

Anglo European School
Parents' Guide to Accelerated Reader.

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a computer program (developed by Renaissance Learning) that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor student's independent reading. All students in Years 7 and 8 participate in this scheme.

Each student picks a book at their appropriate level and reads it at their own pace. Once the book has been fully read, the student needs to take a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that the student has understood what was read.

How does it work?

All students on the Accelerated Reader program will be asked to undertake a STAR Reading test. This test is a computerised reading assessment 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 misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple choice questions and takes approximately 25 minutes to complete.

After completing a STAR test, students will be given their unique book level (also known as a ZPD – Zone of Proximal Development). Students are then expected to read books at the appropriate level and take a quiz within 48 hours of finishing the book.

Each student should be aiming to achieve at least 85% on their quizzes. This score will enable students to move forward with their reading and increase their book levels. The book levels are calculated using data from their STAR test in conjunction with their chronological age. Students will be tested using this scheme at least once a term and the results recorded in their organisers.

Why do students have to take a quiz?

Quizzing on books read is seen as a fun way to encourage reading. It is also a way of making sure that students are understanding what they are reading. Each time a student achieves 100% on a quiz, they will be given a raffle ticket for the termly draw. The draw takes place at the end of each term in a celebration assembly. The following awards are also presented on a termly basis:

- Reader of the Term – student who shows most enthusiasm for reading and quizzing.
- Class of the Term
- Reading Millionaire Awards – students who have read 1 million words over the current academic term.

What happens when a student takes a quiz?

Students will be asked a number of multiple choice questions, relating to the book they have read. The number of questions will vary and is dependent on the length of the book. Once the quiz has been completed, students will need to print off a TOPS report. This needs to be recorded in their organisers.

What is a TOPS a report?

This report details how the student has done on a quiz and their progress over each term and the academic year. It also details how many quizzes they have taken, how many quizzes passed plus how many words read.

How can I support my child with Accelerated Reader?

You can support your child by regularly listening to them read. You can also check their organisers, look at their TOPS reports and praise them on how many words read or quizzes passed.

Students are expected to read for at least thirty minutes, three times a week. We also expect students to take an AR quiz at least once a month.

How can I find out which books are on the scheme?

Please visit <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>. Hundreds of quizzes are added to the scheme every month. If there is a particular book that does not have a quiz, please feel free to contact the school library.

Can students take quizzes at home?

Unfortunately due to the licensing restrictions of the program, students are only permitted to take quizzes in school.

Further questions?

If you have any further questions regarding this scheme or would like to discuss any aspect of your child's reading, please feel free to contact either their English teacher or one of the Librarian's for more information.