



A parent's guide to Accelerated Reader

What is Accelerated Reader?

[Accelerated Reader](#) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. The books are not on a specific scheme but are the ones you can buy anywhere. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

Staff help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, staff may help your child:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before your child takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another student, or even have the book read to your child.

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

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

Teachers determine your child's reading level using a star Reading® test and their best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child. A Star Reading test is a computerized reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

What are points?

Every book that has an Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. Points are computed based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn points by scoring well on the quiz.

How are Accelerated Reader point goals set?

Based on extensive research, we can provide guidelines for the approximate number of Accelerated Reader points children should be able to earn depending on how much time they read and their reading level. Monitoring Accelerated Reader points earned by children and comparing them to the guideline values enables your child's teacher to determine how well your child is using the time provided for reading practice.

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz?

To know which quizzes your school has available, contact your child’s teacher as schools may not have purchased all quizzes. You can also visit the Accelerated Reader Bookfinder™ at arbookfind.com to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes.

How will I know how my child does on a quiz?

To know how your child is doing on their AR quizzes, parents will need to log in to Renaissance Home Connect. Using a login specifically for your child, parents will be able to access their quiz results. In addition, parents can specify up to six email addresses to receive automatic updates on their child’s reading progress.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of their reading level?

Just because a child can read the words in a book doesn’t mean the content is appropriate. The interest level of the material must 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.

In many cases, a book’s interest level coordinates with its book level. *Hank the Cowdog*, for example, the content of which is suitable for year 4 pupils, has a book level of 4.5. Many books, however, have a low book level but are appropriate for upper years and vice versa. For example, Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises* has a book level of 4.4 because its sentences are short and its vocabulary is simple. The interest level, however, is UY for Upper Years. In contrast, *Arthur Throws a Tantrum* has a book level of 4.9 because it contains fairly long words and sentences, but it is intended for students in the lower years.

Interest Level	Years
LY—Lower Years	Reception-Year 4
MY—Middle Years	Year 5-6
MY+—Middle Years Plus	Year 6-8
UY—Upper Years	Year 9-12

How will my child take a quiz?

Students take Accelerated Reader quizzes on a computer or tablet with an internet connection. They can only take these in school.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

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 or bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child’s age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning, and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family affair!