

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

Accelerated Reader is a computer managed reading program. This program helps teachers and teacher librarians manage and monitor student's daily independent reading practice.

There's a process behind how each student uses the program in school. Here are the steps typically involved:

- Students take the STAR Reading assessment to determine their reading level. The program provides a multiple-choice assessment that takes students about 20-25 minutes on a computer.
 - Reading level is based on typical grade-level skills. A score of 6.5 means the student's skills are typical for a child in the fifth month of sixth grade. So an eighth-grader with that reading level is two years behind his peers in terms of his skills.
- What is 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 15 minutes.
- Each student is assigned to a specific reading range of books, based on this assessment. Books in that range will be challenging for the student but not too hard to read. This concept is called a zone of proximal development (ZPD). In AR, it's used to guide book selection.
- Students pick books that they are interested in reading, and that are at their reading level. Each book is worth a certain amount of points, based on the complexity and length of the book.
- Students are given time to reading during the advisory period, and are also expected to read at home each day. We recommend that students spend 30-60 minutes of reading each day.
 - According to research, children who read at least 35 minutes every day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percent correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child should have at least 35 minutes set aside for reading during each day.
- After finishing a book, the student takes a short, multiple-choice online quiz. (Passing the quiz is an indication that they understood what they read.) Students usually take their quizzes in the classroom or library during the designated times.
- 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).
- Students want to earn as many points as possible throughout the school year.
- The advisory teacher will set a grading period, monthly or semester point goal that the students will have to reach for their work habits and cooperation grade.
- English teachers may also have a monthly or semester point goal that students must earn as part of their reading grade.