

Pensans Guide to
Reading and
Accelerated Reader



At Pensans children in years 2-6 enjoy using Accelerated Reader by Renaissance Learning. This is a computer based reading program that 50,000 schools in more than 90 countries worldwide use to monitor independent reading, practice and progress.

What it does

Accelerated Reader directs children to the right book for their ability and encourages them to read independently for pleasure while developing a life long love of reading.

Children take short, fun online quizzes after every book read, so they and teachers can monitor their reading ability, progress and understanding of the book. Currently there are approximately 30,000 books with quizzes which cover both fiction and non-fiction with new titles added regularly.

Books are placed in four interest levels, **Lower Years**, ages 5-8, **Middle Years** ages 9-13, **Middle Years+** 11years + (secondary school age) and **Upper Years** 14-adult.

This ranges from early picture books such as 'I am Bear' to classics like 'War and Peace', which is the longest book on Accelerated Reader.

How it works

Each term children take a computer-based **Star Test**. This measures their reading ability through a series of 34 mixed multiple choice comprehension questions.

Every child is different, so the computer adapts the test to suit each child by selecting different questions depending on how well they answer the previous one.

Once they have completed the test, they are then given a ZPD, (Zone of proximal development) number score which enables them to select books which match their own score.

Most of the books in our library have been given a ZPD readability number which is clearly shown on the inside cover. Books also have an associated coloured dot on the spine to help children locate books easily, there are lots to choose from!

A small image of a piece of paper with text. The text is a quote from a book, written in a simple, slightly irregular font. The paper has a light beige or cream color with a subtle texture.

I get sad every
time I hear a
person say, "I
don't read." It's
like saying "I
don't learn," or
"I don't laugh,"
or "I don't
live."

What is the ZPD Range?

3.2 - 4.6

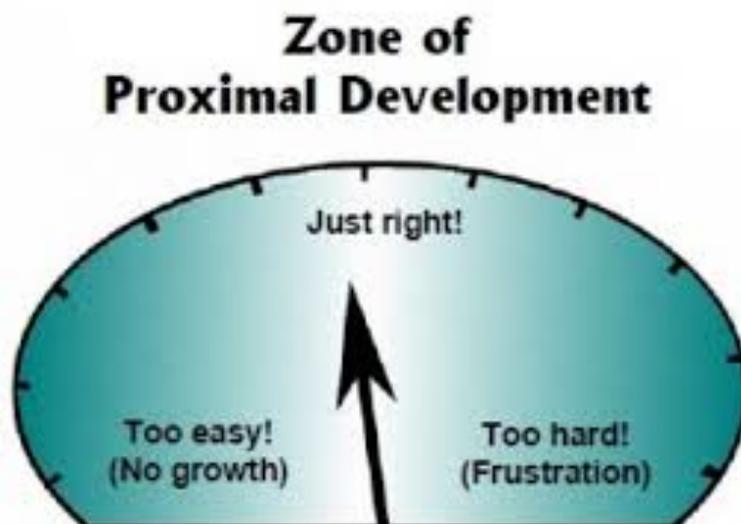
A ZPD range is a broad, number range of books a child can select their AR book from. The lowest number is the lowest readability level of book they can choose, so a very 'comfortable' read and the highest number is the highest readability level of book they can choose, so a more 'challenging' read. These books should challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

Children are encouraged to read all around their ZPD range depending on their quiz scores. It is important that books are not read in number order or level climbed like a ladder. The emphasis is to read for pleasure and discover all genres and authors of books while reading more challenging and less challenging titles depending on quiz scores.

Each book's level is determined by the characteristics that most influence readability such as, average sentence length, average word length and word difficulty level. This is decided by Renaissance Accelerated Reader.

Children keep a record of their current ZPD range in their yellow reading record or planner.

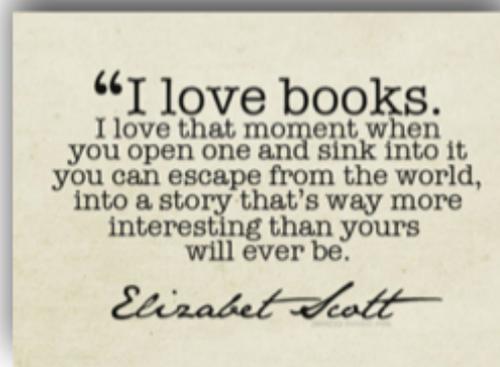
A new STAR test takes place every term, to mark growth in reading and comprehension ability, so ZPD ranges will change depending on how much reading and progress children are making.



All the AR books in the Library are colour-coded so it's easy to find the right one.

	0.0 to 1.9
	2 to 2.9
	3 to 3.9
	4 to 4.9
	5 to 5.9
	6 and above

Books should be chosen by their ZPD number listed on the inside cover of each book. The coloured spot on the spine makes it easier for children to locate the right books.



Accelerated Reader Quizzes

After finishing a book children log in to their Accelerated Reader account and take a short comprehension quiz on that book. If available, they can also take a vocabulary and literacy quiz.

Scores are then awarded as a percentage of answers correct and points per book are given. Children collect points towards their own individual target.

Each AR account shows the children each book read and the quiz score for that book. It will even suggest what to read next! Importantly, it clearly shows the child's progress over a term towards their own individual progress and points targets.

Every child has 3 goals

Achieve at least 85% in each quiz and reach their progress target.

Earn points and reach their points target.

Enjoy books and learn to love reading for life!

Throughout the year there are lots of fun incentives and competitions to encourage and reward the children based on their own personal achievements.

Can I see how my child is doing at home?

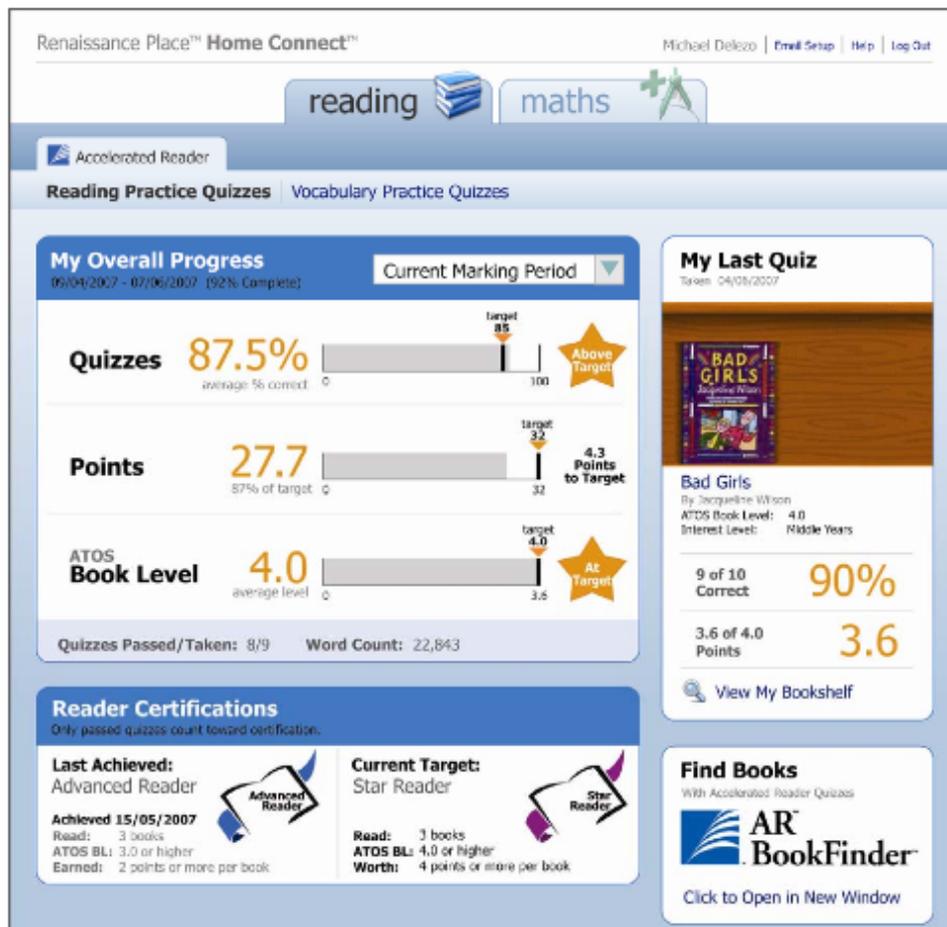
Adults and children can check their reading progress at home from any device connected to the internet using 'Home Connect'.

<https://Ukhosted101.renlearn.co.uk/6699539/homeconnect>

Once logged in with your child's details, found in their planner or yellow reading log, you can view their progress towards targets, points awarded, books read and quiz scores.

You can also access 'AR Book Finder' to search for titles of interest and check the ZPD of books.

Only you and your child can log into the account and book quizzes are unable to be taken at home. However, if wanted, you can register up to 5 email addresses so you can have quiz information and results sent to you and other family members every time your child takes a quiz!



* Current marking period means the current term or half term.

How much should be read each day?

Children take part in regular, individual quiet, guided and class reading sessions in school. At times they will be asked to read to an adult and sometimes children will share books with other children and on occasions be read to by an adult.

Studies have shown that children make the most progress in all areas of education when they also read daily at home, so at Pensans all children in years 1-6 have nightly reading homework. We expect years 3-6 to read their school AR book for at least 30 mins per day at home and years 1 and 2 for 15 minutes. Please sign the record or planner to say you have heard or witnessed you child read.

It is very important that the children bring their current AR reading book and yellow reading record or blue planner in to school daily. They should be recording pages read, book title, ZPD and quiz scores every time they read in school and at home.

Top Tips for Amazing Accelerated Readers!

Children should -

- Spend time choosing a book they will enjoy, they can always ask staff and friends to recommend reads.
- Read their AR book everyday and quiz as soon as possible. Any longer than 24 hours after finishing and the book will soon be forgotten!
- Make sure they read enough each day. 1 or 2 pages is not enough, it can take a long time to finish a book at that rate.

Understand that it is important to read in their zpd. Even if they can read a higher zpd book. We could all read a book about Astro Physics but very few of us could answer the quiz questions!

Read all types of books from all genres, if you only read the 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' you will only be good at answering questions about the 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'.

- Chat to family and friends about what you and they are reading, share a book with family at home. As a parent, adult family member or carer, reading with and to your child is one of the most valuable things you can do.