## Accelerated Reader

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

- Frederick Douglass
"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." Margaret Fuller


## A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader ${ }^{\text {TM }}$



## What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks

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Question 1 of 10
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a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and

Which event resulted in Michael's dad's decision to sail around the world?
A. He was made redundant from his job at the brickworks.
B. He turned fifty and wanted to do something extraordinary with his life.
C. Michael failed a geography exam at school and left.
D. The family unexpectedly received an inheritance from a long lost relative. teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

## What is a STAR Reading ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ test?

STAR Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response to a question is correct, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level of the next question is reduced. The test uses multiplechoice questions and should take 20-30 minutes to receive the most accurate data.

## What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs should be adjusted based on the needs of your child.

## Is it OK for my child to read outside of their reading level?

Just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. The interest level and understanding of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content-a book's themes and ideas-and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate.

## How much should my child read during the day?

We teach reading at school through the curriculum, in English lessons and foundation subjects. The children will experience a variety of text types. This may be individual reading, discrete groups and whole class.
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 greates $\dagger$ gains. We ask that children read at least 3 times a week for 15 minutes, but the more they read at home the better.

## What does my score tell me?



## How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home, books of their own choice and interest as well as their AR book. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, visiting your local library 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.

## Some examples of questions you can ask your child...

| Increasing complexity >>> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Is... | Did... | Can... | Would... | Will... | Might... |
|  | Who |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | What |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Where |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | When |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | How |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Why |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Accessing my child's progress at home

You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Home Connect ${ }^{T M}$ from a computer with web access. Once in the program, you can view your child's progress toward targets, points and books read to monitor your child's success. You can also access AR Book Finder to search for titles of interest. You can only access information about your child.



Star Unified Scores

## STAR Reading

$\square$
Accelerated Reader
My Targets My Certifications $\quad$ My Completed Work

My Completed Work
Total Points: 13.1
Title, Author, or Quiz Number
$\square$

June 2023


Score: 100\%
Reading Practice Quiz


Score: $80 \%$ Reading Practice Quiz


Score: 100\% Reading Practice Quiz

April 2023


Score: $\mathbf{4 0} \%$
Reading Practice Quiz

## Things you may like to think about when reading with your child

## Before reading the book:

What do you think this story will be about?
What might happen in the story?
What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror.
What do we call the writing on the back of the book?
(Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

## During the reading of the book:

What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
What might happen next?
How do you think the story might end?
Who is your favourite character? Why?
Who is the character you like least? Why?
Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting.
Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.

## At the end of the book:

Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why? Would you change any part of the story? How?
Would you change any of the characters? How?
Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion. Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him/her?
Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?

