



# Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents



# Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

In Key Stage Two we have introduced the **Accelerated Reader** programme, which is designed to do the following things:

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



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Reader

# How it works...

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

Once the student has completed the test, they are then given a **ZPD score** by their teacher.



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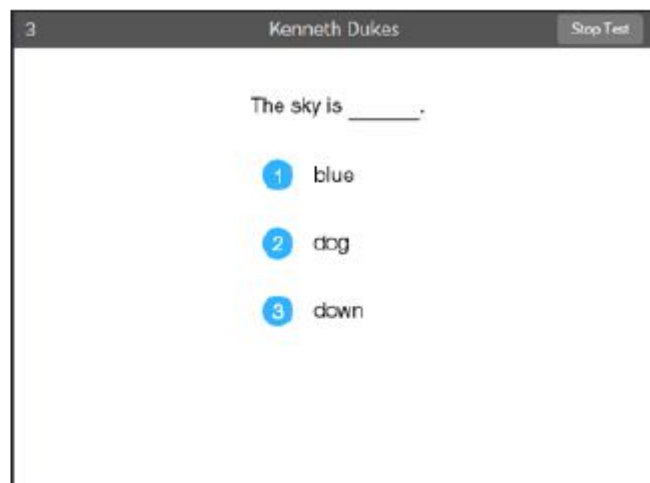
# How STAR tests work

- 1) The student must take their time. It is recommended that each child should spend at least 20 minutes on their tests. Students are used to working quickly in timed conditions, but during a STAR test it is about concentration, focus and careful reading.
- 2) Students 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 student's reading ability.
- 3) Tests are done in exam conditions without any help from other students 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 Dukas Stop Test

The sky is \_\_\_\_\_.

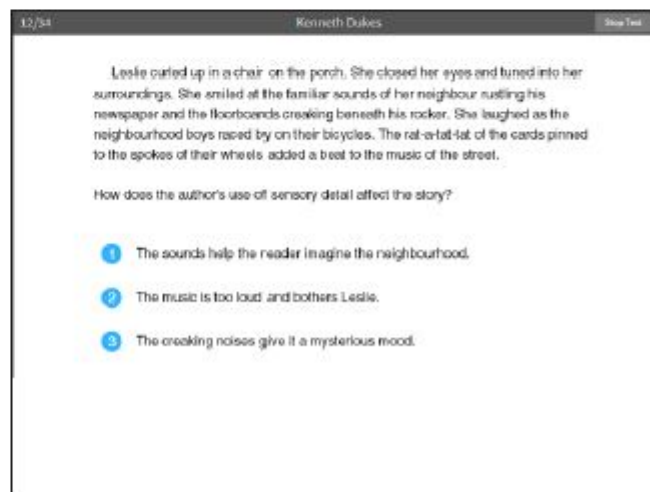
- 1 blue
- 2 dog
- 3 down

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.



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12/34 Kenneth Dukas Show 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.

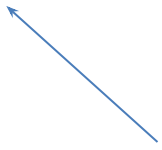
How does the author's use of sensory detail affect the story?

- 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.



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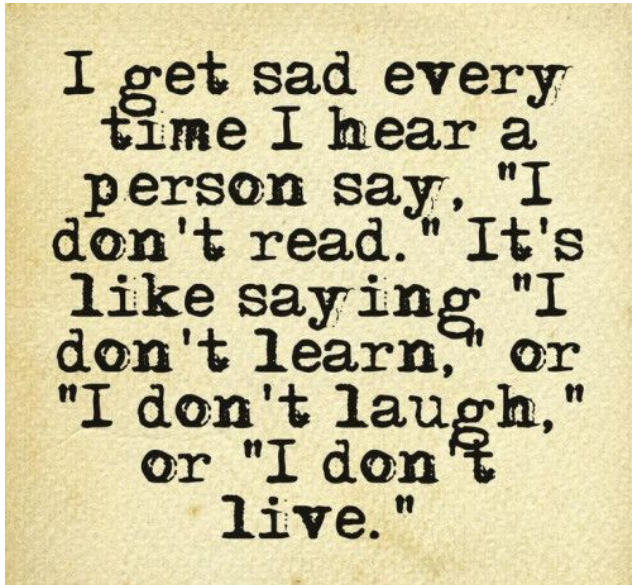
3.2 – 4.6



Lowest  
number



Highest  
number



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

ZPD is two numbers that the student 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.

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

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

All the AR books in the LRC are colour-coded to help the student find the right one.



0.0 to 1.9



6 and above



2 to 2.9



3 to 3.9

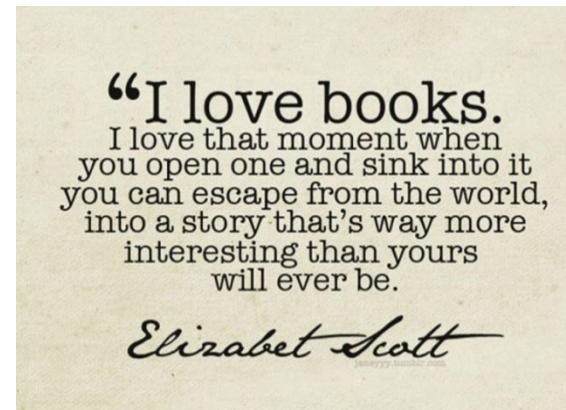


4 to 4.9

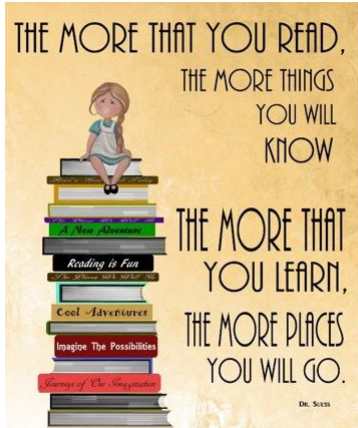


5 to 5.9

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



# AR Quizzes



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 students 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 on **must be a book they have read in the last two weeks**. 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 individually, not with anyone's help.

We will provide time for the children to take their quizzes in school. Eventually, we will open this up so the children can take their quizzes at home too.

To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

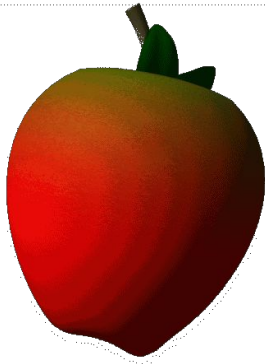
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<http://fkb.me>

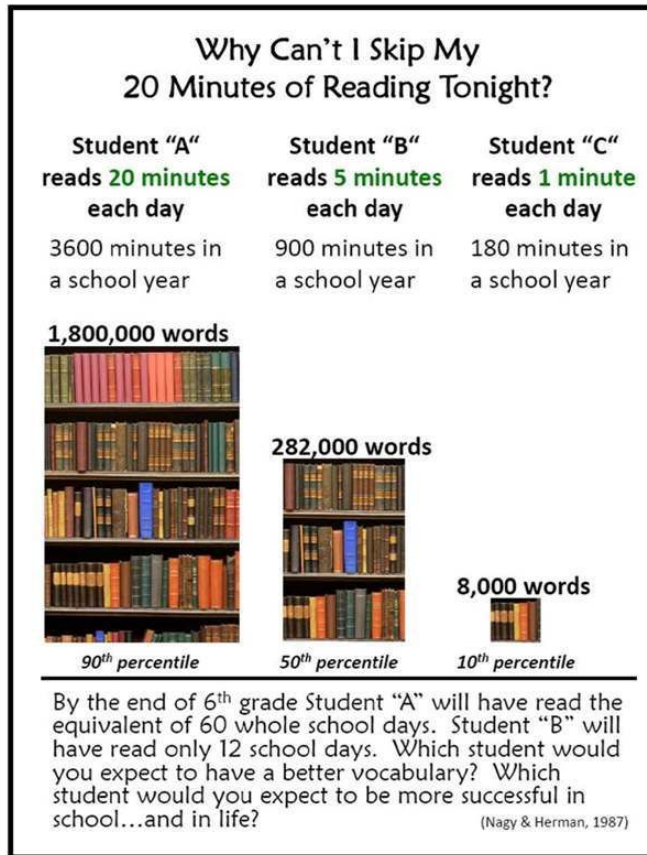
# Reading in School



- Every day your child will participate in a whole class guided reading session.
- Each session will focus on a certain aspect of reading.
- In addition, each class has dedicated silent and sustained reading time; at least 20 minutes 3 times a week.
- Each class also has a class reader which is read to the children by the class teacher. It may also be used as a basis for class reading lessons.
- Finally, adults in school will hear children read. The frequency of this depends upon where each child is in their reading journey.



# “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.



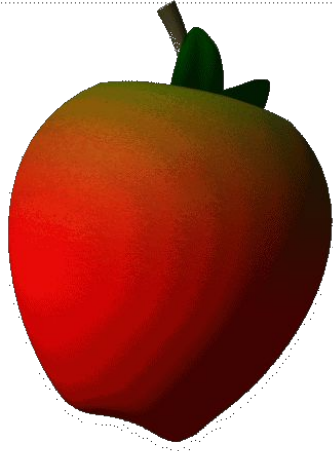


## “How can I help?”

- As with anything, performance improves with practice.
- Encourage your child to read at home – at least 20 minutes a day, 5 times a week.
- 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.



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# How will I know how my child is doing?



- You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer.



- Once in the programme, 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.



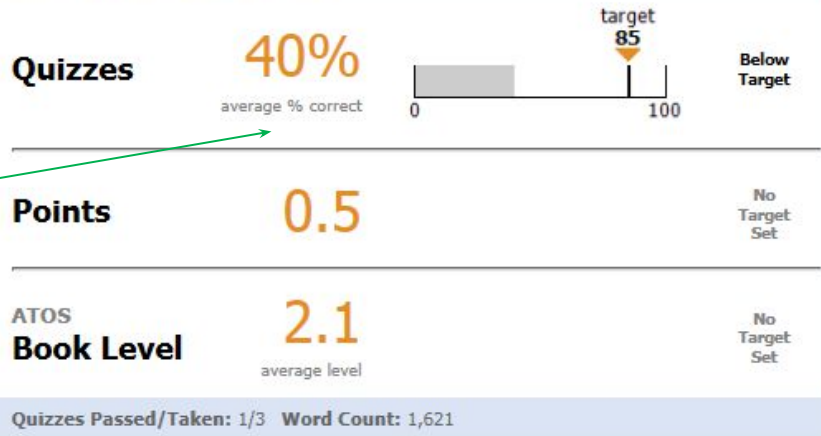
Accelerated Reader

Reading Practice Quizzes Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

### My Overall Progress

03/01/2017 - 07/04/2017 (14% Complete)

Current Marking Period ▾



### Reader Certifications

Only passed quizzes count toward certification.

<b>Last Achieved:</b> None	<b>Current Target:</b> No Target Set
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### My Last Quiz

Taken 10/01/2017



The Cat in the Hat Comes Back

By Dr. Seuss  
ATOS Book Level: 2.1  
Interest Level:

0 of 5 Correct **0%**

0.0 of 0.5 Points **0.0**

[View My Bookshelf](#)

### Find Books

With Accelerated Reader Quizzes



[Click to Open in New Window](#)

Average quiz score

Points earned

Average book level.

Last book read and quizzed on. Include % correct and points earned from book.

# Your child's bookshelf

Done

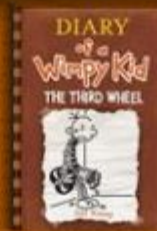
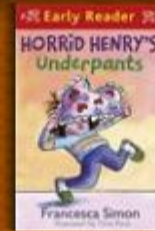
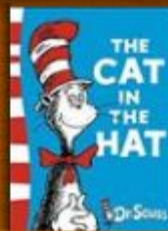
Reading Practice Quizzes Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

## My Bookshelf

Sort by: Date Taken Title

### My Reading Practice Quizzes

Page 1 of 1



Done

# ARBookFind.co.uk

It's not just books from the Academy that students can read, they can read books from home and take quizzes on them!

You can use ARBookFind.co.uk to check whether your child's current book is 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.
- Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.