

# A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader®

## What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader, or "AR", is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at his own level and reads it at his own pace. Emerging readers may have the books read to them, they can read with someone or they can read independently. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using AR choose their own books to read within a range that coincides with their reading ability rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers and librarians help your child choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may help him:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before he takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another student, or even have the book read to your child.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they're reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

## When Can My Child Take a Quiz?

Students can quiz before and after school in the library, during their class library time and in their classroom at approved times. The library is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.

## **What is the ATOS or AR Book Level?**

Book Levels are determined using the ATOS readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, a book level of 4.5 means the text could likely be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth grader in the fifth month of school. (The content of the book, however, may or may not be appropriate. The Interest Level will give you a recommendation of the appropriateness of the content.)

## **What is the Interest Level?**

To help you choose the books most appropriate for your children, Accelerated Reader quizzes are divided into three Interest Levels: Lower Grades (LG), Middle Grades (MG), Middle Grade Plus (MG+) and Upper Grades (UG). The Interest Levels are based on the recommendations of the publisher and/or literary book reviews by professional organizations. However, the final decision on whether the content of a book is appropriate for a particular child is left to parents, school librarians, and teachers.

## **What are points?**

The points listed for the book refer to the number of words in the book. They do not reference reading level or difficulty. Many non-fiction books will have a high reading level but very few points.

## **How do I find an Accelerated Reader Book**

On the school home page there is a link to the AR Book Find site or you can log in to [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com) to access the Accelerated Reader book finder. With a few clicks of the mouse you will be able to search for AR titles that are appropriate for your child.

## **How do I monitor my child's reading practice?**

Students and parents can view their reading progress through the AR Home Connect program. This program will allow you to view goals, results of the last quiz taken, and overall progress; find books that have Accelerated quizzes and view "My Bookshelf" which shows the books on which quizzes have been taken. Individual letters with information about how to log in to Home Connect were sent home at the beginning of school but you may also reach the Home Connect page login at <https://Hosted117.renlearn.com/1879225/HomeConnect/Login.aspx>

You will use the same user name and login that your student uses to quiz to access the information in the Home Connect program.