowling*





# “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.

“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*

I hope that this has answered some of the questions you may have about Accelerated Reader at MJS. It is a new process for staff, children and parents alike and will continue to develop as time passes. It is a very successful system used to great effect in many schools in the country, including Oriel, one of the main secondary schools that our children will move to after Year 6.

Thanks for your support as we implement the program. I look forward to seeing the children's reading skills improve in the coming weeks and months.

