

Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents



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In Years 3 to 6 all children take part in the **Accelerated Reader** programme, which is 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 it works...



At the start of each term every child will take 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 child is different, and the computer selects different questions for each child dependent on how well they answer the previous questions. Essentially, the computer adapts the test to suit your child.

Once the child has completed the test, they are then given a **ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)** score by their teacher.

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. Children are 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 in exam conditions 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.

12/34 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.

3.2 - 4.6

Lowest number Highest number

A ZPD score is given to your child after completing the STAR test

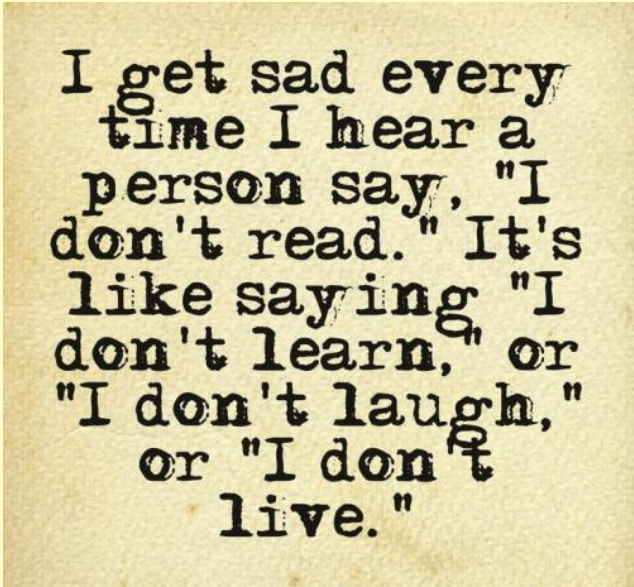
ZPD is the range between two numbers that the children uses to choose their next reading book.

Middle of the range for most independent reading. These books are likely to provide the best balance of challenge and enjoyment.

Lower in the range to help build confidence, fluency and reading stamina.

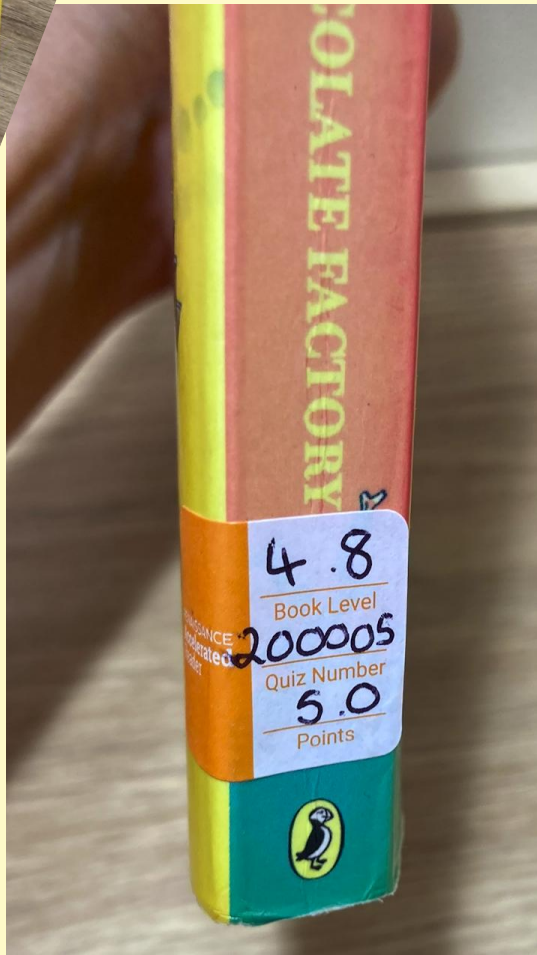
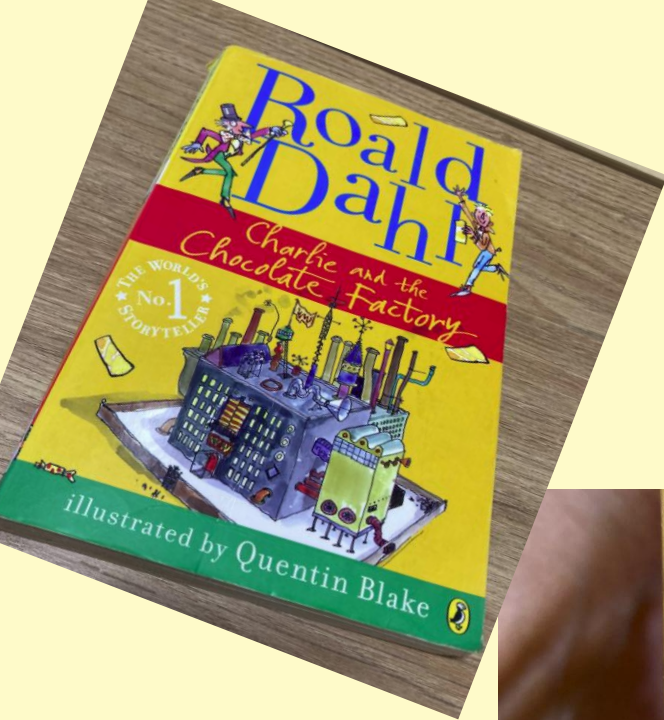
Higher in the range when the student is particularly interested in the topic, as motivation can help them tackle more challenging texts!

Children keep a record of all their ZPDs in their planners or exercise books.



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."

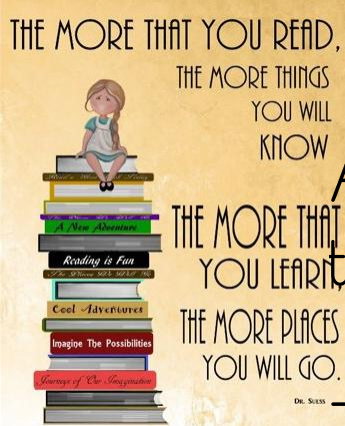
Labels



Interest levels

- **Interest Level** relates to content and age appropriateness - not the difficulty or readability of the text. Books and other reading materials are assigned an Interest Level based on publisher recommendations.

Interest Level	Age
LY—Lower Years	5 - 8
MY—Middle Years	9 - 13
MY+—Middle Years Plus	12+
UY—Upper Years	14+



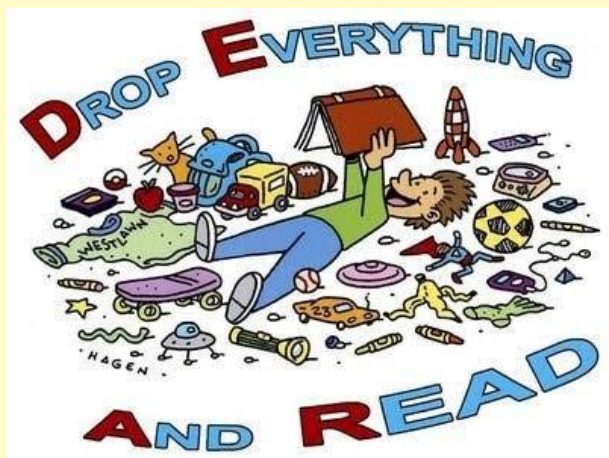
AR Quizzes in school

A quiz is different to a STAR test because students only take a quiz after they have finished a book.

There are usually about 10 questions on the book that has been read. At the end of the quiz the children are given a percentage to show them how well they have done.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

- 1) The book the child is quizzed within 24 hours of reading it. AR is not a memory test but rather measuring reading ability.
- 2) A student cannot take a quiz until they have read the entire text.
- 3) Quizzes must be done independently, 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.
- DEAR time in school will be from 1:00-1:15pm every day. This means at least 15 minutes set aside for reading during the day.
- At home you should be reading for 20 minutes 4 times a week at least. Record this in your Reading Record as before and you will get a Golden Ticket.
- Library sessions to loan and renew books will be every two weeks now. When the Library is open at lunchtimes, you can change books then too!

Accelerated Reading Celebrations

- Teachers will be celebrating how many words your class has read.
- Like TTRS we will have class Reading competitions!
- Children will be celebrated for reading milestones: 1000 words or becoming a Reading Millionaire



Supporting your child at home

- 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.



Finding out how my child is doing

Your child's teacher will provide you with a parent report at parent Consultation Meetings.

Your child can log into their account at home and you can view which books they have read and how they have scored on the quizzes they have taken.

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/7258292>

ARBookFind.co.uk

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

You can use ARBookFind.co.uk to check whether a book is on Accelerated Reader.

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[The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe \(Unabridged\)](#)

Lewis, C.S.

AR Quiz No. 200009 EN Fiction

IL: **MY** - BL: **5.7** - AR Pts: **6.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP, RV, LS, VP**

Aslan, the noble lion, frees Narnia from the spell of the White Witch. Book has violence. Book #2

[Add to AR BookBag™](#)



Any Questions ?

