

Accelerated Reader Enterprise Guide

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his own level and reads it at her own pace. 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.

Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. 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.

What is a book level?

Book levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, a book level of 4.5 means that the text could likely be read by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth grader during the fifth month of school. An ATOS level on a book indicates how difficult the text is to read. Thus, it can help you match books to a student's reading level. But the ATOS readability formula measures only the readability of the text. It does not (nor do any other readability formulas) take into account literary merit, sophistication of ideas, developmental appropriateness, or maturity of theme or language. This is why it's important to know and use three measurements when helping your students choose books: readability (the difficulty of a book's text), reading level (the student's tested reading level), and interest level (the content level of a book).

An ATOS level is often a good indication that a student *can* read a book, but may not mean that he or she *should* read the book. The interest level can help you decide whether the student should read the book.

What is Interest Level?

Just because a child can read the words in a book doesn't mean the content is appropriate. The interest level 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. The chart below shows which grades fall into each interest level.

Interest Level	Grade Level
LG—Lower Grades	K-3
MG—Middle Grades	4-8
UG—Upper Grades	9-12

In many cases, a book's interest level coordinates with its book level. *Hank the Cowdog*, for example, the content of which is suitable for fourth-graders, has a book level of 4.5. Many books, however, have a low book level but are appropriate for upper grades and vice versa. For example, Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* has a book level of 4.4 because its sentences are short and its vocabulary is simple. The interest level, however, is UG for Upper Grades. In contrast, *Arthur Throws a Tantrum* has a book level of 4.9 because it contains fairly long words and sentences, but it is intended for students in the lower grades.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. AR points are computed based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). For example, the *Berenstain Bears* books, which are about 8,000 words long and have an average reading level of 3.5, are 1-point books. *Hank the Cowdog*, which is about 23,000 words long and has an average reading level of 4.5, is a 3-point book. *The Sun Also Rises*, about 70,000 words long and at a reading level of 4.4, is a 10-point book.

Children earn points, or a portion of a book's points, depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz. For example, a child who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%), etc. A child who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn 5

points for 10 correct answers (100%), 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), etc. A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points.

How many Accelerated Reader quizzes are there?

There are over 110,000 AR quizzes available. However, students may not have access to all quizzes. You can visit the AR BookFinder™ at arbookfind.com to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

What kinds of quizzes are there?

Accelerated Reader includes several types of quizzes designed to support the development of several reading skills. Quiz types include:

Reading Practice Quizzes are the most common type of assessment in AR. The purpose of these quizzes is to determine whether your child has read a book, to measure his literal comprehension of the book, and to provide immediate feedback. Each Reading Practice Quiz consists of 5, 10, or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on book level and length.

Other Reading Quizzes are designed to determine whether a child read and understood content in his textbook. Other Reading Quizzes are aligned to a variety of textbooks series and are specifically linked to how textbooks and other materials are used in the class.

How will I know how my child is doing?

You can also access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect* from any Web-enabled computer. You must first gain access to the program from the school. Once in the program, you can view your child's progress toward goals, points, and books read. You can also access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest. You can only access information about your child.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read.