



## **Accelerated Reader in KS2**

### **Quick Guide**

1. Your child will choose a book within their individual book level range. Each book in school is labelled with a book level number.
2. Your child will read their book.
3. Soon after finishing the book, your child will log-on to the school Accelerated Reader site in class. Quizzes must not be accessed at home.
4. Inside their book, there will be a sticker with a quiz number. They must type this number in and then tick the relevant box (I have been read to, I have shared reading or I have read independently). Your child will then answer the questions about the book.
5. After the quiz, the child receives instant feedback and will record their scores in their reading records at school.
6. Your child will then choose another book within their range. They may use the Book Finder at the bottom of the screen for ideas about what to read next, or simply finding one with an appropriate sticker in school. Home books may be read too; just type the title in Book Finder to find out if it is listed and what level the book is.

**We will always be looking to add more exciting and interesting books to our library. We welcome any donations throughout the year. If you would like to donate any good quality books, please give them to your child to give to their class teacher.**

**If you have any questions, please message your child's class teacher.**



## **Accelerated Reader in KS2: a Guide for Parents**

This guide is designed to answer your questions about helping your child learn to read and Accelerated Reader. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

### ***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 their own level and reads it at their 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.

To pass a quiz children will need to score above 75%. If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher will support them by:

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

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their own 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.

### ***Is this how reading is assessed in school?***

No. A 'book level' or 'reading age' does not enable an accurate assessment of reading to be made. Through reading comprehension tasks in English lessons and shared reading, the teacher will assess children's ability:

- *to decode print* (to know what a words say) e.g. to sound out, to use the context of the writing to tackle unknown words, to vary intonation appropriately when reading
- *to understand what they have read* (to know what the words mean) e.g. to make predictions and inferences about a piece of text, to ask and answer questions about what has been read, to make summaries and discuss words and phrases that engage the reader

AR provides an additional tool for the teacher to use in informing this judgement.

### ***How much will my child read during the school day?***

Daily reading practice of 25 minutes a day in school.

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

Teachers determine your child's reading level in two ways.

A STAR Reading test or by using their professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child.

***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 test becomes easier. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 10 minutes.

***What is a Book Level?***

Every child in KS2 has undertaken an initial 'Star Reading' assessment which has provided them with a reading level and a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) range.

This ZPD range will allow KS2 children to select appropriate reading books that will be best suited to develop their reading ability and comprehension.

To enable children to easily find accessible books, every book in school has been labelled on the inside cover with a Book Level (B.L.) which refers to the ZPD range. These have been colour coded at the bottom of the book as follows:

White = 0.0 - 0.9  
Purple = 1.0 - 1.9  
Pink = 2.0 - 2.9  
Red = 3.0 - 3.9  
Yellow = 4.0 - 4.9  
Green = 5.0 - 5.9  
Blue = 6.0 - 6.9  
Orange = 7.0+

Children will be provided with a ZPD range, their range may span inside one colour or across two/three colours. A child's ZPD range could change during the year depending on their 'Star Reading' assessment which will be undertaken every half term.

***How will my child move up a ZPD range?***

At the end of each half term, your child will complete a STAR reading test. The result will provide a new ZPD reading range and will also show how much progress your child has made with their reading and comprehension.

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

Yes – this is fine. In the same way that an adult will choose a relaxing read, an old favourite or a more challenging novel, children are free to select a book outside of their given range at home.

For instance, your child may love reading the Harry Potter books, but these books might not be within their current ZPD range. That does not mean children cannot read these books at home, we want to encourage a love of reading but we want to provide children with reading books that will help them make more reading progress.

On the sticker inside the book, there is an Interest Level - LY (Lower Years, ages 5-8), MY (Middle Years, ages 9- 13) or UY (Upper Years, ages 14+). 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 advised to use their best judgement when guiding pupils.

**What is the Quiz Number for?**

On the sticker, there is a quiz number for each book. In AR, there is a database of over 40,000 book quizzes, with more being added every week. Soon after completing a book, children log-in to AR at school and enter the quiz number. There are between 5 and 14 multiple choice questions depending on the book level, written at a reading level suitable for what has been read, for the child to answer in school time. These quizzes will take no longer than 5 minutes.

**What are points?**

Every book that has an Accelerated 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 Horrid Henry books, which are about 5,135 words long and have an average ATOS book level of 3.3, are 1.0-point books. Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone is 77,325 words long and has an average ATOS book level of 6.0, is a 12-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%).

**Celebrating reading**

Aspects of Accelerated Reader will motivate different children. For some, seeing an increasing word count will be encouraging; the number of words in each book and each quiz are added to a running total. Who will be the first to a million words? Once the system is in place, we will be able to celebrate with children as they meet their own specific goals (e.g. reading a wider range of books than before, reading more regularly or challenging themselves to learn new vocabulary found in their reading).

The children will be rewarded with prizes for their achievements. We will also be running a point's competition between each class in KS2 and the top classes will celebrate a fun treat one afternoon near the end of the half term.

**What feedback will teachers and pupils receive?**

Accelerated Reader provides instant feedback for pupils and tracks all scores. Teachers monitor quiz results and provide encouragement and guidance. Students try to average 85% or above on their comprehension quizzes. This indicates good comprehension and will lead to greater progress in reading ability.

**How can I help my child find books that they find interesting at home?**

If you want to get books for your children to read at home and be quizzed on at school.

Visit [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) and click on Advanced Search. By conducting an advanced search, you will be able to generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as ZPD Book Level, Topic, Interest Level and Fiction/Non-fiction, etc.

**Can my child take quizzes at home?**

No quizzes will take place in school.

**How do I listen to my child read?**

Please take time to read with your child at home. This should be a fun activity and choose time when your child is most responsive (i.e. not immediately before bedtime or during their favourite TV programme!)

Find a quiet, place to curl up with a book! This involves taking time out of often busy schedules. Make sure there are no distractions and that the TV is off. Generally speaking, children should read with an adult.

This teaches children that reading is a grown-up thing to do, is valued and important. If the evening is not convenient, try reading first thing in a morning instead. Regular reading practise is the key to success,

Don't worry about trying to read the whole book! As your child increasingly accesses longer texts, it would be appropriate to read a few pages well rather than try to race through the whole text.

### ***What do I do when my child is reading?***

Encourage them to have a go at words they don't know by using the pictures in the story, the events of the book. Ask them questions about what they are reading from time to time. Above all, enjoy it! Laugh at the funny bits and enjoy this time!

### **What if my child doesn't like reading?**

Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books they want to read. The teacher will make certain the book is at the right level, so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the AR Reading Practice Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With guidance from the teacher, and success, even students who say they don't like reading will develop a love of reading.

### **Will my child have to read a book they don't want to read?**

No. There are many, many choices of books at your child's level. Your child will choose books they want to read and find interesting.

However, there will be times, when we all are not enjoying a book. If your child is not enjoying a book or does not do well in a quiz. Their teacher will be able to talk to them about the book and help them to choose another book.

### **I'm concerned that my child will be unfairly compared to others.**

Then you'll really like Accelerated Reader because it helps the teacher work with each child individually. Students using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and set their own goals with the help of the teacher. The aim of Accelerated Reader is for all children to succeed in achieving their goals.

### **How can I help my child become a better reader?**

- Make time for them to read at home. Children need to read for at least 20 minutes every day to improve their reading ability.
- Encourage your child to read; discuss books, asking questions about what they have read; and visit your local library.
- Find suitable books for your child at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk). Use the Search function to look for specific titles or topics, or go to Advanced Search to browse for books within your child's ZPD and interest level.