

Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents



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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.



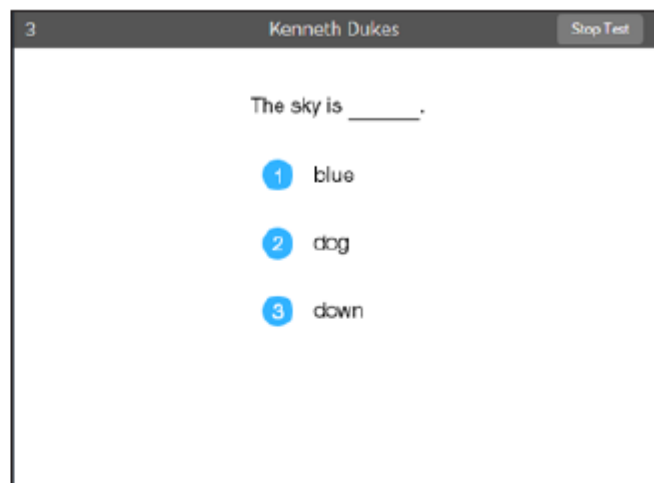
How STAR tests work

- 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

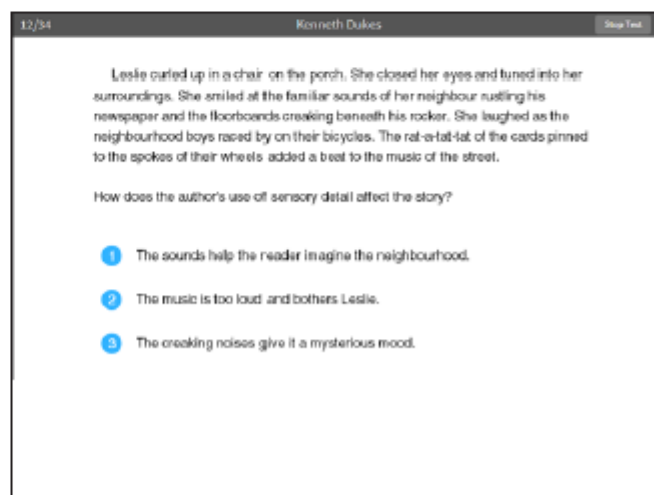
Fill-in-the-blank questions have a sentence with a word missing. There will also be a list of three or four words that could fit in the blank. Your job is to choose the word that best completes the sentence.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a dark header bar. On the left of the header is the number '3', in the center is the name 'Kenneth Dukes', and on the right is a 'Stop Test' button. The main content area contains the text 'The sky is _____.' followed by a list of three options, each preceded by a blue circle with a white number: '1 blue', '2 dog', and '3 down'.

Web browser

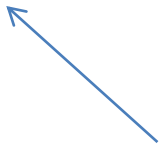
Short-answer questions have a text passage at the top, followed by a question about the passage. There will be a list of three or four possible answers. Your job is to choose the best answer to the question.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a dark header bar. On the left of the header is '12/34', in the center is the name 'Kenneth Dukes', and on the right is a 'Stop Test' button. The main content area contains a text passage: '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.' Below the passage is the question: 'How does the author's use of sensory detail affect the story?'. At the bottom are three options, each preceded by a blue circle with a white number: '1 The sounds help the reader imagine the neighbourhood.', '2 The music is too loud and bothers Leslie.', and '3 The creaking noises give it a mysterious mood.'

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

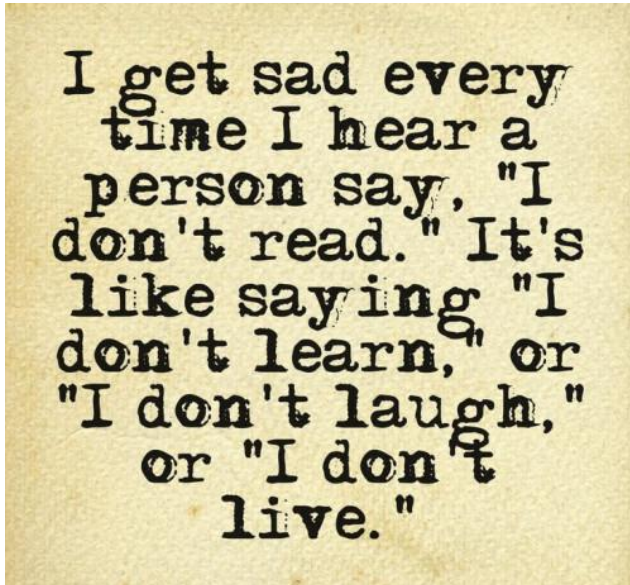
3.2 – 4.6



Lowest
number

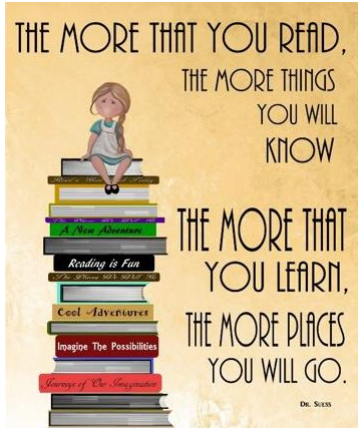


Highest
number



- 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.

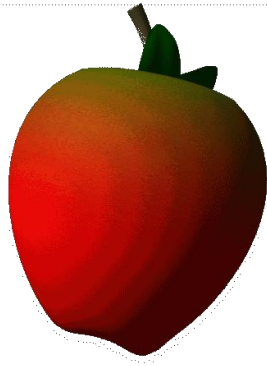
Feedback

To read without
reflecting is like
eating without
digesting.

- EDMUND BURKE

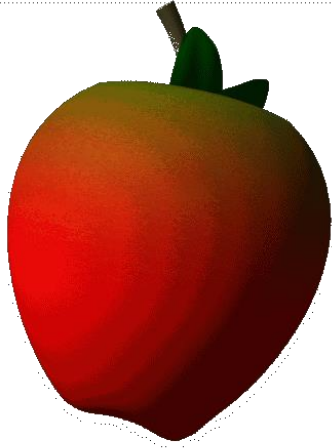
<http://fb.me>

- 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.



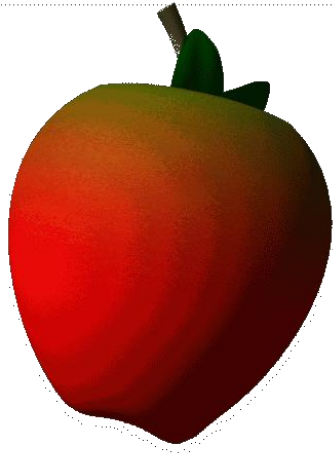
“How much should my child read each day?”

- 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.

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

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:

None

Current Target:

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

[Click to Open in New Window](#)

Your child's bookshelf

Renaissance Home Connect™

| [Help](#) | [Log Out](#)

Done

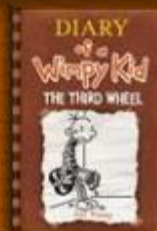
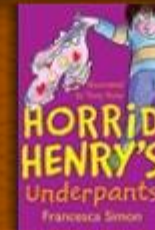
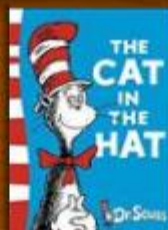
[Reading Practice Quizzes](#) [Vocabulary Practice Quizzes](#)

My Bookshelf

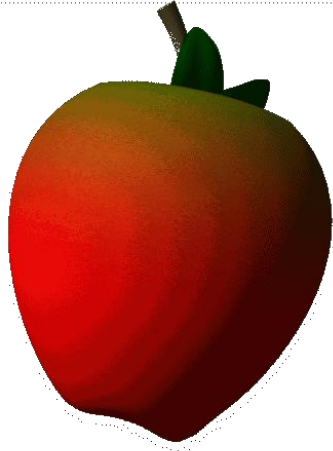
Sort by: [Date Taken](#) [Title](#)

My Reading Practice Quizzes

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Done



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.