



Accelerated Reader:

A Guide for Parents

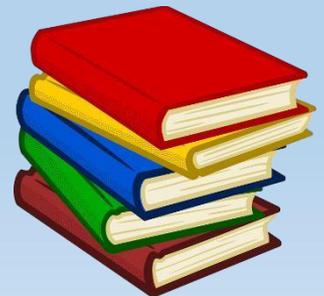


In Walshestown N.S. all students from 3rd to 6th class take part in the **Accelerated Reader** programme, which is designed to do the following things:

- Find books that are the right ability for your child
- Encourage your child to read more
- Improve your child's reading ability.

What is Accelerated Reader?

In short, Accelerated Reader 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. Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers, feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.



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 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.

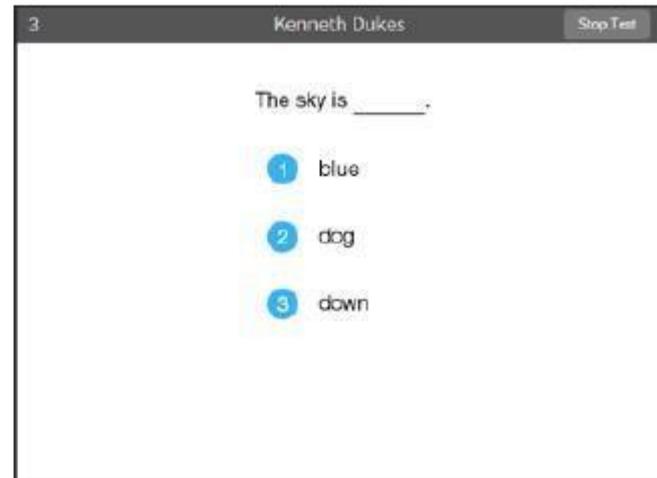


Once the student has completed the test, they are then given a **ZPD score** by their teacher.

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.

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.



Web browser



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

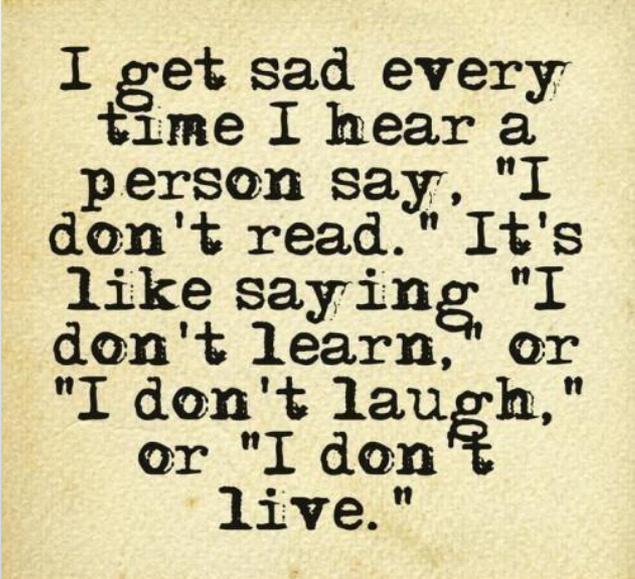
ZPD is two numbers that the student uses
to choose their next reading book.

3.2 – 4.6

The lowest number is the lowest level of Lowest
Highest book the student should be choosing.

number

number



I get sad every
time I hear a
person say, "I
don't read." It's
like saying "I
don't learn," or
"I don't laugh,"
or "I don't
live."

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

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

AR Books and ZPD



AR Books – Each quizzed book has a book level which represents the difficulty of text

ZPD - An individual range of book levels recommended for each pupil's reading ability



All the AR books in school are colour-coded to help the student find the right one.



0.0 to 1.9



6 to 6.9



2 to 2.9



7 and above



3 to 3.9

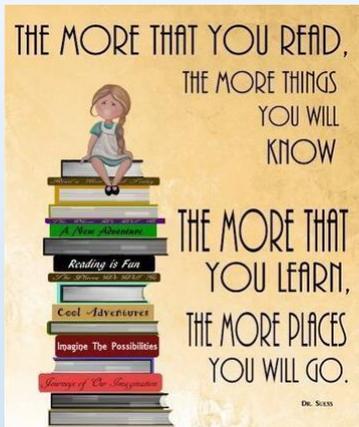


Students should only 4 to 4.9
choose books within their numbers... the colours make it
easier for them to choose the right book!



5 to 5.9

The AR Quiz

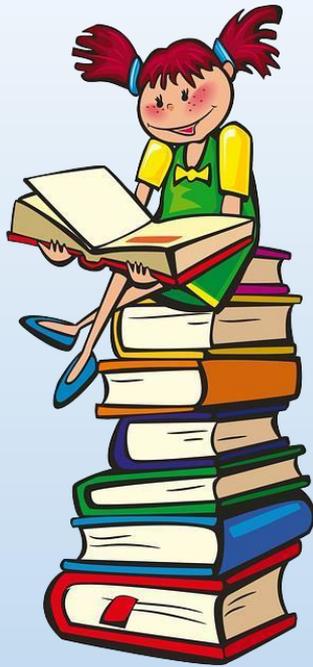


A quiz is different to a STAR test because students only take a quiz **after** they have *finished* a book.

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.

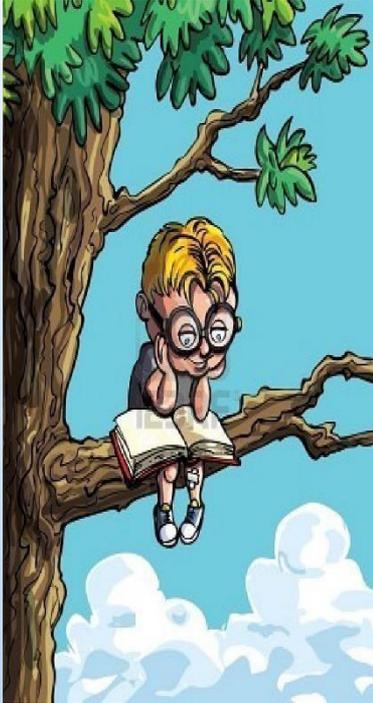
There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

- 1) The book the child is quizzed on **must be a book they have finished reading in the last 24-48 hrs** . 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.



“How much should my child read each day?”

- According to Renaissance Learning’s research, children who read at least 30 minutes (15minutes in school and 15 at home) a day with a 80% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.
- Therefore, your child should have at least 30 minutes set aside for reading during day.
- Teachers set reading homework on top of the other homework they set – However reading can take place before bed, when the child is relaxing. It should be an enjoyable experience.



“How can I help?”

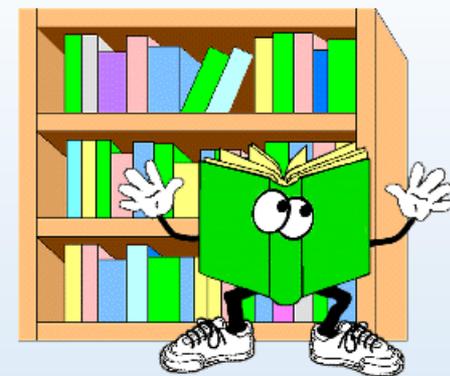
- As with anything, performance improves with practice.
- Encourage your child to read at home.
- Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library, charity shop or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you 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.

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.



“What if my child doesn't like reading?”

Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books he/she wants 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 Accelerated Reader 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.

“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.
- Teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.