

A Guide to Accelerated Reader



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Accelerated Reader is a computer programme that helps our school to manage and monitor children's independent reading.

Children using AR choose their own book from a range of thousands of published titles.

AR helps children to choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating so that your child can experience success.

Accelerated Reader is a widely-used reading system with a proven track record of improving reading progress at TIMU Academy Trust. It is particularly effective in developing pupils' understanding of what they read (their comprehension). This is a guide to help parents and carers understand the system and know how you can best support your child's reading at home.

Star Reader

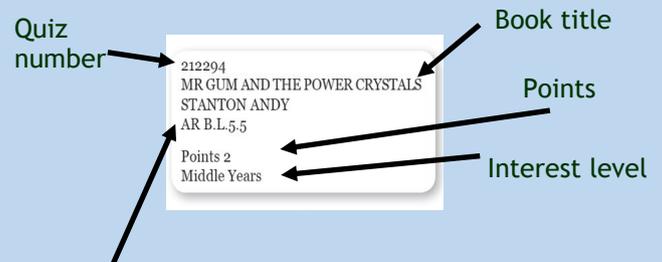
The first step for pupils is the Star Reader assessment, which is taken 3 times per year. This test is usually taken on an iPad and the results of the test provide an individualised reading book level, called a **Reading Range (ZPD)**.

Reading Range

The reading range tells us the book level that your child is able to read and understand comfortably. Each time your child completes a Star Reader Assessment, his or her Reading Range will be updated. This is recorded in their Reading Record Book. For example, 2.6–3.4; this child could choose a book anywhere within this reading range.

Books in Class Libraries

All books in our classroom libraries are labelled on the inside cover. For example:



The **book level** is the **difficulty** of the text. A book level which is at the lower end of a child's reading range will be easier and the upper end will be more challenging (but still within their reading capability).

The label also shows the book's **interest level**. This is the age-group appropriateness of the content, **NOT** the reading age. The final decision on whether the content of a book is appropriate for a particular child is left to parents and the school to decide.

LY - Lower Years (ages 5 to 8)

MY - Middle Years (ages 9 to 13)

(UY - Upper Years is age 14+)

Books from Home

If you have books at home that your child would like to read or you would like to buy a new book, there is a fantastic search facility to find out about the book level.

www.arbookfind.co.uk

This will enable you or your child to check that home books are appropriate to their current reading range.

There is also a useful 'Parents' Guide to AR Bookfinder' on the same web page.

Quizzing

Once your child feels they have a good understanding of their AR book, they must take a quiz at school using our iPad or computers. Each child has their own log-in and the AR interface is colourful and child-friendly.

The quizzes are multi-choice and are used to assess how well your child understands the book that they have read. For this reason, quizzes should be taken less than 48 hours after the child has finished reading the book.



At the end of the quiz, your child will know their score and be shown the correct answers to any questions answered incorrectly. We have set a quizzing target of at least 85% for all pupils to show a good understanding.

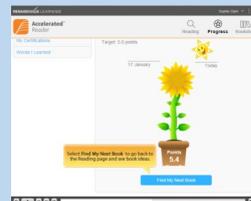


AR Points Targets

As an incentive to keep reading, we set points targets for each child to work towards every term. Longer books are worth more points than shorter books, but points are NOT based on the book's difficulty. The points value of each book can be found on the label on the inside cover.

AR Points Targets (continued)

Each time your child takes a quiz they will be awarded points towards their target. Points earned correspond to how many quiz questions that were answered correctly. Progress towards their target is shown as a sunflower



We celebrate when a child reaches their termly points target along with 85% accuracy by awarding them a certificate and add their name to our community displays. Additionally, these pupils will be entered in to a raffle – with a chance of winning a book token and a trip to a bookshop in our minibus to spend them (From September 2018)!

Each child has a 'Bookshelf' on their interface which shows all the books that they have ever taken a quiz on. They can click on the books to look back at their past quiz results.

Home Connect (From Year 2)

AR has a special feature for parents called Home Connect which can be accessed from home via the internet. It allows us to share up-to-the-minute information about your child's reading progress and we would like to encourage all parents to sign up for this free service.

One of the most useful features of HC is the facility to receive an email showing your child's latest quiz results. This is a great way for parents to be automatically kept up to date every time your child takes a quiz on a book that they have read.

How parents can register for Home Connect

- Visit our website www.timuacademytrust.org.uk
- Click on your School Homepage
- Click on the AR Home Connect Icon
- You will need to log on using your child's username and password.
- Click on 'Email Set Up' in the top right of the screen.
- Enter your name and email address (more than one can be added)
- You will receive a confirmation email from Home Connect and once you have accepted this, you will receive emails for quizzes and can log in to check your child's progress towards their points target.