

6 By doing well on AR quizzes, students earn points toward their own individual goals. Teachers will set individual point goals for each student every 6 weeks. You can follow your child's progress in AR by using Renaissance Home Connect™ from a computer with web access. Home Connect allows you to see the results of your child's AR quizzes, view a virtual bookshelf of the books your child has read and follow your child's progress towards her individual goals. You can even sign up to receive email alerts when your child takes a new AR quiz. Information will be going home in the coming weeks about how to access Home Connect.



arbookfind.com

How can I use AR at home to help my child become a better reader?

- ◆ Use the online school library catalog and **ARbookfind.com** to help your student find independent reading books in his zone that interest him.
- ◆ Use Renaissance Home Connect to follow your child's progress. Encourage her and celebrate her successes when she reaches her goal.
- ◆ Make time for 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.
- ◆ Make learning a family affair!

Accelerated Reader

By Renaissance Learning

A Guide for PPS Parents

Accelerated Reader (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 his 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, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.



Here's how it works, step by step:

1 Teachers determine your child's reading level for the AR program using a STAR Reading™ test. STAR Reading is a computerized reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes.

2 The results of this test indicate your child's ZPD, or Zone of Proximal Development. In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. The ZPD is the key to the process in selecting books at their level (between 3.2 - 4.1 as an example). It's important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs can be adjusted based on the needs of your child.

3 Knowing their ZPDs, children choose their own books to read for independent reading practice. This

makes reading an enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Your child's classroom teacher and the school librarian will 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.

4 Most books in our school library, both fiction and non-fiction are "AR books." To help facilitate finding a "just right" book, we are in the process of labeling books in the school library with the book's reading level. From home, you can



find the AR level of books in our school library by visiting the school's online catalog from the library page of our school website on oess.org. You can also visit arbookfind.com to look up the reading level of any book, for example a book from the Case Memorial Library or from a bookstore. With Accelerated Reader Enterprise, students can take a quiz on any AR book within their ZPD, not just books from our school library.

5 After finishing the book, the student takes a short quiz on the computer to assess comprehension. In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes because they are reading books at their reading and interest levels and are likely to be successful. If your child does not do well on the AR quiz, the teacher may help him choose another book that is more appropriate (in the lower end of the ZPD) or use other strategies to help boost comprehension. It is important for a student to take the quiz very soon after finishing the book while it is fresh in her mind. Students can only take the quizzes in school – they cannot be taken at home.

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