

Accelerated Reader/STAR reading: A Guide for Parents



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Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

In Year 10 all students take part in the **Accelerated Reader** programme, which is designed to do the following things:

- Promote an enjoyment of reading both fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Encourage students to read more frequently
- Encourage growth and improvement of students' reading ability.



Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

Accelerated Reader engages students through quizzes and activities that are designed to hone reading skills through 4 different approaches:

- **Guide:** Personalized goals that help monitor progress and provide feedback
- **Engage:** using students' interests and reading levels to suggest "just-right" texts.
- **Practice:** high-quality reading practice that fuels growth: Reading quizzes monitor comprehension, extend student learning and build essential literacy skills.
- **Growth:** Paired with [Renaissance Star Reading](#), detailed reports provide insights into students' progress

How does it work?



STARTM
Reading

At the start of the year, every Year 10 student took a **STAR Test**, a computer-based test that measures a student's reading ability through a series of 34 questions.

- Every test for every student is different
- the computer selects different questions for each student dependent on how well they answer the previous questions.

Teachers/Form tutors will use the data from STAR Assessments to:

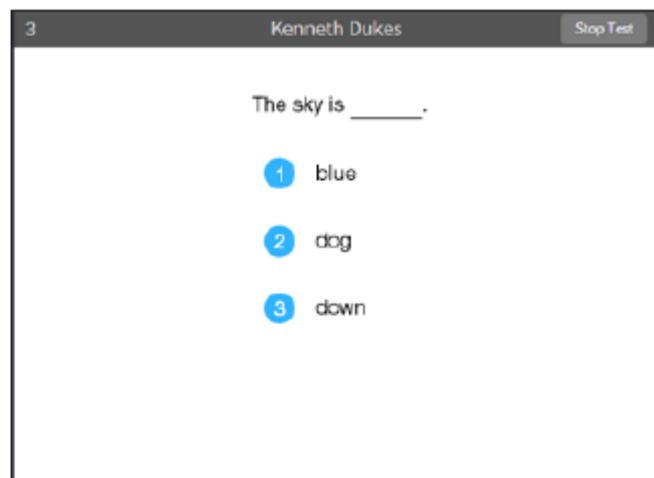
- assess your child's learning needs
- gain an understanding of their reading ability
- Differentiate reading activities to improve academic outcomes for all students.

Once the student has completed the test, a report is issued to students/parents/form tutors with all the students' data, including a **ZPD score**.



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.



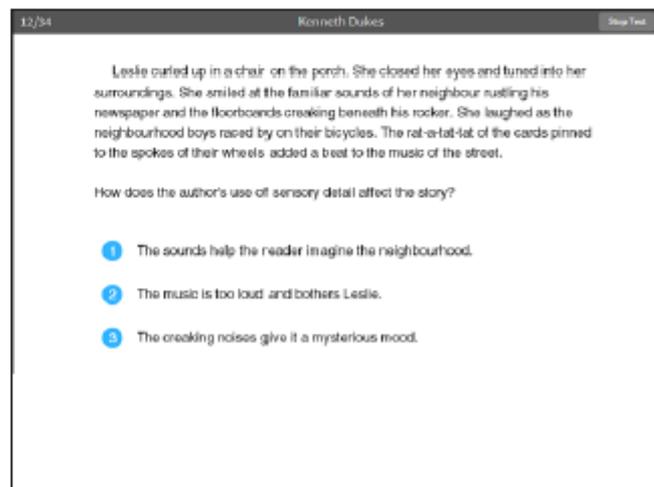
3 Kenneth Dukes Stop Test

The sky is _____.

- 1 blue
- 2 dog
- 3 down

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.



12/34 Kenneth Dukes Stop Test

Leslie curled up in a chair on the porch. She closed her eyes and tuned into her surroundings. She smiled at the familiar sounds of her neighbour rustling his newspaper and the floorboards creaking beneath his rocker. She laughed as the neighbourhood boys raced by on their bicycles. The rat-a-tat-tat of the cards pinned to the spokes of their wheels added a beat to the music of the street.

How does the author's use of sensory detail affect the story?

- 1 The sounds help the reader imagine the neighbourhood.
- 2 The music is too loud and bothers Leslie.
- 3 The creaking noises give it a mysterious mood.



Teacher: H. Redmond
Class: Mesgamezhad - HKR

Your child's form tutor and class will be at the top

Dear Parent or Guardian

Jordan has taken a Star Reading computer-adaptive reading test. This report summarises your child's scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student's scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

PR	PR Range	Below Average	Average 50	Above Average	Reading Age	SGP	ZPD	Lexile® Range
23	19-30	⬇️			9:09	67	3.2-5.1	550L-700L

PR= Percentile Rank. Ranges from 1-99. The number (%) of students same aged who scored lower.
PR Range = the range the child would fall into if they took the test numerous times.

National Norm Scores:

Percentile Rank (PR): 23

The Percentile Rank score compares your child's test performance with that of other students nationally of the same age. With a PR of 23, Jordan reads at a level greater than 23% of other students nationally of the same age. This score is below-average. The PR Range indicates that, if this student had taken the Star Reading test numerous times, most of his scores would likely have fallen between 19 and 30.

Student Growth Percentile (SGP): 67

The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) describes a student's growth compared to other students nationally with similar starting test scores.

Reading Age (RA): 9:09

The Reading Age tells you your child's reading ability as the average age at which a comparable ability is usually found.

Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD): 3.2 - 5.1

The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) is the reading level range from which Jordan should be selecting books for optimal growth in reading. It spans reading levels that are appropriately challenging for reading practice. This range is approximate. Success at any reading level depends on your child's interest and prior knowledge of a book's content.

Lexile® Range: 550L-700L

Lexile® range spans 100L below to 50L above an individual's Lexile measure, and is the optimal range for successful reading practice. A Lexile measure below BR400L is reported for progress monitoring purposes only. A score below BR400L should not be used to match readers with text, therefore a Lexile range will not be reported.

Shows where the child lies in comparison to students of the same age in the UK.



Teacher: [redacted]
Class: [redacted]

Dear Parent or Guardian [redacted]

[redacted] taken a Star Reading computer-adaptive reading test. This report summarizes your child's scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student's scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

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Child's reading age in years and months.

SGP= Student Growth Percentile. **This will only appear after 2 or more tests.** The % of progress made in line with students similar to your child.

ZPD Range: the reading level range of your child. Your child should be choosing books that are in this range.

Lexile Range: the reading ability level range of your child.
Below 200 (emergent readers)
Above 1600 (advanced readers)

What is a ZPD

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 on a reading passport on Showbie, saved in the class area for each form group.

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



What does your ZPD mean?

BELOW ZPD Comfort Zone



- This is an easier read, perfect for reading at home or on holiday
- Maybe it's part of a series you enjoy or is by an author you really like
- Ask your teacher first

LOWER ZPD Exploration Zone



- Go wild and try something new!
- Explore new genres, authors and book lengths
- Challenge yourself if you can

UPPER ZPD Deep Dive



Plan ahead:

- ✓ Choose a book you are excited about
- ✓ Pick a shorter book first
- ✓ Make notes as you read – remember the 5Ws!
- ✓ Ask your teacher for advice

ABOVE ZPD Read Together



- This is a challenging read
- Who would enjoy reading this book with you?
 - A parent?
 - An older sibling?
 - A friend?
- Ask your teacher first



All the AR books are labelled to help the student find the right one.

AR	1.0 - 1.9
AR	2.0 - 2.9
AR	3.0 - 3.9
AR	4.0 - 4.9
AR	5.0 - 5.9
AR	6.0 - 6.9
AR	7.0 - 7.9
AR	8.0 - up
●	No Quiz

Students should only choose books within their numbers and the colours make it easier for them to choose the right book. There are currently almost 200,000 quizzes on the Renaissance database.

Students can bring in books from home and check if they have an AR number using the bookfinder link.

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

If students cannot find a quiz for their book, they can request one through the suggest quizzes link:

<https://www1.renaissance.com/customer-center/suggest-quizzes>



AR Quizzes



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

They usually consist of 10 questions. At the end of the quiz the students are given a percentage to show them how well they have done. Students need over 85% to pass and earn points.

Students should be testing on books they have read over the half term. AR is not a memory test but rather measuring reading ability.

A student cannot take a quiz until they have read the entire text.

Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.



**“COVID-19 IS SET TO HAVE A
DISASTROUS IMPACT ON LITERACY...4.6
MILLION CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY
IN THE UK...WITH VOCABULARIES UP TO
19 MONTHS BEHIND THEIR BETTER-OFF
PEERS...ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO LEAVE
SECONDARY SCHOOL WITHOUT GOOD
GCSES IN ENGLISH AND MATHS”**

(NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST, 2020)



“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.

Therefore, your child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during the day.

- Dedicated DEAR time (1 lesson a week for 20minutes)
- Literacy period in Form time (Tuesdays)



“How can I help?”

- Performance improves with practice.
- Encourage your child to read at home.
- Read with them. At any age, reading aloud can be fun and a good way to find topics and genres you have in common
- Model reading yourself and talk with your child about what you're reading
- Begin with audiobooks and encourage your child to read along with them
- Encourage reading any material on any device. Make the most of e-reading apps, online articles, magazines, comics, or manga in addition to books. If your child is a gamer, suggest books on her favourite video games.

Reading becomes rewarding when you provide opportunities for your child to explore the things she likes or you enjoy an adventure together.

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 the AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest.
- You can only access information about your own child.





Accelerated Reader

Reading Practice Quizzes Vocabulary Practice Quizzes

My Overall Progress

Current Marking Period ▾

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

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			

Average quiz score

Points earned

Average book level.

Reader Certifications

Only passed quizzes count toward certification.

Last Achieved: None	Current Target: No Target Set
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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](#)

Last book read and quizzed on. Include % correct and points earned from book.

Find Books

With Accelerated Reader Quizzes



[Click to Open in New Window](#)



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 set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.



Any Questions ?

