

Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader

What is Renaissance Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a reading program that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.



What is a Renaissance Star Reading test?

Star Reading is an online test used to measure your child's reading level. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes around 20 minutes.

How do students select books?

AR includes over 30,000 books. These can be found in the school library as well as public libraries, books shops, homes, etc. Each book is assigned three scores to help your child make a suitable choice:

Book Level

Book Levels represent the difficulty of the text. The Star Reading test tells your child what range of Book Levels to read within. This is called the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).

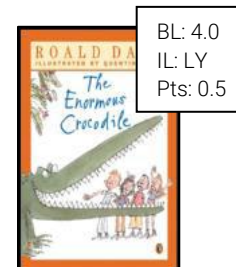
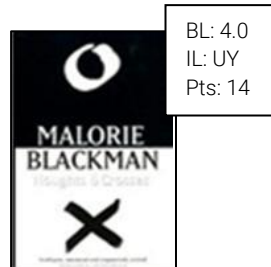
Points

Books are assigned Points based on their word count. Points are earned by passing quizzes. Students are set personalised targets each term by their teacher.

Interest Level

The Interest Level indicates for which age group a book is suitable for. It does this based on the content and themes.

| Interest Level | Age (in years) |
|---------------------|----------------|
| LY - Lower Years | 5-8 |
| MY - Middle Years | 9-13 |
| MY+ - Middle Years+ | 12+ |
| UY - Upper Years | 14+ |



The two examples above both have a Book Level of 4.0. This is because both have short sentences and simple vocabulary. However, 'Noughts and Crosses' is worth 14 Points because it's quite a lengthy text and is intended for Upper Years' students. Meanwhile 'The Enormous Crocodile' is worth 0.5 Points as it is much shorter, and it is intended for Lower Years.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

- Make time for them to read at home. Children need to read for at least 20 minutes every day to improve their reading ability.
- Encourage your child to read; discuss books, asking questions about what they have read; and visit your local library.
- Find suitable books for your child at www.arbookfind.co.uk. Use the Search function to look for specific titles or topics, or go to Advanced Search to browse for books within your child's ZPD and interest level.
- To find out more about your child's reading progress, visit Home Connect. This will allow you to track your child's progress towards their targets and to view your child's reading history. Contact the school to find out more information.