

Accelerated Reader at Hanham Primary Federation



A guide for parents/carers

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader™ Questions and Answers

Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR™) program. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Accelerated Reader website at www.renlearn.co.uk.

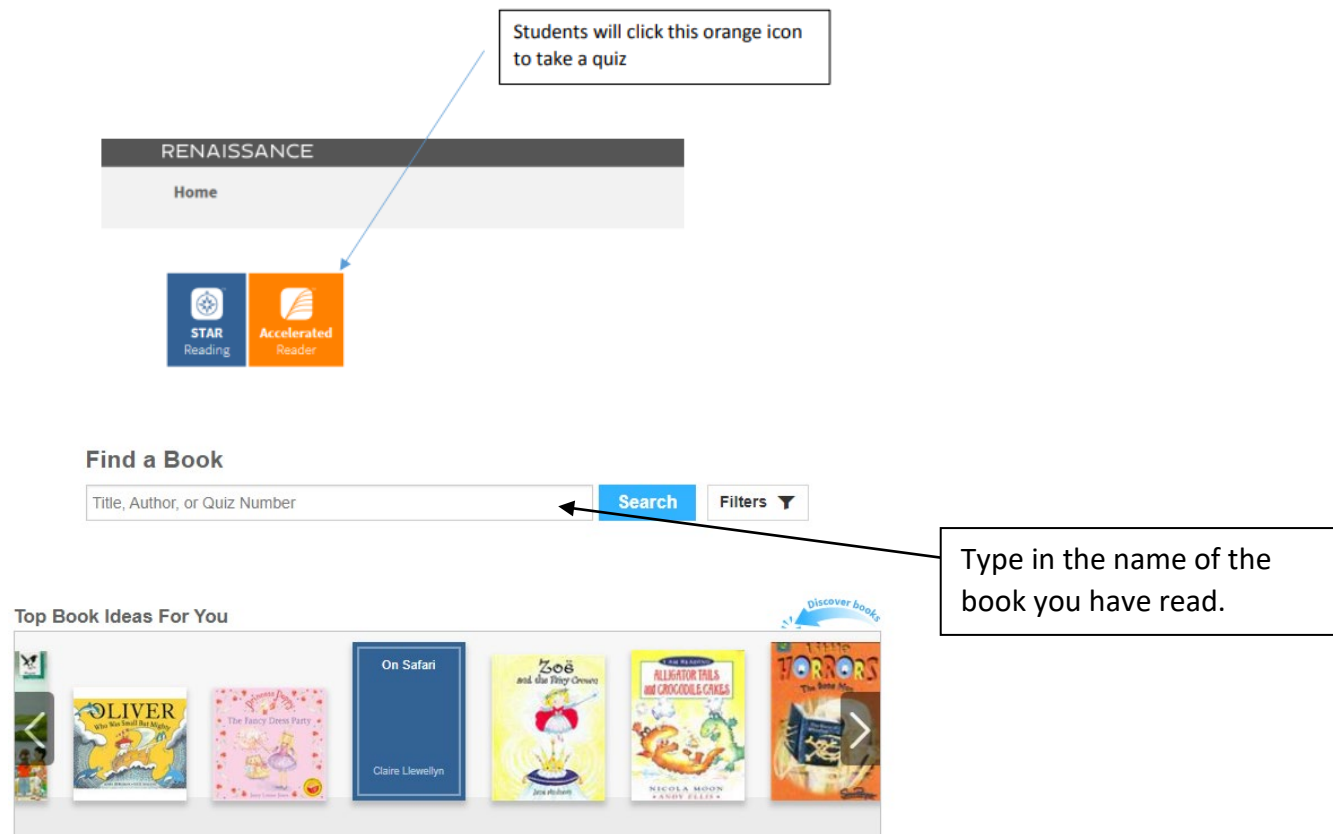
How to take a quiz on Accelerated Reader?

Quizzing through Accelerated Reader is really easy. You need to:

1. Log on to the school's Accelerated Reader website:

<https://ukhosted31.renlearn.co.uk/2233181/default.aspx>

If you can't remember your login details, see your class teacher.



The screenshot shows the Accelerated Reader website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'RENAISSANCE' and 'Home'. Below this, there are two icons: 'STAR Reading' and 'Accelerated Reader'. An arrow points from a text box to the 'Accelerated Reader' icon, stating: 'Students will click this orange icon to take a quiz'.

Below the icons, there is a 'Find a Book' section. It includes a search bar with the placeholder text 'Title, Author, or Quiz Number', a 'Search' button, and a 'Filters' dropdown menu. An arrow points from a text box to the search bar, stating: 'Type in the name of the book you have read.'

Below the search bar, there is a section titled 'Top Book Ideas For You'. It displays a row of book covers, including 'On Safari' by Claire Llewellyn, 'Zoe and the Fairy Queen', 'Alligator Tails and Crocodile Cakes', and 'The BFG'. A 'Discover books' button is located to the right of the book covers.

2. Complete a quiz on the book you have just read.

3. Your teacher will keep track of how you are getting on with your quizzes. If you get 100% on a quiz, remember to put your star up on the 100% club board.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

Teachers 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, the teacher 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.

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 much will my child read during the school day?

According to Renaissance Learning's research, children who read at least 35 minutes a day (combining home and school reading) with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Children will access reading through a variety of methods including independent reading, whole class reading and reading fluency lessons during the school day.

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 comprehends what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader and building a lifelong love of reading and learning.

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

Teachers determine your child's reading level using a STAR Reading™ test. In addition to the AR books your child brings home from school, please encourage them to read a wide range of reading materials. According to research, children who read for at least 35 minutes a day (combined between school and home) with a 90% comprehension rate (average percent correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

What is a STAR Reading test?

STAR Reading is a computer based reading assessment program 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 cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15-20 minutes. This test can only be completed in school and will be undertaken at least three times during the school year.

What is a Book Level?

Book Levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. Normally, however, books are chosen based on the ZPD range recommended for each pupil by STAR Reading.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

After children complete a STAR Reading test, AR provides them with a zone of proximal development (ZPD). This will be a range, for example 2.8 - 4.0. This means that a child with this ZPD should read books between level 2.8 and 4.0. The higher the book level, the more challenging the book. All of our AR books in school have a level. If you want to check the level of books children select outside of school, you can search on www.arbookfind.co.uk.

How can I help my child find books that are interesting to them?

Visit arbookfind.com and click on *Advanced Search*. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.

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.

In many cases, a book's interest level coordinates with its book level. Many books, however, have a low book level but are appropriate for upper grades and vice versa (low level/ high interest books). 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 year groups.

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 (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words).

For example, the *Project X book, Shiver Me Timbers*, has 683 words, has an ATOS level of 2.9 and is worth 0.5 points. *Horrid Henry* books, which are about 6,000 words long and have an average ATOS book level of

approximately 3.5, are 1-point books. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, is about 85,000 words long and at an ATOS book level of 6.7, is a 14 -point book.

Children earn points, or a portion of a book's points, depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz. For example, a child who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%), etc. A child who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%), 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), etc. For quizzes with 3, 5, or 10 questions, a child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points. For quizzes with 20 questions, a child needs to pass with a score of 70% or higher to earn points.

At HPF, children will be given a termly points target to work towards. If they achieve this target by the end of the term, they are celebrated in assemblies and they receive extra play and additional Dojos to reward their hard work.

How are Accelerated Reader point goals set?

Based on extensive research, AR 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. Their points target is generally set based on 15 minutes of daily reading and an accuracy target of 90%.

How will my child take an AR book quiz?

Students take Accelerated Reader quizzes on a computer or tablet with an internet connection. They can take these quizzes in school or at home. Best results are gained when children take quizzes within 24 hours. This prevents it becoming a memory test.

How many Accelerated Reader quizzes are there?

There are over 210,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes available.

What kinds of quizzes are there?

Accelerated Reader includes several types of quizzes designed to support the development of several reading skills. Quiz types include:

Reading Practice Quizzes: Are the most common type of assessment in AR. The purpose of these quizzes is to determine whether your child has read a book, to measure his/her literal comprehension of the book and to provide immediate feedback. Each Reading Practice Quiz consists of 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on book level and length.

Vocabulary Practice Quizzes: Measure a child's command of vocabulary words in context while reading specific books. They are designed to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, assist with individualising vocabulary instruction and to stimulate your child's interest in words through authentic, in-context, literature experiences. Quizzes include 5, 10 or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books.

Literacy Skills Quizzes: Are designed to give your child's teacher information on specific reading skills. Questions are randomly generated from a 36-strong item bank resulting in 12 or 24 quiz questions. Due to item-bank technology, Literacy Skills Quizzes can be taken up to three times. Quiz questions are based on 24 specific higher order reading comprehension skills.

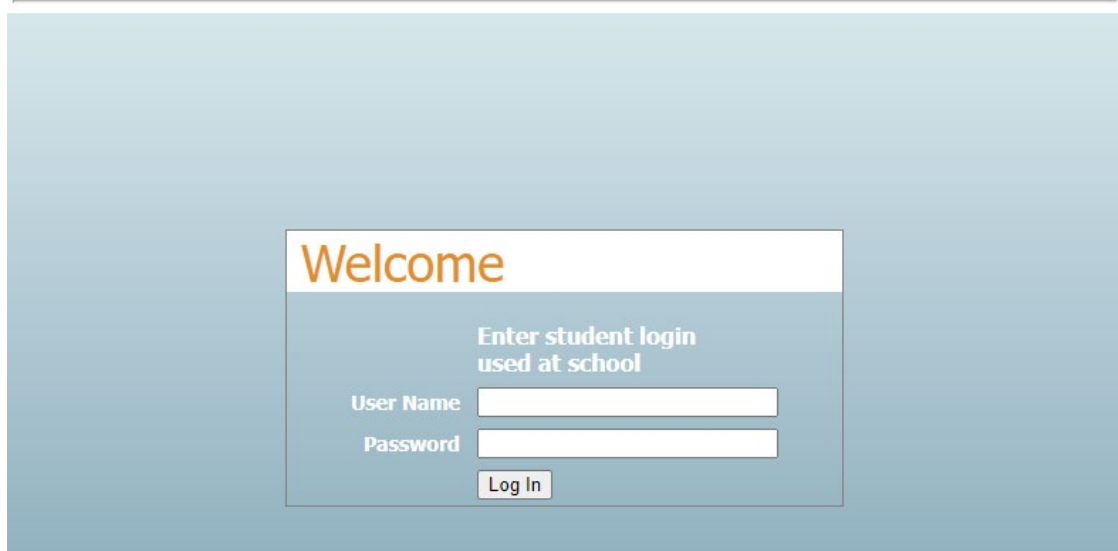
Interest level

In many cases a book's interest level coordinates with its book level. Many books however, have a low book level but are appropriate for Upper Years and vice versa. For example, Oscar, Cat – About – Town by James Herriot and Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman have a Book Level of 4.0 since both have short sentences vocabulary that is simple. Noughts and Crosses, is intended for older pupils therefore it is tagged as Upper Years while Oscar, Cat – About – Town is tagged as Lower Years.

Interest level	Year Level
LY- Lower Years	Years 2 and 3
MY- Middle Years	Years 3 - 6
UY- Upper Years	Year 7 +

What is Accelerated Reader Home Connect?

Renaissance Home Connect™



<https://ukhosted31.renlearn.co.uk/2233181/HomeConnect/>

Use your child's login details to access this.

You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer, so long as you have first gained access to the program from the school. Once in the program, 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. As we

have Renaissance Home Connect available, students with web access at home can log in to view goals, the results of their last quiz, their overall progress on Reading Practice Quizzes, and a list of words learned on Vocabulary Practice Quizzes. Students can also find quizzes that have Accelerated Reader Quizzes by clicking the AR BookFinder link. They can view the Bookshelf (which shows the books they read and their quiz results).

reading

Accelerated Reader

Reading Practice Quizzes
Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

My Overall Progress

05/09/2022 - 21/10/2022 (37% Complete)

Current Marking Period

Quizzes

100%

average % correct

target 90

0 100

Above Target

Points

6.0

85.7% of target

target 7

0 7

1.0 Point to Target

ATOS Book Level

4.4

average level

No Target Set

Quizzes Passed/Taken: 1/1
Word Count: 40,405

My Last Quiz

Taken 17/09/2022



Birthday Boy

By David Baddiel

ATOS Book Level: 4.4

Interest Level:

10 of 10 Correct

100%

6.0 of 6.0 Points

6.0

Reader Certifications

Only passed quizzes count toward certification.