

## A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader™ Questions and Answers

Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR™) program. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR.

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.



### A Sample Quiz Question

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.

A member of staff and trained child librarians 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.

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.

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

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

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

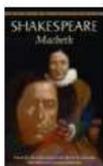
Teachers determine your child's reading level in one of three ways: a STAR Reading™ test, a reading age estimation from a standardised test, or by using his/her best professional judgment based on his/her knowledge of your child.

### **What is a STAR Reading test?**

STAR Reading is 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.

### **What are points?**

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). You may notice that some popular books have more points assigned to them than some classic pieces of literature. David Copperfield (Unabridged), for example is a 66-point book while Shakespeare's MacBeth is a 4-point book. Keep in mind that this does not mean we think David Copperfield (Unabridged) is a better book or more worthwhile to read than MacBeth, only that—at 339,112 words vs. 19,048 words—it is much longer and provides more reading practice time.



4 pt. (19,048 words)



66 pt. (339,112)

Children earn points on a pro rata basis depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz. For example, a pupil 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%) and so on. A pupil 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%), etc. A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points.

### **My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader?**

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupils with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. 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.

### **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.