

Accelerated Reader
A Guide for Parents and Carers

**“READING IS A PASSPORT
TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES.”**
- MARY POPE OSBORNE



What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a reading tool that the school has invested in to support the development of each child's reading skills once they are ready to move on from the early reading scheme (Read Write Inc.). The purpose of Accelerated Reader (AR) is that it helps to support independent reading practice and development of reading and comprehension skills, whilst making available a wide choice of different texts.

Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, they take a short quiz which assesses how they have understood the text and indicates what their next step should be. The absolute key here is the understanding – your child may be able to physically read the words of almost any book out loud but the quizzes test the understanding and comprehension of the chosen text.

Specific skills for decoding, retrieval skills and comprehension will be taught within class Guided Reading with AR working alongside this by helping to ensure that your child's independent reading practice is appropriate and effective. Children using AR have a free choice of the books they read (within their given range), rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them. Your child's class teacher can also provide guidance to help your child choose books that are at an appropriate reading level. These will be challenging without being frustrating and will also be at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may assist them by:

- Helping choose another book that is more appropriate
- Pairing your child with a Year Six librarian who has been trained as a 'Quizzing Buddy' to support them with the quizzing process.

Please be assured your child will never be 'in trouble' for not doing well in a quiz.

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

When your child first moves onto AR, and at the start of each half term thereafter, they complete a STAR Reading Test. This is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer adaptive technology. Your child is presented with questions, which require a multiple choice answer. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. Unlike most other assessments if your child does not know an answer, they miss it that question out so that their result is not affected by lucky/unlucky guesses. If they cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The whole test takes approximately 20 minutes. Your child is then given a personal Reading Range known as a ZPD)

What is a Reading Range?

Books on AR are levelled using a nationally recognised 'readability formula' and the book level Represents the difficulty of the text. The levelling criteria covers such factors as vocabulary, average word length, average sentence length, grammatical complexity – not how long the book is or how many pictures it contains!

Books also have an 'Interest Level' which is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. An interest level of LY—Lower Years (ages 5–8) and MY—Middle Years (ages 9–13).

Your child is given their range after each STAR Reading test. It is important for children to read independently with a high degree of comprehension and within this range, as this will challenge them and result in successful quizzing.

During the year, as your child progresses in their reading, we would expect this range to change to reflect the improvements that they are making, however as with all tests sometimes your child's range may be lower than in a previous test. When this happens we will discuss the levels that your child should read at based on their previous book quizzes.

When a new range is given, your child would normally continue to read from the point they have reached within their old range.

For example old range 3.9 to 5.0 and currently successful quiz at 4.7, new range 4.2 to 5.9. Next book would be at 4.8.

How does my child progress through their range?

As your child undertakes each quiz, the result of that quiz signposts their next step.

For books with 3 or 5 questions	
All questions answered correctly	Move up to next level e.g. 100% correct at 2.8 move up to 3.9
2/3 or 3/5 or 4/5	Choose another book on the same level
1/3 or less than 3/5	Choose a book from the level below.

For books with 10 questions	
All questions answered correctly or 9/10	Move up to next level e.g. 100% correct at 2.8 move up to 3.9
7/10 or 8/10	Choose another book on the same level
6/10 or less	Choose a book from the level below.

For books with 20 questions	
17/20 or greater	Move up to next level e.g. 100% correct at 2.8 move up to 3.9
14/20, 15/20 or 16/20	Choose another book on the same level
13/20 or less	Choose a book from the level below.

This means that children may move up and down within their range as their skills develop, this is completely fine.

What is a points target? (Key Stage Two Only)

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book (number of words). The point value of books from school is indicated on a label inside the book cover. Children earn points on a pro-rata basis depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz.

For example, if your child takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point they will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 points for 4 correct answers (80%) and 0.6 points for 3 correct answers.

If they read a book worth 5 points and take a 10-question quiz they will earn 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%), 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), 4 points for 8/10, 3.5 points for 7/10 and 3 points for 6/10. They need to have a score of 60% or higher to earn any points.

The points target set is based on your child's Reading Range, the time they took to complete their star Test and the minutes that they are expected to read for each day as part of their Home Learning. (20 minutes for children in Maple and Sycamore and 25 minutes for children in Oak). Children also have the opportunity to read during the school day. The targets set are designed to be achievable for all children.

Children who reach their target are rewarded with a certificate and small prize each half term:

Half Bronze	Pencil
Bronze	Gel pen
Half Silver	Bookmark
Silver	Notepad
Half Gold	Reading book of their choosing
Gold	Gold Award Badge

There is also a special treat if every child in a Tutor Group or Year Group reaches their target

Your child can also earn a certificate and badge if they read one million words.

Can My Child Read a Book which is outside of their range?

Our aim above everything else is that children develop a life-long love of reading. We understand that they may wish to read books outside their range, and this is fine providing they also continue to read books within their range and work towards meeting the points target set. For this reason whilst your child can quiz books outside of their range, the points earned may not be counted towards their target if other books are not also read and quizzed.

Your child can also quiz books that they have read from home or the local library. You can use the AR Book finder website to check if a book is on AR <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx>

What you can do to support your child's reading

It would be wonderful if you could hear your child read at least 3 times each week, even if only for a few minutes. This will allow your child an opportunity to share their books with you and support their 'storyteller voice.'

You could also ask your child to tell you about the books they are reading, whether they are enjoying the story, who their favourite characters are etc.

Another lovely thing is to talk to them about the books that read as a child, maybe you could re-read them together.

You can view your child's Accelerated Reader account and look at the books they have read and how they have quizzed at any time. Your child can login and quiz at home (except weekends) or you can have access at anytime via Home Connect (this allows you to view your child's progress but not access quizzes). If you would like to receive login details for Home Connect, please let us know.

If you have any questions or would like any further information or support please speak to your child's class teacher .