# Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents






# Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

From Year 2 onwards, all students 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.



# How it works…

At the start of the year every student took a **Star Reader Assessment**, which is a computer-based test that measures a student's reading ability through a series of 34 questions.

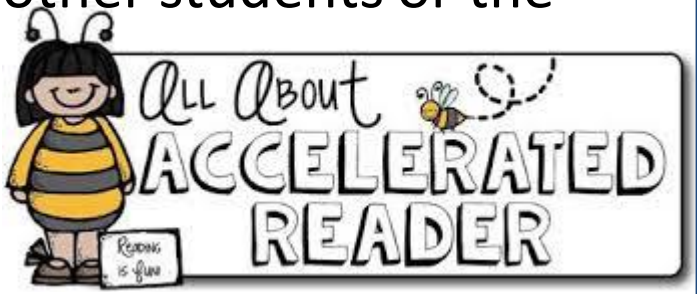


Every test for every student is different, and the computer selects different questions for each student dependent on how well they answer the previous questions. Essentially, the computer adapts the test to suit your son or daughter.

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

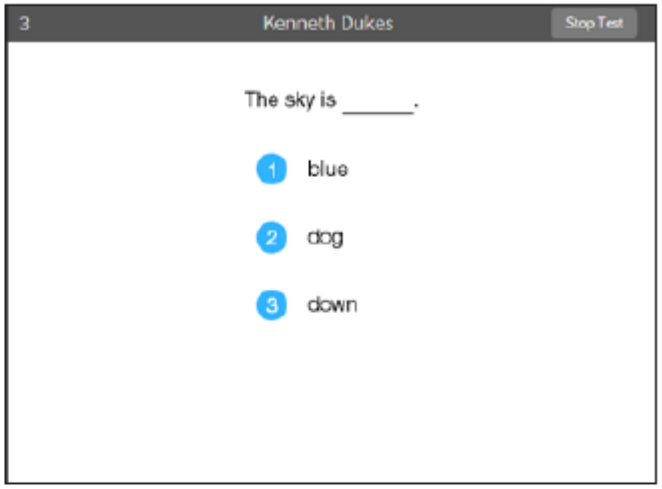
# How STAR tests work

1) The student must take their time. It is recommended that each child should spend **at least** *20 minutes* on their tests. Students are used to working quickly in timed conditions, but during a STAR test it is about concentration, focus and careful reading.
2) Students should not guess answers to questions. Instead, they should wait for the question to time out. This is to ensure the computer is not given a false impression of the student's reading ability.
3) Tests are done without any help from other students or the 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.




Web browser

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.

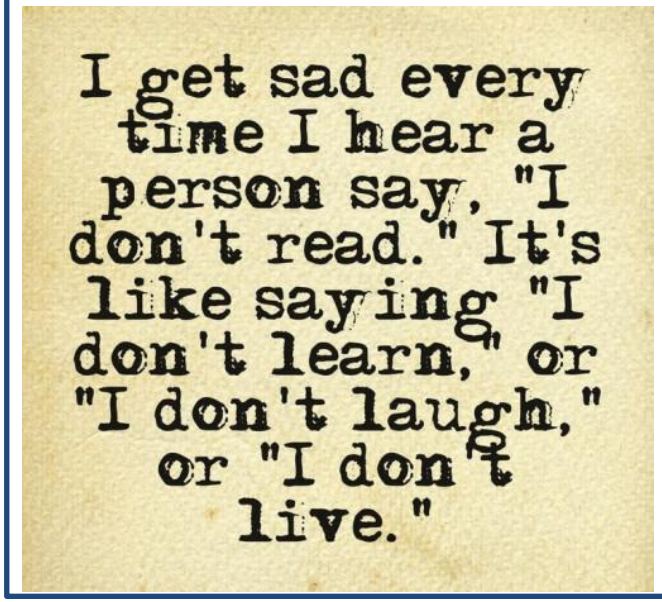


# A ZPD score is given to your child after completing the STAR test

3.2 – 4.6

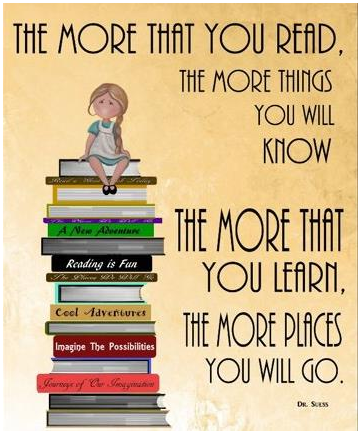
Lowest number

Highest number




- ZPD is two numbers that the student uses to choose their next reading book.
- The lowest number is the lowest level of book the student should be choosing.
- The highest number is the highest level of book the student should be choosing.
- Students keep a record of all their ZPDs in their planners or exercise books.
- A new STAR test takes place every half term, so students can see improvements in their reading ability, but also choose more challenging books.

# AR Quizzes



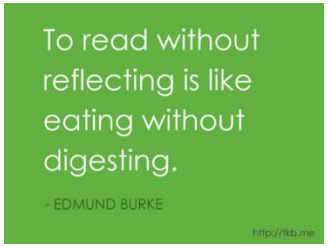

A quiz is different to a STAR test because students only take a quiz **after** they have *finished* a book.

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 just read**. 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.

# Feedback



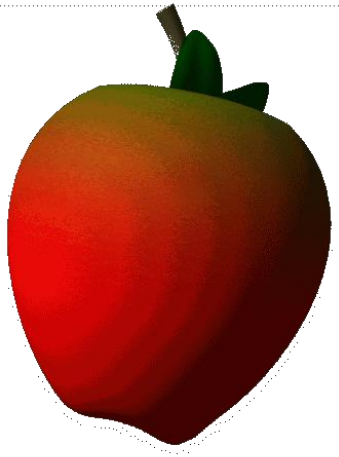

- After each quiz, your child should share their result with their class teacher.
- The class teacher can then guide your child to select an appropriate book to read next
- The computer can tell teachers very specific information about your child's reading development. For instance, it can even explain how many minutes a day your child is reading.



# “How much should my child read each day?”

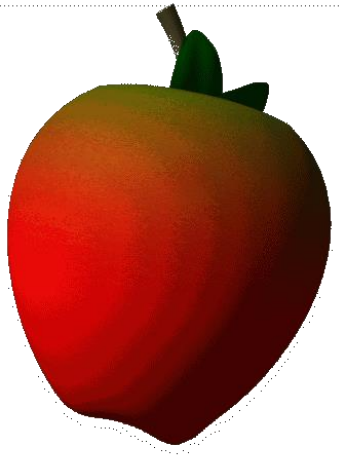
- According to Renaissance Learning’s research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

- We recommend that each child reads for at least 10-15 minutes each night
- We will supplement this with time for reading in school



# “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.



# How will I know how my child is doing?

- You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer.




- Once in the programme, you can view your child's progress towards targets, points and books read.
- You can also access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest.
- You can only access information about your own child.

Renaissance Home Connect™ | Email Setup | Help | Log Out

reading

Accelerated Reader

**Reading Practice Quizzes** Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

## My Overall Progress

03/01/2017 - 07/04/2017 (14% Complete)

Current Marking Period

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Quizzes** | 40% average % correct | target 85 (0 – 100) | Below Target |
| **Points** | 0.5 | | No Target Set |
| ATOS **Book Level** | 2.1 average level | | No Target Set |

**Quizzes Passed/Taken:** 1/3 **Word Count:** 1,621

## Reader Certifications

Only passed quizzes count toward certification.

| Last Achieved: | Current Target: |
|---|---|
| None | No Target Set |

## My Last Quiz

Taken 10/01/2017




The Cat in the Hat Comes Back

By Dr . Seuss

ATOS Book Level: 2.1

Interest Level:

0 of 5 Correct 0%

0.0 of 0.5 Points 0.0

View My Bookshelf

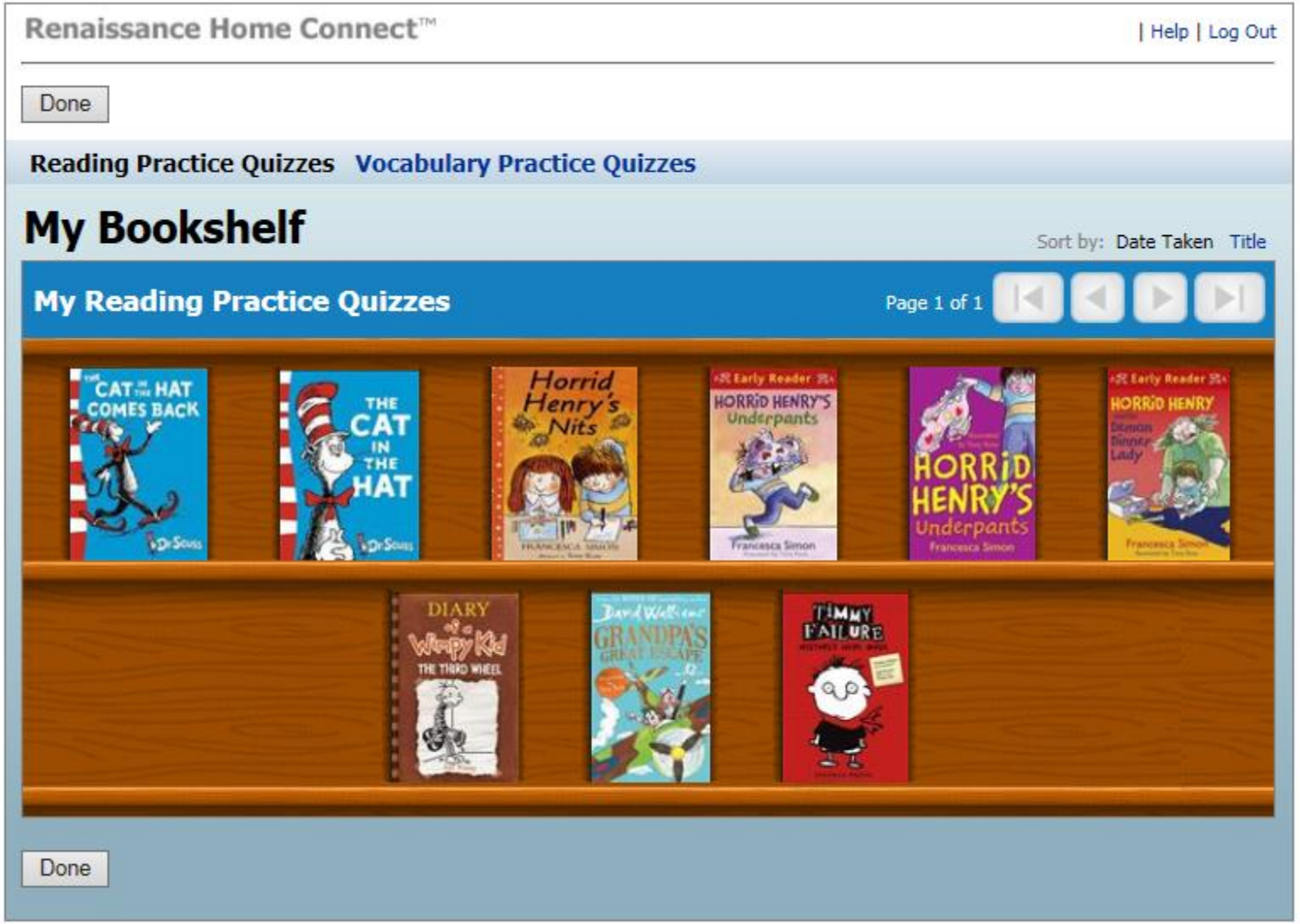
## Find Books

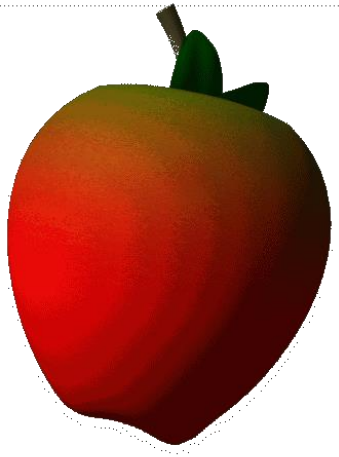
With Accelerated Reader Quizzes

AR™ BookFinder™

Click to Open in New Window

# Your child's bookshelf





# Can a child who is not a strong reader still use Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupil, regardless of initial ability.
- When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success.
- Furthermore, teachers work with children to select appropriate books based on each child's reading level and select achievable targets.