



Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents



Chadsmead Primary Academy



Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

Years 2 to 6 (some Y1 when RWI ends)

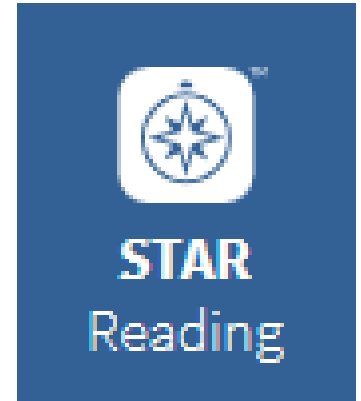
Programme designed to do the following things:

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



How AR works...

Star Test - computer-based test that measures a child's reading ability through a series of 34 questions.



Every test for every child is different. Computer selects different questions for each child dependent on how well they answer the previous questions.

Once finished, they are then given a **ZPD score** by their teacher.



How STAR tests work



- 1) The child must take their time. It is recommended that each child should spend at least *20 minutes* on their tests. Children may be used to working quickly in timed conditions, but during a STAR test it is about concentration, focus and careful reading.
- 2) Children 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 child's reading ability.
- 3) Tests are done without any help from other children or the teacher.



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.

12/54

Kenneth Dukes

Stop 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.

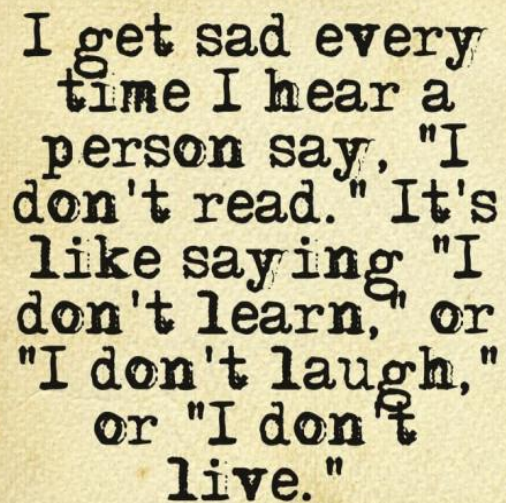
A ZPD score is given after completing the STAR test

3.2–4.6

ZPD is two numbers that your child uses to choose their next reading book.

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

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




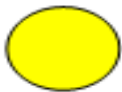




I get sad every
time I hear a
person say, "I
don't read." It's
like saying "I
don't learn," or
"I don't laugh,"
or "I don't
live."

Children keep a record of all their ZPDs in their reading diaries.

A new STAR test takes place every term, so children can see improvements in their reading ability, but also choose more challenging books.

All the AR books are colour-coded to help the children find the right one for them.

	<u>ZPD range</u>
	0.0 - 1.9
	2.0 - 2.9
	3.0 - 3.9
	4.0 - 4.9
	5.0 - 5.9
	6.0 +

Children should only choose books within their numbers. The colours make it easier for them to choose the right book.

“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

Previous colour coding system has no correlation to AR.

ZPD range

Too Easy

2.8

ZPD: Just Right

3.2

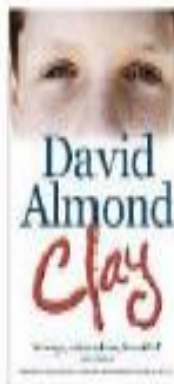
3.8

4.4

5.0

Too Hard

5.4



Interest Level:	Age Appropriateness:
Lower Years (LY)	Ages 5 to 8
Middle Years (MY)	Ages 9 to 13
Upper Years (UY)	Ages 14+



How does my
child's ZPD
compare with
their peers?

Please try not to compare your child's ZPD with that of other children. Your child is reading at a ZPD that is appropriate for where they need to be. Each child is an individual, with individual needs, capabilities, interests and abilities and Accelerated Reader caters for this. Your class teacher will inform you at parents evening if your child is working at an age appropriate level.



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

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

AR Quizzes

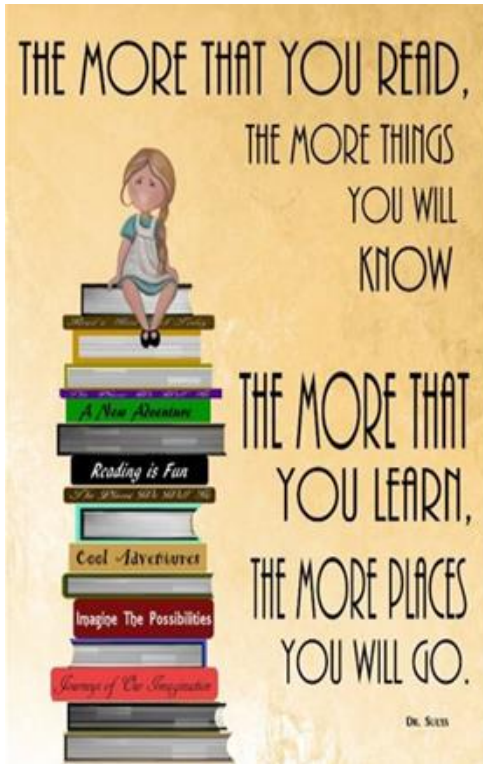
- Different to a STAR test
- About 10 questions on the book that has been read.
- Shows a percentage at the end.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:



- 1) **Must be a book they have read in the last two weeks.**
- 2) Must read the entire text.
- 3) 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.
- Therefore, your child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during day.



“How can I help?”

Performance is practice!

Create a culture of reading in your household:

- read with your child
- encourage your child to read at home.
- visit your local library
- charity shop or bookshop
- letting your child see you reading.

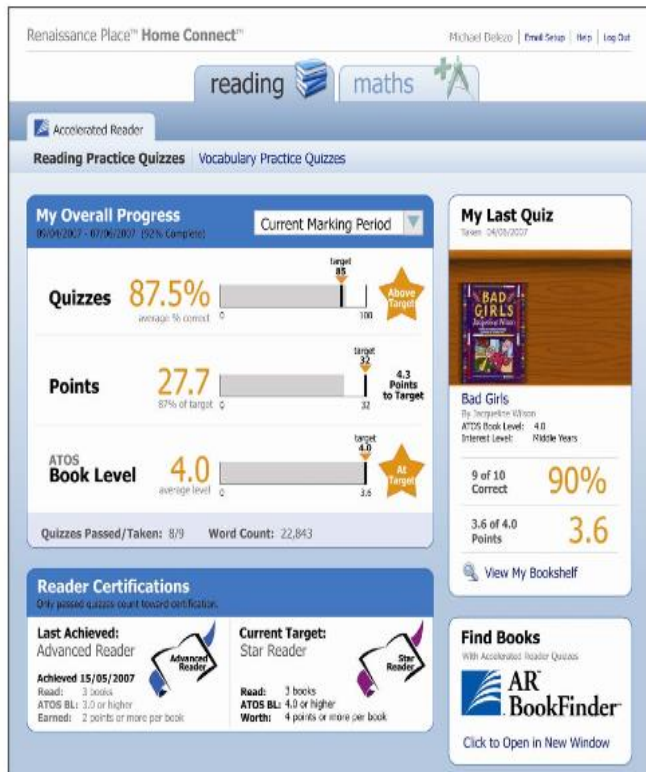
When reading :

- Stop and ask questions to be sure your child understands what they have read.
- Discuss books that each of you has read.



How will I know how my child is doing?

- Your child will be able to keep you up to date on their progress in quizzes.



- Your child's teacher will update your child's 'Home reading diary' with any changes to the colour book or ZPD your child is reading.
- Your child will bring home a report (generated by and printed from Accelerated Reader) at the end of the term.

Monitoring Progress

Children can see what books they have read and how they did. The programme also gives them suggestions on what to read next based on their interest and ability. Children see a sunflower or graph, depending on their year group, which builds up as they pass quizzes.



Reading Practice

Date	Quiz Information				Questions			Points		ATOS BL
	⬅ No.	Title	F/NF	TWI	Corr.	Poss	%	Earned	Poss.	
08/02/2019	234859	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown	F	I	2	10	20.0	0.0	3.0	5.5
07/02/2019	211664	Epos the Flame Bird	F	I	7	10	70.0	0.7	1.0	4.6
05/02/2019	213644	Claw the Giant Monkey	F	I	7	10	70.0	1.4	2.0	5.0
05/02/2019	233062	Bad Dad	F	I	6	10	60.0	3.6	6.0	4.2
01/02/2019	213636	Sting the Scorpion Man	F	I	8	10	80.0	0.8	1.0	5.2
29/01/2019	230914	The Midnight Gang	F	I	9	10	90.0	5.4	6.0	4.4
29/01/2019	211684	Nanook the Snow Monster	F	I	5	10	50.0	0.0	1.0	5.1
29/01/2019	204917	Friend or Foe	F	W	6	10	60.0	1.8	3.0	4.6
29/01/2019	221728	Wonder	F	W	7	10	70.0	7.7	11.0	4.8
Quizzes Passed/Taken: 7/9							63.3	21.4	34.0	4.6 ^a

ARBookFind.co.uk

It's not just books from school that children can read, they can read books from home and take quizzes on them!

You can use <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> to check whether any of your child's books are on Accelerated Reader.

Can a child who is not a strong reader still use Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupil, regardless of initial ability.
- When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success.
- Teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.



STAR
Reading



Accelerated
Reader

Any Questions ?