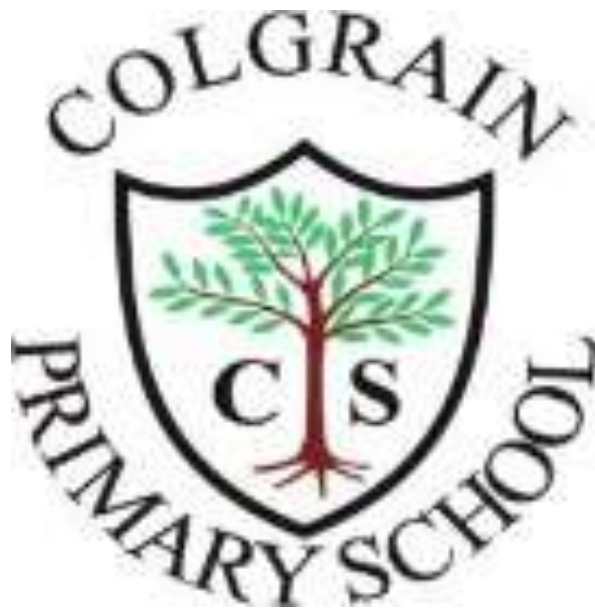


Colgrain Primary School



Accelerated Reader Parent Guide



Accelerated[™]
Reader

Introduction

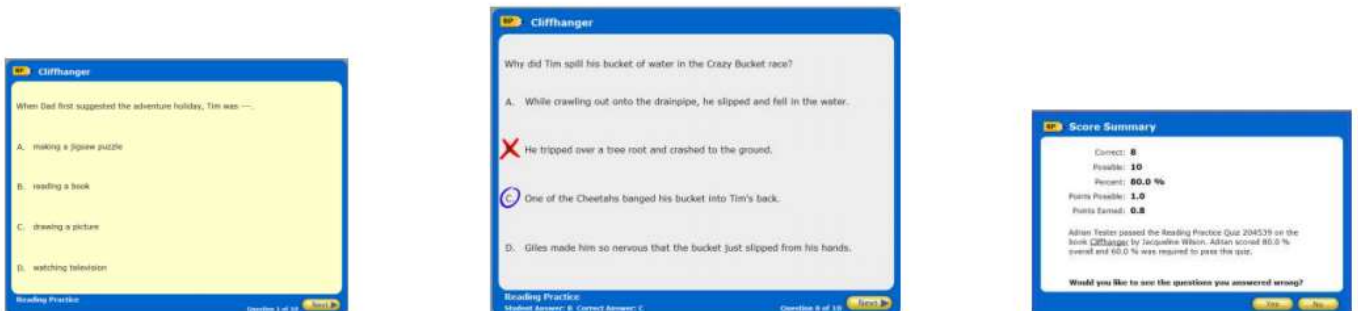
All children in school use the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme. For P1 pupils, their access begins in Term 4. It has proved to be a very effective system for motivating children and ensuring good progress in reading. This guide is jam-packed full of questions and answers about AR. **If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.**

All pupils are enrolled in Accelerated Reader, which is designed to do the following things:

- Find books that are in the correct ability range for your child
- Provide your child with suitable challenge when reading for enjoyment
- Encourage your child to read more
- **Improve your child's reading comprehension**

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a computer programme **that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent** reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her 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. The absolute key here is the understanding – your child may be able to physically read the words of almost any book out loud but the quizzes test the understanding/comprehension of the chosen text. AR gives both children and teachers, feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets.



Children using AR have a free choice of the books they read (within their given ZPD range), rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers will be on hand to help your child choose books that are at an appropriate reading level. These will be challenging without being frustrating and will also be at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success. If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may assist him/her by:

- **Helping choose another book that is more appropriate**
- **Asking more probing questions as your child reads and before he/she takes a quiz**
- **Pairing your child with another pupil or even having the book read to your child**

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their own 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.

How does the school determine my child's reading age?

STAR Reading Assessment

At the start of the year every pupil from P2 – P7 takes a STAR Test, which is a computer-based test that measures a pupil's reading comprehension through a series of multiple choice questions.

Every test for every pupil is different, and the adaptive technology selects different questions for each pupil dependent on how well they answer the previous questions. Essentially, the computer adapts the test to suit your child. **Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased.** If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced.

Once the child has completed the test, they are then given a ZPD score by their teacher.

Pupils are guided with the following advice:

- 1) The pupil must take their time. It is recommended that each child should spend at least 20 minutes on their test. Pupils are reminded that during a STAR test it is about concentration, focus and careful reading.
- 2) Pupils 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 pupil's reading ability.**
- 3) Tests should be completed without any help from other pupils or the teacher.

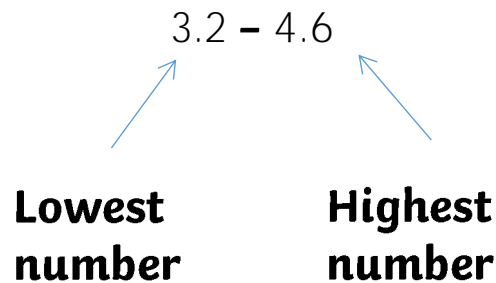
ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) Scoring

Books are levelled using a nationally recognised readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. The levelling criteria covers such factors as vocabulary, average word length, average sentence length, grammatical complexity etc. – not how long the book is or how many **pictures it contains!** Normally, books are chosen between a range of levels (the child's Zone of Proximal Development) recommended for each pupil by the STAR Assessment. The books are organised on shelves according to level to make it easier for children to choose an appropriate book. In each class, there are a selection of AR books based on ZPD levels of children in class.

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will be given a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for children to read independently with a high degree of comprehension and within his/her ZPD. During the year, as your child progresses in their reading, we would expect this range to change to reflect the improvements that they are making.

ZPD is given as two numbers that the student uses to choose their next reading book. The lowest number is the lowest level of book the student should be choosing. The highest number is the highest level of book the student should be choosing.

STAR tests take place every term, so students can see improvements in their reading ability, but also choose more challenging books.



Accelerated Reader Quizzes

A quiz is different to a STAR test because pupils 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 pupils are given a percentage to show them how well they have done.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

- 1) The book the child is quizzed on must be a book they have read in the last two weeks. AR is not a memory test but rather measuring reading comprehension.
- 2) A pupil cannot take a quiz until they have read the entire text.
- 3) **Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.**

There are over 12,000 quizzes available and more become available each and every month. Not all books have an available quiz but the vast majority of popular authors/books are covered, together with traditional favourites and many more obscure titles!

There are several ways to find out if a book has an AR quiz available. Your child can log in to the system at home/school and search for the quiz. However, a fantastic service is the AR BookFinder, available at www.arbookfind.co.uk and through Home Connect which allows you to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

By conducting an advanced search at www.arbookfind.co.uk, you will be able to generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as Book Level, Topic, Interest Level and Fiction/Non-fiction, etc.



How will I know how well my child is doing?

Home Connect

You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer or device. Once in the programme, you can view your child's progress towards targets, points and books read. You can also access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest. You can only access information about your own child.

Average quiz score → Quizzes 40%

Points earned → Points 0.5

Average book level → Book Level 2.1

Last book read and quizzed on. → The Cat in the Hat Comes Back

Includes % correct and points earned from book. → 0% correct, 0.0 points

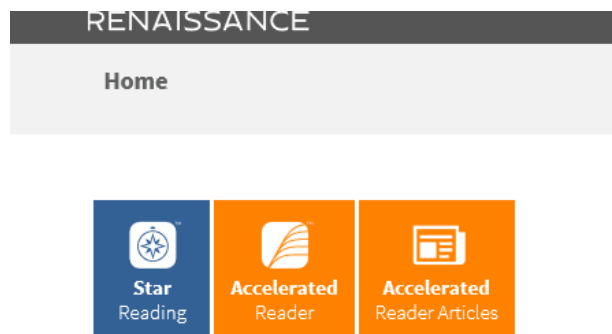
Accessing Accelerated Reader at Home

Pupils

All pupils have individual AR log in details. Pupils are able to take quizzes at home but cannot take a STAR Assessment. In order to access the Colgrain Primary School AR web portal, the following website address must be used:

<https://ukhosted100.renlearn.co.uk/2241072/>

Pupils should then click, 'I am a Student' and insert log in details. By clicking on, 'Accelerated Reader', pupils are taken to their own personalised area where they can search for new books and take quizzes.



Parents

To log in to Home Connect, parents and carers must use the following website address:

<https://ukhosted100.renlearn.co.uk/2241072/HomeConnect>

You must then use your child's username and password to log in. If you'd like to receive emails showing your child's quiz or test results, click the email setup link in Renaissance Home Connect and follow the directions. To be sure these emails reach your inbox, add homeconnectautodelivery@renlearnrp.com to your address book.

If you have any difficulties accessing Accelerated Reader, please contact your child's Class Teacher.