



Sherard Primary School Accelerated Reader Information

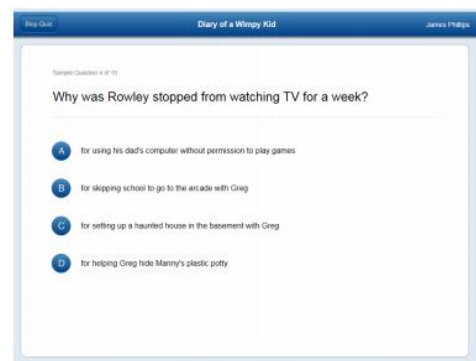
What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

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 AR have a free choice of the books they read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them. Staff in school will help your child choose books that are at an appropriate reading level. These will be challenging without being frustrating and will also be at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may assist him/her by:

- Helping choose another book that is more appropriate
- Asking more probing questions as your child reads and before he/she takes a quiz
- Pairing your child with another pupil or even having the book read to your child.



Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

How is reading assessed?

Accelerated Reading isn't used to assess children's reading ability. At Sherard, we use regular assessment through listening to children read regularly, performance in comprehension activities and tests in order to form a judgement about a child's reading ability and the next steps to improve as a reader. The ZPD score that children receive through Star Reading assessments gives a 'snapshot' of a child's reading ability at any given

time. It certainly isn't the final word on a child's reading ability as we use a range of other assessment measures to form a judgement.

How much will my child read during the school day?

According to 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 will have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during each school day.

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

Teachers determine your child's reading level in one of three ways: a STAR Reading test, reading assessments or by using his/her best professional judgment based on his/her knowledge of your child.

What is a STAR Reading test?

STAR Reading is used to determine your child's reading level. It 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 10 minutes. It gives the children their ZPD score which correlates to the ATOS book levels.

These assessment will be done half termly by your child.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD, or reading range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within his/her ZPD.

What is a Book Level?

Book Levels are reported using the ATOS readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.5–13.5. Books are chosen based on the ZPD range recommended for each pupil by STAR Reading.

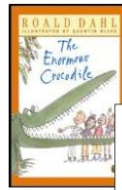
Is it OK for my child to read outside of their reading level?

Yes – this is fine. However, just because a child can read the words in a book does not 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.

What is Interest Level?

The Interest level indicates for which age group a book is appropriate, based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only and teachers and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding pupils.

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



BL 4.0
IL: LY
Pts: 0.5



BL 4.0
IL: UY
Pts: 14.0

The examples above have a book level of 4.0 since both have short sentences and vocabulary that is simple. However, Noughts and Crosses is intended for older pupils - Upper Years, while The Enormous Crocodile is Lower Years.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz. These quizzes can only be accessed and undertaken within school during reading sessions

How many Accelerated Reader quizzes are there?

There are over 11,000 AR quizzes available and more being written every month.

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.

How will my child know how they have done on a quiz?

A child can view their TOPS Report after they have taken a quiz. This gives them feedback on their understanding of the book and will show the percentage of questions a child has got correct. The child will use feedback from the quiz to help them decide which book level to read next. See 'AR quiz information' for further details.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

- 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 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.