What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a reading management and monitoring programme that aims to foster independent reading. The software assesses reading age, and suggests books that match pupils' needs and interests. Pupils take computerised quizzes on books to test for reading comprehension. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is used as part of a comprehensive reading programme in place at Greenfield Primary School. While we continue to teach the skills of reading in class through shared texts, the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed. Pupils using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and they have personalised targets based on their reading ability. The aim of AR is for all children to succeed in achieving their targets.

Why are we using Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupils with special needs to those who are avid and confident readers.

- Accelerated Reader encourages children to read for at least thirty minutes each day and rewards effort and achievement.

- When children read books at their appropriate level they experience success and grow in confidence and reading stamina.

- The teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's current reading ability or attainment.

Two parts to the program

Star Reading

A computer-adaptive reading test used to assess pupils' reading ability and to determine their recommended reading levels for Accelerated Reader. Measures growth over time.

Accelerated Reader

A database of quizzes to test the comprehension of books read. Provides instant feedback and monitoring.

What are STAR Reading Tests?

Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR reading test at the beginning of the year and at the end of each term. It multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer at school. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses so if their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced. The test comprises of 34 multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes.

Every test for every student is different, and the computer selects different questions for each student dependent on how well they answer the previous questions. Essentially, the computer adapts the test to suit your child.

The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement assists in identifying your child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range.

STAR Reading Question Examples

Picture 1

Fill-in-the-blank questions have a sentence with a word missing. There will also be a list of three or four words that could fit in the blank. Your job is to choose the word that best completes the sentence.

STAR Reading Question Examples

Short-answer questions have a text passage at the top, followed by a question about the passage. There will be a list of three or four possible answers. Your job is to choose the best answer to the question.

Leslie curled up in a chair on the porch. She closed her eyes and tuned into her surroundings. She smiled at the familiar sounds of her neighbour rustling his newspaper and the floorboards creaking beneath his rocker. She laughed as the neighbourhood boys raced by on their bicycles. The rat-a-tat-tat of the cards pinned to the spokes of their wheels added a beat to the music of the street.

How does the author's use of sensory detail affect the story?

1. The sounds help the reader imagine the neighbourhood.

2. The music is too loud and bothers Leslie.

3. The creaking noises give it a mysterious mood.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

After your child takes a STAR reading test, the AR software will assess the results and give him/her a ZPD reading range. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

Your child will know their ZPD range and the books they should be choosing. There is a record of this in their reading records. A ZPD can change throughout the year based on STAR reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results.

Please try not to compare your child's ZPD with that of other children. Your child is reading at a ZPD that is appropriate for where they need to be. Each child is an individual, with individual needs, capabilities, interests and abilities and AR caters for this.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

Practising with books that are too hard results in frustration. Practising with books that are too easy does little to improve skills and leads to boredom. The ZPD represents the level of difficulty that is neither too hard nor too easy, and is the level at which optimal learning takes place.

To encourage a love of reading, we will not strictly control students' choices within their ZPDs. If your child would like to try a 'challenging' text, they are still able to complete quizzes for them as long as it is on the AR catalogue.
https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/

AR Book Levels & ZPD

Book Level - Each book on the Accelerated Reader system has a book level which represents the difficulty of the text. This is calculated using ATOS formula based on average length of sentences, length of words and the difficulty in the level of words.

ZPD - Your child's individual range of book levels recommended for their reading ability. Below is an example for a child with a ZPD range of 3.2 – 5.0. They would be encouraged to choose books within these book levels.

Too Easy	ZPD: Just Right				Too Hard
2.8	3.2	3.8	4.4	5.0	5.4

Book Level, Interest Level & Points

Book Level - Difficulty of text (range: 0.2 – 13.5)

Interest Level - Relates to content and appropriateness

LY - Lower Years ages 5-8

MY - Middle Years ages 9-13

MY+ - Middle Years Plus ages 12-13

UY - Upper Years ages 14+

Points - Text length (points range from: 0.5 – 118)
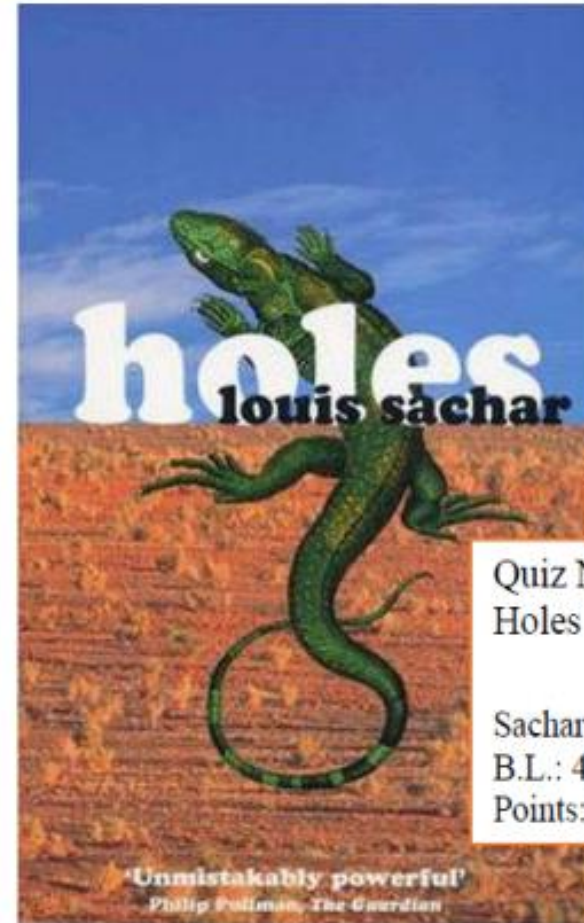
Quiz No 203031
Holes

Sachar, Louis
B.L.: 4.6
Points: 7.0   UY

What are the Accelerated Reader quizzes?

When your child has finished reading a book, they will be given time to take a quiz independently on the computer. There are two main types of quizzes your child will take:

Reading Practice Quizzes. These are the most common type of assessment. The purpose is to determine whether your child has read a book, measure your child's literal comprehension of the book and provide immediate feedback. Each quiz consists of 3, 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on the book level and length.

Vocabulary Practice Quizzes. These measure a child's command of vocabulary words encountered while reading. They are designed to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, assist with individualising vocabulary instruction and generate your child's interest in words through authentic, in-context literature experiences. Quizzes include 5, 10 or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books.

Reading Practice Question Example

Vocabulary Practice Question Example

Taking a Reading Practice Quiz

- Quizzes consist of 3, 5, 10 and 20 questions depending on the book level. There is no time limit

- The pass rate for 3 question quizzes is 67%; for 5 and 10 question quizzes it is 60%; and on 20 question quizzes 70%.

- Results are immediately displayed so children can see how well they have done.

- Points are calculated on a pro rata basis depending on how well children do on their quiz.

- Some books have a vocabulary practice quiz that can be taken as well.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

✓The quiz should take place as soon as possible after the completion of the book. Each class has a weekly allocated time to take quizzes in the computing suite.

✓A student should not take a quiz until they have read the entire text.

✓Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.

Monitoring Progress

Children can see what books they have read and how they performed on the quizzes. The programme also gives them suggestions on what to read next based on their interest and ability. Children see a sunflower or graph, depending on their year group, which builds up as they pass quizzes.
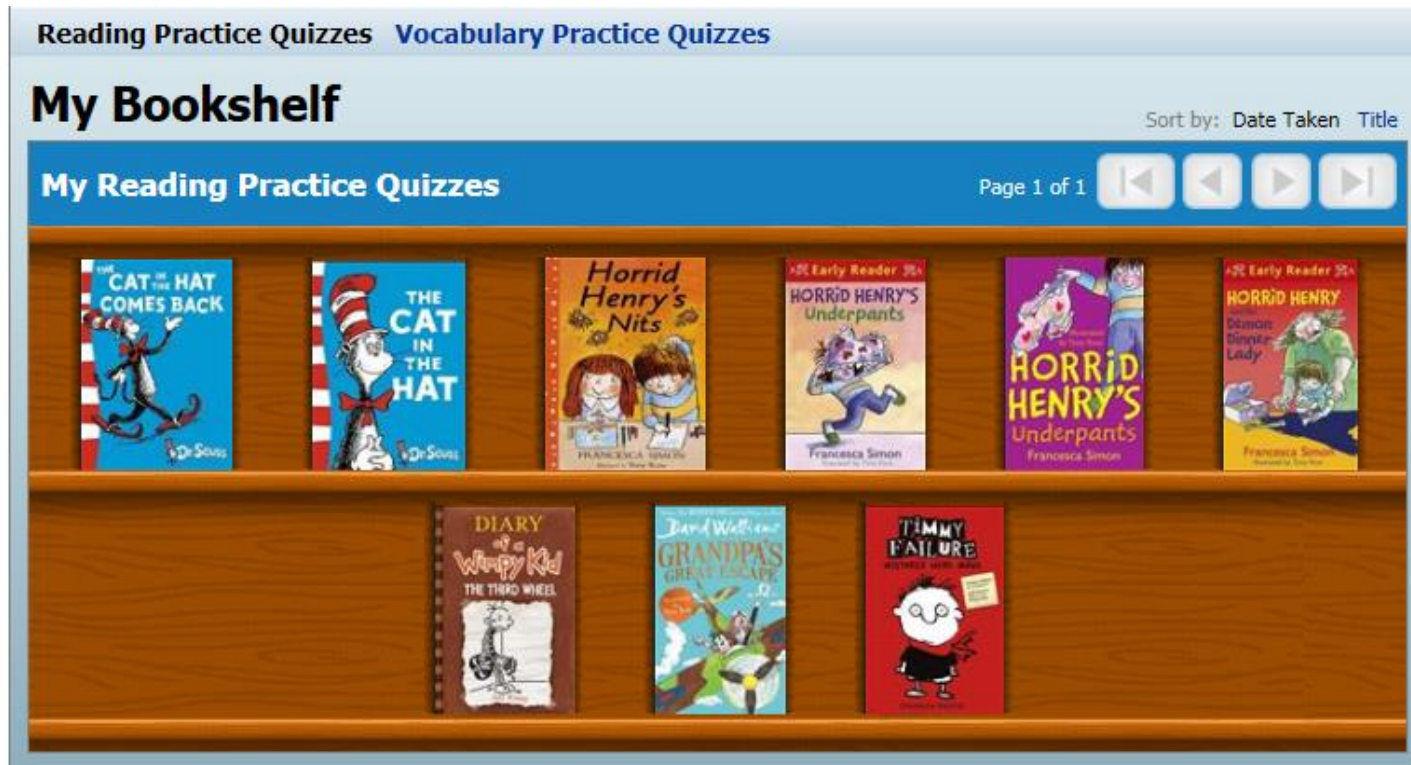
AR Bookfinder

Visit the AR Bookfinder to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes. There are over 210,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes available. https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/

Your child can bring in books from home to read as part of AR if their teacher feels they are suitable. When school is open, quizzes will generally be conducted in school.

What if my child doesn't perform well on a quiz?

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

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.

- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before your child 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.

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.

- Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning, and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family affair!

AR Target Setting

Average percent correct - The most important goal for all pupils is to average at least 85% on quizzes. This indicates a student is reading with a high level of comprehension, which accelerates reading growth. Averages of 90 percent are associated with even greater gains.

Points - Point goals indicate how much reading students are expected to do. Accelerated Reader provides point goals that are appropriate for each student's reading ability, the amount of time that teachers schedule for daily reading practice, and the length of the marking period. In this way, point goals are individualized, fair, and realistic.

Average book level - The book-level goal helps ensure students read at a level appropriate for them as individuals. It represents a minimum level of difficulty. Goals are set at the low end of students' ZPDs to encourage them to read freely throughout an appropriate range.

Target Tracker
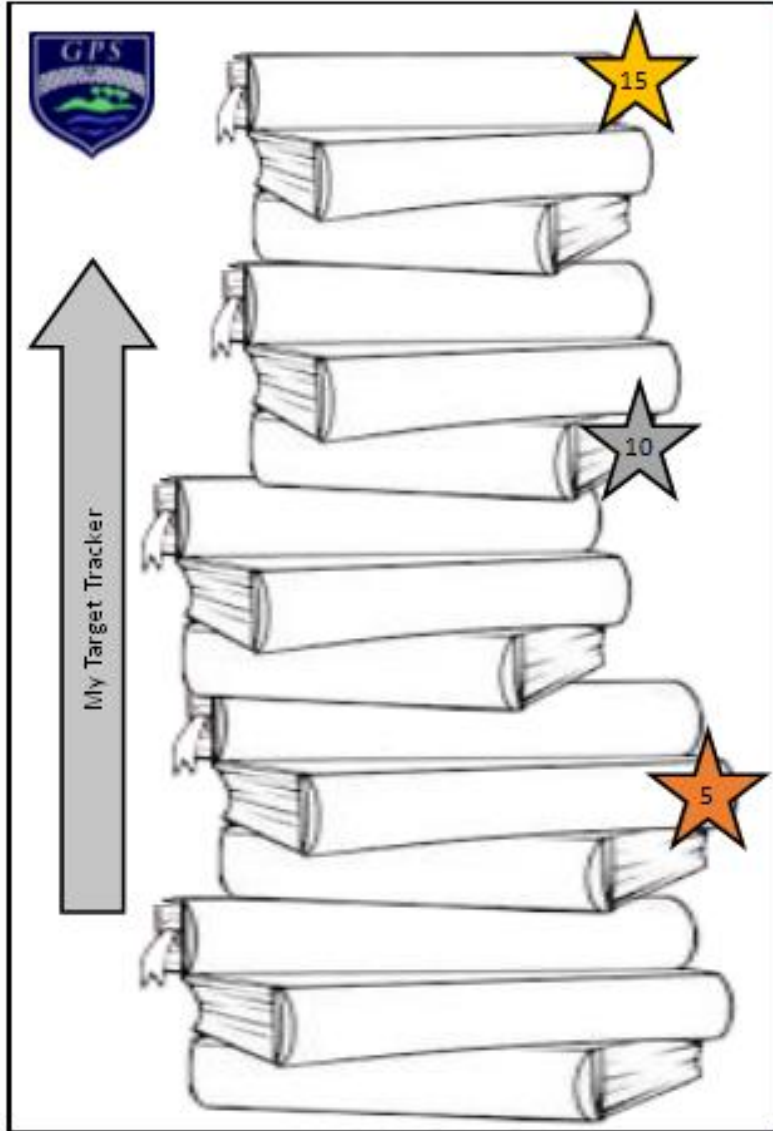
In their individual reading records, pupils can track their progress using the target tracker. Each time they successfully complete a quiz and achieve 85% or above correct, they can record their percentage and colour in a book. We want to encourage children to read and achieve at their own pace and look forward to giving out certificates when they achieve their bronze, silver and gold milestones.

Where are we now?

- KS2 pupils have taken the Star Reading test on the computer. Pupils and teachers know your child's ideal reading level. This is the ZPD range.

- Children are now choosing their reading books according to their ZPD range.

- Your child's ZPD range is detailed in their individual reading record.

- Some children are already reading more, making better progress and are enjoying taking a quiz!

School Library & Book Levels

The books in our school library have been colour-coded and each book has a personalised label on the inside cover which shows important information.
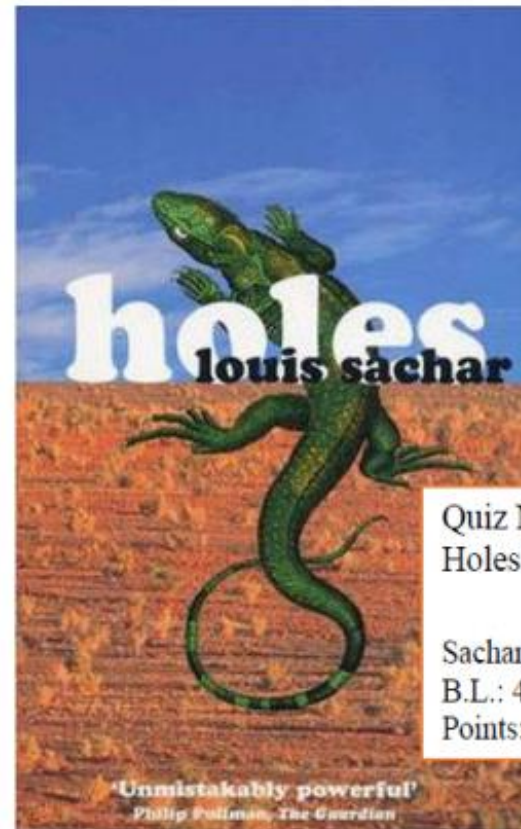
Quiz number when taking AR quiz

Title of book

Author

Book Level – linked to ZPD level

Potential points available when completing the quiz

Interest level

Home Connect?

- Research proves it: Students perform better when parents are actively involved in the learning process. Log on to Renaissance Home Connect to access real-time information on your student's progress, sign up to receive emails about quiz activity, stay up to date, and keep your child motivated.

- You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer.

- Once in the programme, you can view your child's progress towards targets, points and books read.

Home Connect?

Renaissance Home Connect is a website that provides you with a snapshot of your child's reading progress, including average percentage correct on quizzes, number of points earned and results on the last quiz.

You can also register an email address to receive information immediately when your child has completed a quiz.

• To access Renaissance Home Connect, follow the link https://Ukhosted56.renlearn.co.uk/2249794/HomeConnect and enter the same username and password that your child uses to access Accelerated Reader. You will receive a separate letter with your child's details.

• If you wish for further information, please ask your child's class teacher and we can send you a print out of their recent scores.
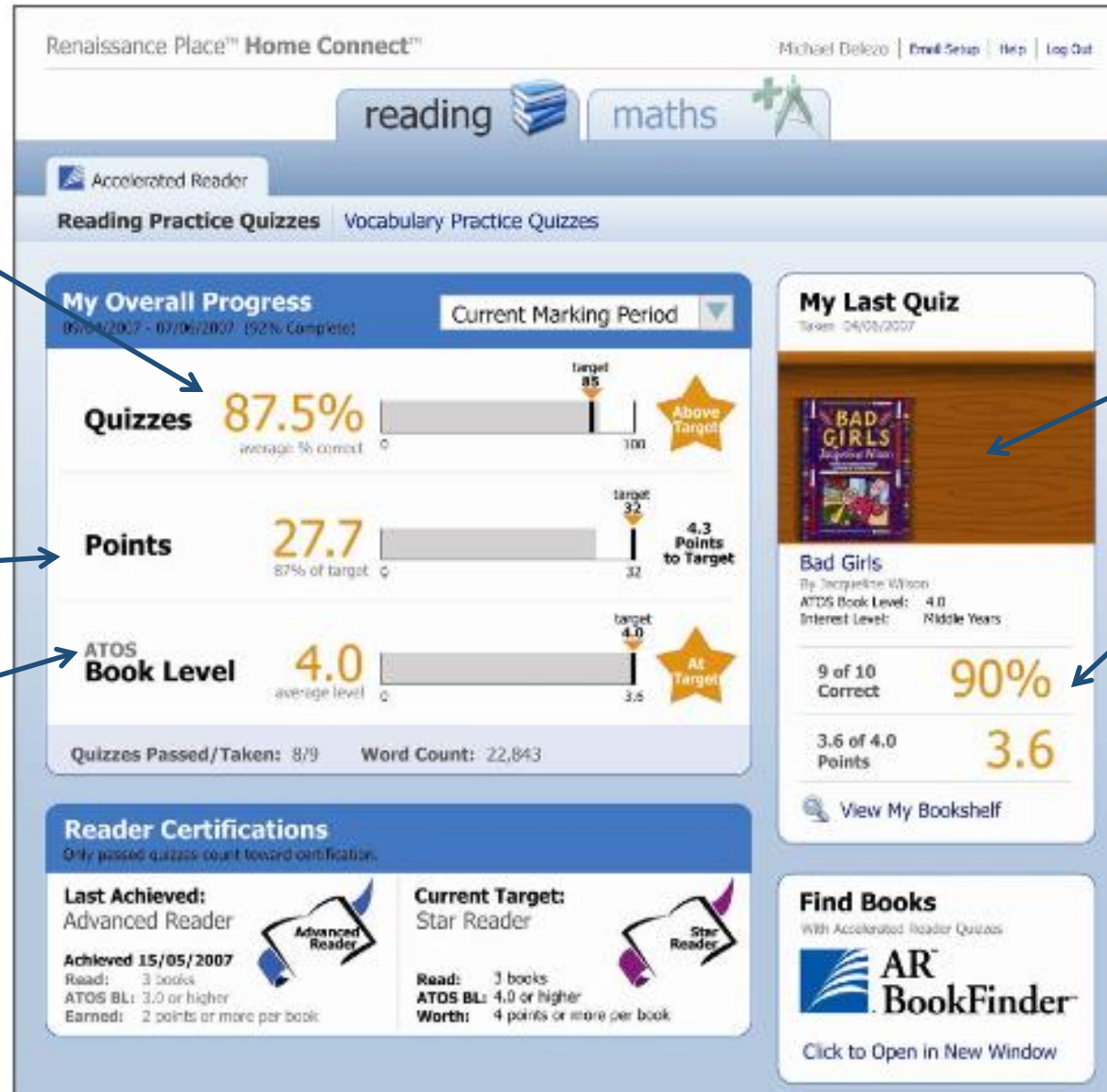
Home Connect?

Average quiz score - if a pupil is able to maintain an average score on AR Reading Practice Quizzes of 85% or more, it shows that s/he is working at the optimum level of difficulty

Points earned

Average book level.

Last book read and quizzed on.

Includes % correct and points earned from book.

Why is my child's ZPD range so wide or narrow?

This depends on skills your child has mastered and skills they need to develop. The ZPD will broaden as your child becomes secure with a skill, be that decoding, word recognition, inferring what will happen next or retrieving information from the text.

For more information and FAQs:

https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-renaissance-accelerated-reader-360/