Guide to Accelerated Reader
# October 2018

Name:

ZPD Range:

Colour code:

(AR recommend that, initially, children select books from mid-range of their given ZPD).

Children in KS2 have, once again, been taking the Accelerated Quizzes and Star Tests from the start of this new school year and their latest ZPD is above. Do read through this guide to help you learn more but if have additional questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher or Mrs Dismorr (English Lead).

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a database of quizzes which tests comprehension of books being read, motivating the child to read and providing additional useful assessment and monitoring information for the teacher. Your child picks a book at his/her own ZPD level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short 5-20 question quiz on the computer or I-pad. AR complements our well-established Guided and Shared Reading by helping to ensure that the children's *independent* reading practice is appropriate and effective.

Taking a quiz
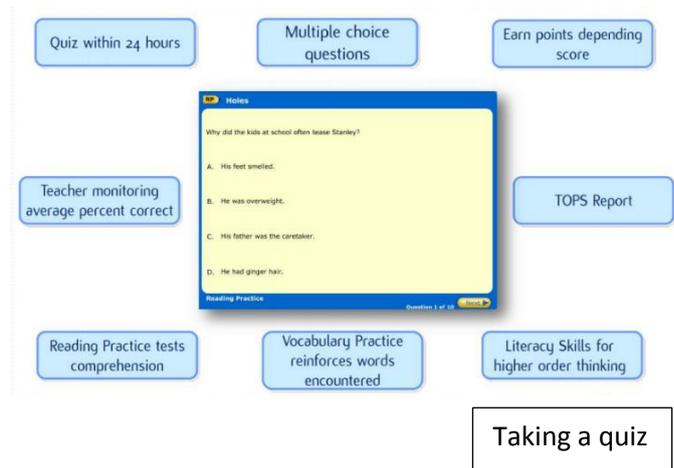
## How does the school use AR to help develop my child's reading?

AR provides lots of useful information for teachers about a child's reading habits, strengths and areas for development, to supplement our school assessment procedures. Teachers determine your child's reading level in three ways:
- ✓ a STAR Reading test,
- ✓ a reading age estimation from previous assessment scores
- ✓ by using his/her best professional judgment based on his/her knowledge of your child.

Children using AR have a free choice of the books they read within their given range, rather than having one assigned to them. Books should be challenging without being frustrating, at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success. Children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

What is a STAR Reading test?

Each term, the children take a STAR reading test, a short computer-adaptive test. The child is presented with questions, which require a multiple-choice answer. The test adjusts depending on the response (becoming harder or easier depending on whether it is correct or not). The whole test takes approximately 20 minutes, is completed in school and gives a child a ZPD level to help guide their book choice.
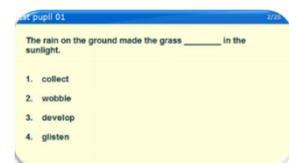
AR books and ZPD

Following the STAR test, children are given their current ZPD. ZPD is the range of books that the Star Test tells us will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Use the ZPD to select books best suited to develop your child's reading skills. The ZPD is not a reading age but an indication of the level of complexity of text best suited to an individual child to help them progress. More able readers may have a wider ZPD simply because they are able to tackle a wider range of texts. The advice in this case is to select from the middle of the ZPD initially.

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

Children are not *required* to stay within their ZPD if they spot a book which interests them in another ZPD range. It is important, after all, to cultivate a love of reading and sharing books with children is a key factor in their reading success. However, just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. Some books have complicated vocabulary, but simple storylines; others might have far simpler vocabulary, but more complex storylines. When choosing a book, it is essential that the child is interested in the book, will enjoy reading it and feel success in having finished it and understood it. So, while we would not restrict children's reading choices, we are trying to guide it.

How do I know if my child is at the reading at the expected level for his age/year group?
Information about your child's reading skills and age-related expectations, guided by AR and our other assessments, will be regularly shared with parents at parents' evenings and through reports.

Selecting a book in school
Pupils select books appropriate for their individual reading level and interests (within the ZPD from the STAR test). To help guide them, books are labelled in the following ways:
Book Level: the difficulty of the text (0.5-13.5). Pupils are advised to select from the middle of their ZPD. Books are colour-coded with a dot on the spine.
Interest Level: This relates to the content and appropriateness of the text (Lower, Middle and Upper Years)
Points: Decided by the length and the number of words within a book.
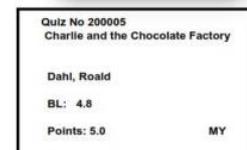
Quiz No 200005
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
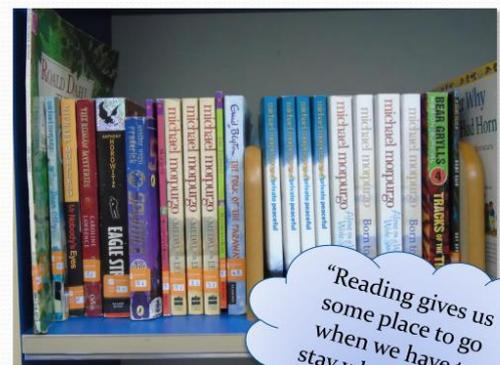
Dahl, Roald

BL: 4.8

Points: 5.0   MY

Accelerated Reader Book Level Guide

🟢	0.0 - 1.9
🟠	2.0 - 2.9
🔵	3.0 - 3.9
🟡	4.0 - 4.9
🔴	5.0 - 5.9
🟤	6.0 +

How can I use AR to help my child?
Using their ZPD, children (and parents) can search for books using the online search tool http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/ which allows you to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes. By selecting *Advanced Search*, you will be able to generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as Book Level, Topic, Interest Level and Fiction/Non-fiction, etc.

In addition, Renaissance Learning offer a system called Home Connect, which can be accessed from any web-enabled computer, to allow parents to access their children's quiz information at home. Using Home Connect, children can login and see their quiz results (we aim for 85% correct per quiz), the books they have read and quizzed on, and how many points they have acquired. The programme also gives them suggestions on what to read next, based on their interest and ability. They can also see how many points they have acquired and what their total word count is. We will be introducing this shortly.

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, you child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during the day.

"Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are"

Aim for 85% on each quiz.

See how many points you have earned.
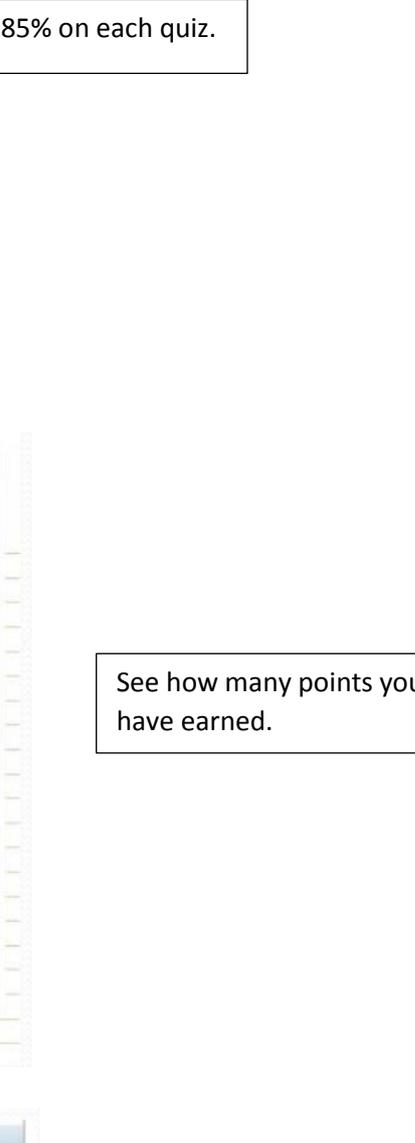
A personalised bookshelf to show what you have read.