

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader™

All pupils participate in the Accelerated Reader™ (AR™) program whilst in the First Year and Second Year at Kirkham Grammar School. AR is a computer program that aids the management and monitoring of the independent reading practice of pupils. They select a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, a short quiz is taken on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that pupils have understood what was read.) AR provides feedback based on the quiz results, which are then used for target setting and direct ongoing reading practice.

According to research, those who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percentage correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

How can I help my son/daughter become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage reading at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis, letting your son/daughter see you reading and discussing books that each of you have read. Make learning a family affair!

I am concerned that my son/daughter will be unfairly compared to others.

AR helps the teacher work with each pupil individually which encourages pupils to progress at their own pace, whilst still succeeding in achieving their targets.

How does the school determine reading levels?

STAR Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to the responses received. If the response to a question is correct, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If a question is missed, the difficulty level of the next question is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

What is an ATOS™ book level?

Book levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, an ATOS book level of 4.5 means that the text could likely be read by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical Year 6 pupil.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a reader without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Pupils receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for pupils to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. AR points are computed based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn points, or a portion of a book's points, depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz. For example, someone 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. There are over 27,000 AR quizzes available, with more being written every month.

You may notice that some popular books have more points assigned to them than some classic pieces of literature. J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, for example, is a 44-point book while Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is a 4-point book. Keep in mind that this does not mean that *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is thought to be a better book or more worthwhile to read than *Macbeth*, only that - at 257,154 words versus 19,048 words—it is much longer and provides more reading practice time.

How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

To know which quizzes are available you can visit the AR BookFinder™ at www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

How can I help my son/daughter find books that are interesting to him or her?

Visit www.arbookfind.co.uk and click **Advanced Search**. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.

My son/daughter already does well in school. Why does he/she need this?

Even those gifted at playing a musical instrument have to practice to develop their talent. The AR software helps to guide pupils to books that provide both challenge and success, regardless of their level.

How will I know how my son/daughter is doing?

You can access AR information for your son/daughter in Renaissance Home Connect™. Once in the program, you can view your son/daughter's progress toward targets, points and books read to monitor their success. To log in to Renaissance Home Connect, use this link:

<https://UKhosted48.renlearn.co.uk/2260209/HomeConnect>

User Name: **insert your son/daughter's username** (first letter of first name and first four letters of surname)

Password: **ABC**

You will then see a screen like the one below, which shows your son/daughter's progress to date.

The main dashboard screenshot shows the following data:

- My Overall Progress:** Quizzes: 86.2% (average % correct), target 85 (Above Target). Points: 157.3 (342.7% of target), target 45.9 (Above Target). ATOS Book Level: 5.1 (average level), No Target Set. Quizzes Passed/Taken: 17/17. Word Count: 1,174,781.
- My Last Quiz:** Taken 02/12/2021. Book: 'Once Upon a Crime' by Robin Stevens. ATOS Book Level: 5.6. Interest Level: 5.6. Results: 10 of 10 Correct (100%), 10.0 of 10.0 Points (10.0).
- Reader Certifications:** Last Achieved: None. Current Target: No Target Set.
- Find Books:** With Accelerated Reader Quizzes. AR BookFinder™ logo.

Three inset screenshots are shown to the right, with blue arrows pointing from the main dashboard to them:

- Email Setup:** A form for sharing results and progress, including fields for First Name, Email, and Retype Email. A note states: "An invitation email will be sent to this person when you click Add. They will need to respond and accept before more emails will be sent."
- My Bookshelf:** A grid of book covers available for reading practice.
- RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader BookFinder™:** The external website for searching for books with AR quizzes.

If you'd like to receive emails showing your son/daughter's quiz or test results, click the Email Setup Link in Renaissance Home Connect and follow the directions. To be sure these emails reach your inbox, add homeconnectautodelivery@renlearn.com to your address book.