



Accelerated Reader Guide

How it works...

Each child will take a STAR test once they are ready to start on Accelerated Reader. This is a computer based test that measures their ability through a series of 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 in exam conditions 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.

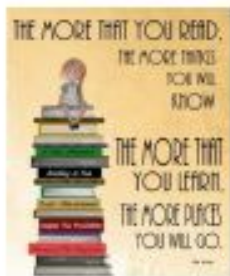


Web browser

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.



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 must be one they have just read.
- 2) They need to read the whole book before they take their quiz.
- 3) Quizzes must be completed individually, not with anyone's help.

To read without
reflecting is like
eating without
digesting.

—CONFUCIUS

Feedback

- Your child's class teacher will go through AR data to assess how well your child is doing and what they need to do to get better at reading.
- The computer/data can tell teachers very specific information about your child's reading development. For instance, it can even explain fluency, comprehension, etc



“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 day.



“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.

If you have any questions, please send us a Dojo message.