



Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents/Carers



Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

At RBA, all students 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 the year every student takes 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** (a reading 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. 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.

12/34 Kenneth Dukas 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.



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

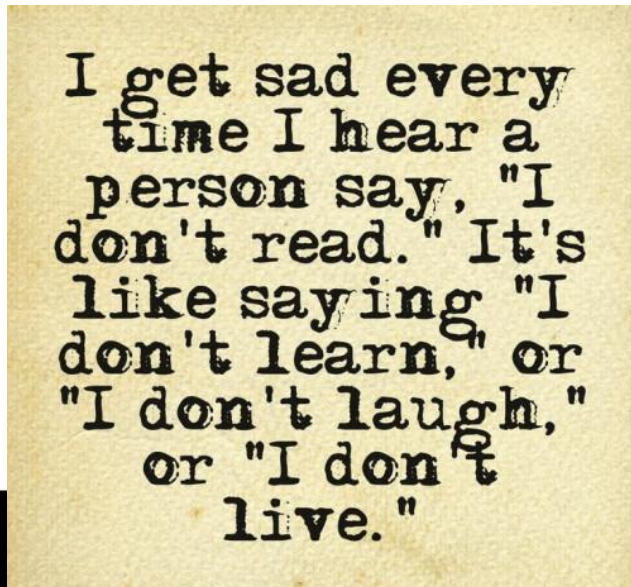
3.2 – 4.6



Lowest
number



Highest
number



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.

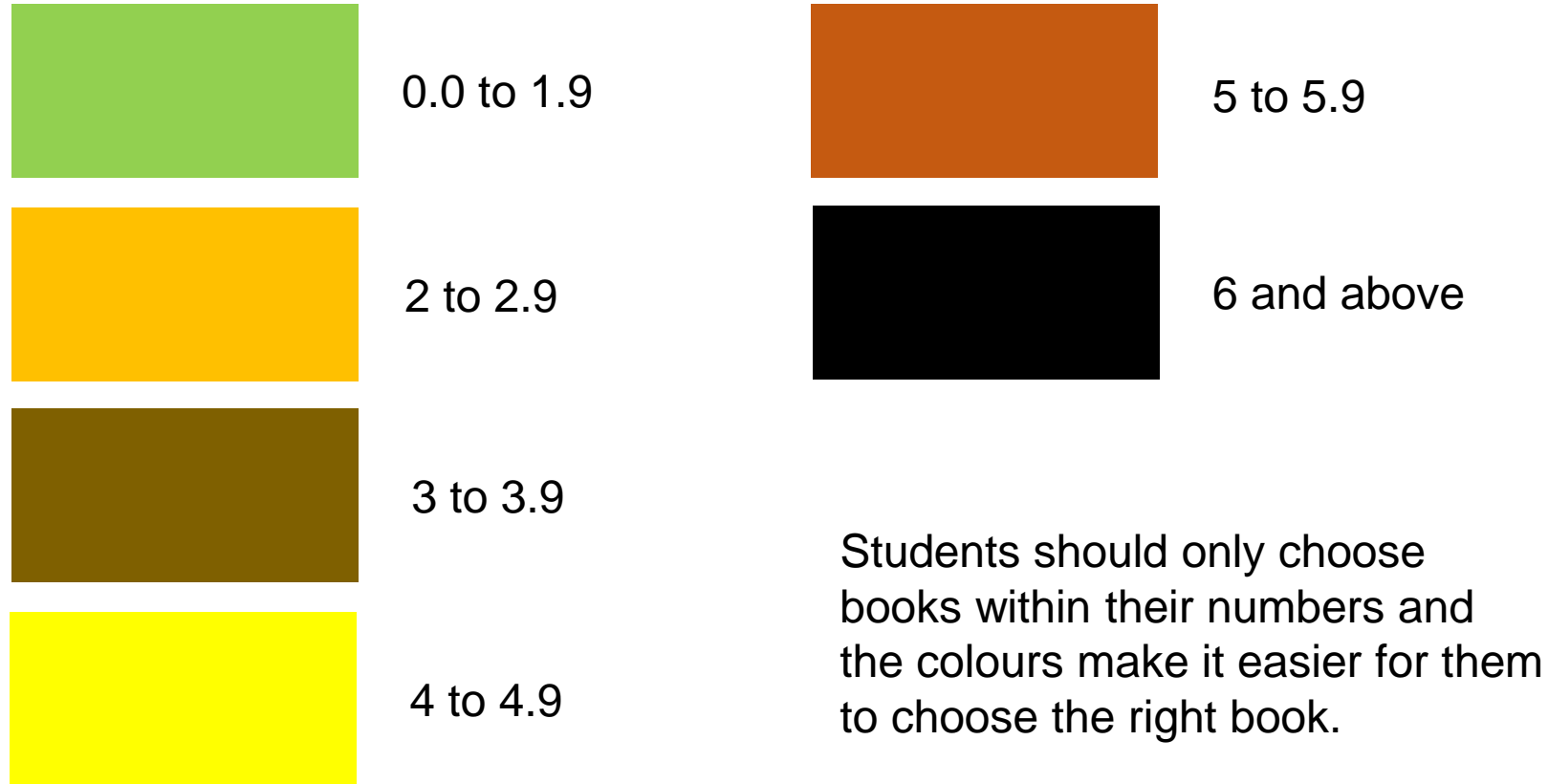
The highest number is the highest level of book the student should be choosing.

Students keep a record of all their ZPDs in their planners.

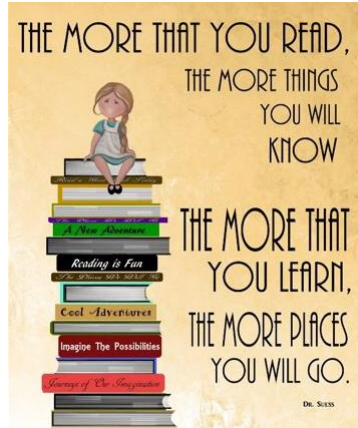
A new STAR test takes place every half term, so students can see improvements in their reading ability, but also choose more challenging books.



All the AR books in the LRC are colour-coded to help the student find the right one (similar to the example below):



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.

Feedback

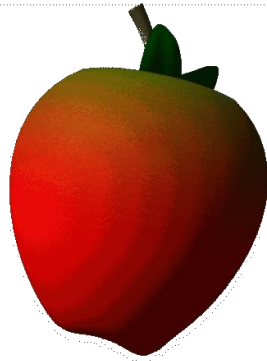
To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

- EDMUND BURKE

<http://lkb.me>



- Every week (KS2)/two weeks (KS3) each AR teacher has a dedicated AR lesson to work with your child and provide them reading feedback.
- The AR lesson with the teacher will go through how well your child is doing and what they need to do to get better at reading.
- English teachers/Form Tutors and AR teachers will all play a part in ensuring students are reading the right level and type of books.
- The computer can tell teachers very specific information about your child's reading development. For instance, it can even explain how many minutes a day your child is reading.



“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.
- Therefore, your child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during day.
- English teachers set reading homework on top of the other English homework they set.
- One Form Time session per week is set aside for pupils to read their own books.





“How can I help?”



- 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.



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.

Renaissance Home Connect™ | Email Setup | Help | Log Out

reading

Accelerated Reader

Reading Practice Quizzes Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

My Overall Progress

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

Quizzes **40%** average % correct target 85 Below Target

Points **0.5** No Target Set

ATOS Book Level **2.1** average level No Target Set

Quizzes Passed/Taken: 1/3 Word Count: 1,621


Reader Certifications

Only passed quizzes count toward certification.

Last Achieved: None **Current Target:** No Target Set

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.





Renaissance Home Connect™ | Help | Log Out

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 school 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, 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.

