



# Accelerated<sup>TM</sup> Reader

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a reading program designed specifically to enhance and develop students reading skills. AR works by assessing the child's reading age and producing their *zone of proximal development (ZPD)*. The ZPD allows students to read books at their optimal learning level and does this by offering each student their personalised book levels. As long as a student is reading a book within this range, their ZPD, they will make significant progress towards developing a stronger level of comprehension and fluency in what they are reading.

For more information, Renaissance Learning who run AR, have a fantastic website: [www.renlearn.co.uk](http://www.renlearn.co.uk)

## FAQs

### **1. How are reading ages assessed?**

Each student takes an online reading assessment which consists of 34 multiple choice questions. Each answer given dictates the level of the next question which results in a very specific and tailored reading age for every student. The questions assess their ability to de-code words and their level of comprehension.

### **2. What are book levels and why do the students have to choose books within their levels?**

Each reading assessment that a student completes gives us their zone of proximal development (ZPD). This is the level in which they will make most progress. The book levels issued are specific to each student's results, and by reading within these levels they will make the most effective progress. Each student has a book level range, for example, 2.0 – 3.0. Books at the lower end of the range should be comfortable for the student to read and they should achieve 100% on these books early on. As they move up through the levels the books will become more challenging for them and may take longer to read. A book at the top of their range should not be attempted until they have shown competency throughout the lower levels. Students may be able to de-code words in higher level books, however these will be challenging comprehensively and will slow progression.

### **3. How often should a student read their AR book?**

AR recommends that students read their AR book between 20-45minutes a day to ensure they make significant progress.

### **4. What happens after they finish the book?**

Children need to take a quiz! They can take the quiz on school computers or iPads. It is recommended that children quiz within 24 hours of finishing the book but after the weekend is fine too. The quiz will be either 5 or 10 multiple choice questions, depending on how long the book is. There is no time limit and children need 60% of the questions answered correctly to pass. 85% is our school target! Their results are displayed at the

end, along with how many points they win and how many words they have read in the book. If a student is regularly achieving 100% they will need to be choosing books higher up their levels to continue being challenged

## **5. How are the targets set and measured?**

After each reading assessment, AR automatically generates a target for each student. This is a points target based on the points value of each book. The target is set using the students ZPD, the number of weeks in the term and the requirement of the student reading for 20 minutes each day.

To achieve points towards their target, a student must first pass their book quiz by achieving 60% or more. If they achieve 100% on a book quiz, they receive the full points value for that book. This is then proportioned down to 60%. For example, if a book is worth 1pt they would achieve the following:

100% pass rate = 1pt

80% pass rate = 0.8pt

60% pass rate = 0.6pt

These points are added to the students target automatically and will calculate what percentage of their target they have achieved overall.

## **6. Can I read a book from home?**

Yes! AR is a national program and is not limited to the books in school. If you have a book at home you would like to read for AR, please bring it in and I will check the level. If the book is not in your level, please continue to read it at home in addition to reading your AR book for 20 minutes each day.

Book levels can be also be checked here: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk>