

We are proud to use



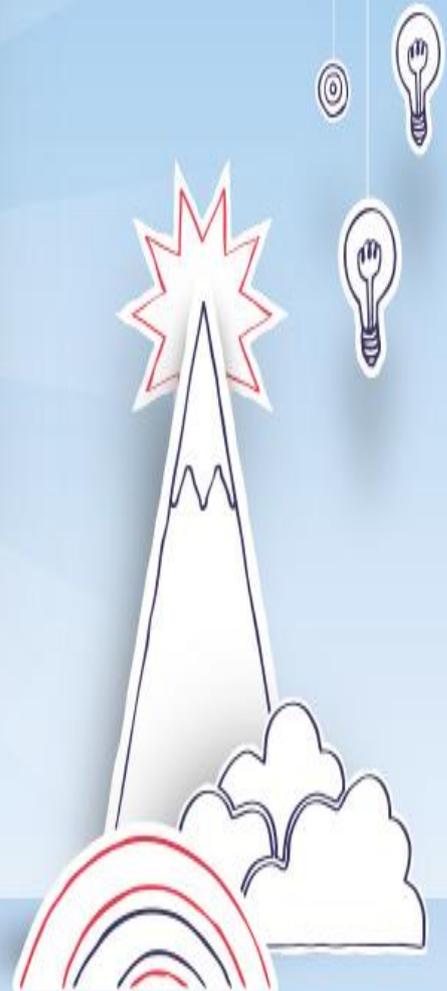
Accelerated[™]
Reader



Accelerated Reader and Bookfinder - A Parent's Guide

10 to 16 year-olds who read for pleasure perform better at school across the Curriculum.

(2013 research by Dr Alice Sullivan and Matt Brown from the Institute of Education)



St. Cuthbert's

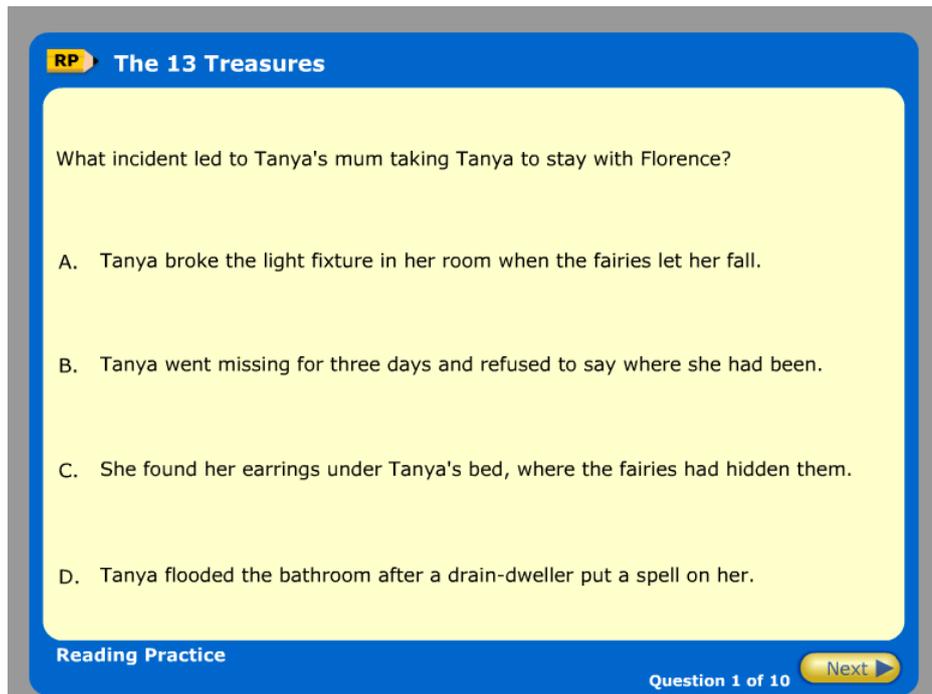
Building Faith | Building Knowledge

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader

Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR™) program. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Accelerated Reader website at www.renlearn.co.uk

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/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.



The screenshot shows a quiz interface with a blue header bar containing 'RP' and 'The 13 Treasures'. The main area is yellow and contains a question and four multiple-choice options. At the bottom, there is a blue bar with 'Reading Practice', 'Question 1 of 10', and a 'Next' button.

RP The 13 Treasures

What incident led to Tanya's mum taking Tanya to stay with Florence?

- A. Tanya broke the light fixture in her room when the fairies let her fall.
- B. Tanya went missing for three days and refused to say where she had been.
- C. She found her earrings under Tanya's bed, where the fairies had hidden them.
- D. Tanya flooded the bathroom after a drain-dweller put a spell on her.

Reading Practice Question 1 of 10 Next

A Sample Quiz Question

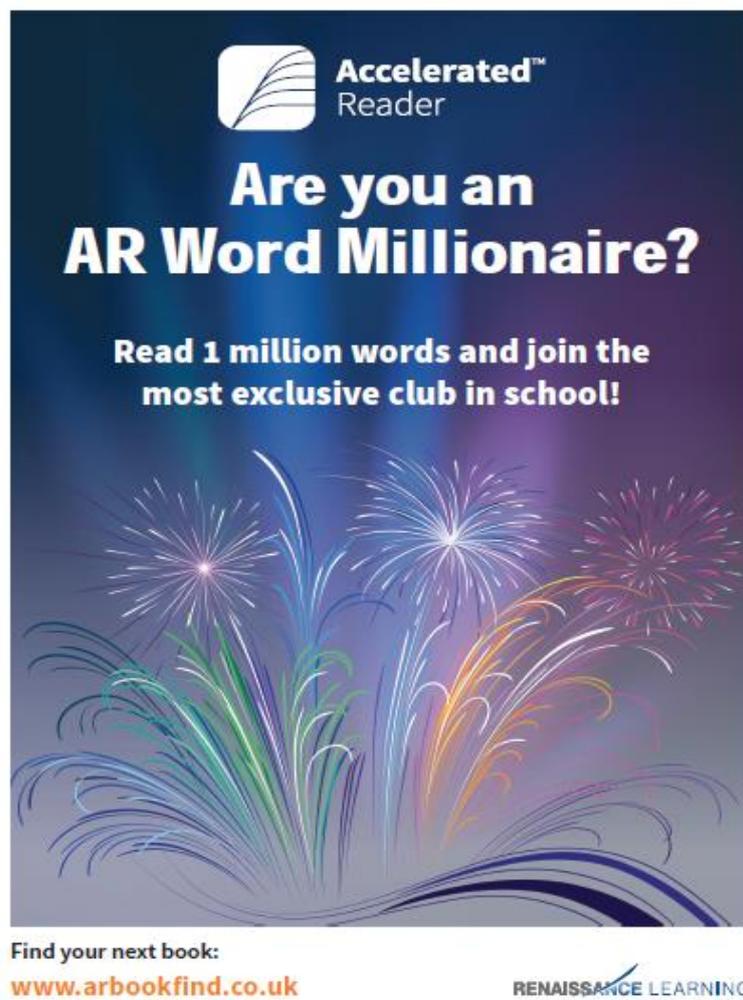
Children using AR have a free choice of the books they read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them.

Teachers and librarians will help your child choose books that are at an appropriate reading level. These will be challenging without being frustrating and will also be at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may assist him/her by:

- Helping choose another book that is more appropriate
- Asking more probing questions as your child reads and before he/she takes a quiz
- Pairing your child with another pupil or even having the book read to your child.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their own 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.

A promotional poster for Accelerated Reader. The background is dark blue with a gradient and features a colorful fireworks display at the bottom. At the top left is the Accelerated Reader logo, which consists of a white square with a stylized book icon and the text "Accelerated™ Reader". The main text is in white and reads "Are you an AR Word Millionaire?". Below this, in a smaller font, it says "Read 1 million words and join the most exclusive club in school!". At the bottom left, it says "Find your next book:" followed by the website "www.arbookfind.co.uk". At the bottom right is the Renaissance Learning logo, which includes the word "RENAISSANCE" in a stylized font and "LEARNING" below it.

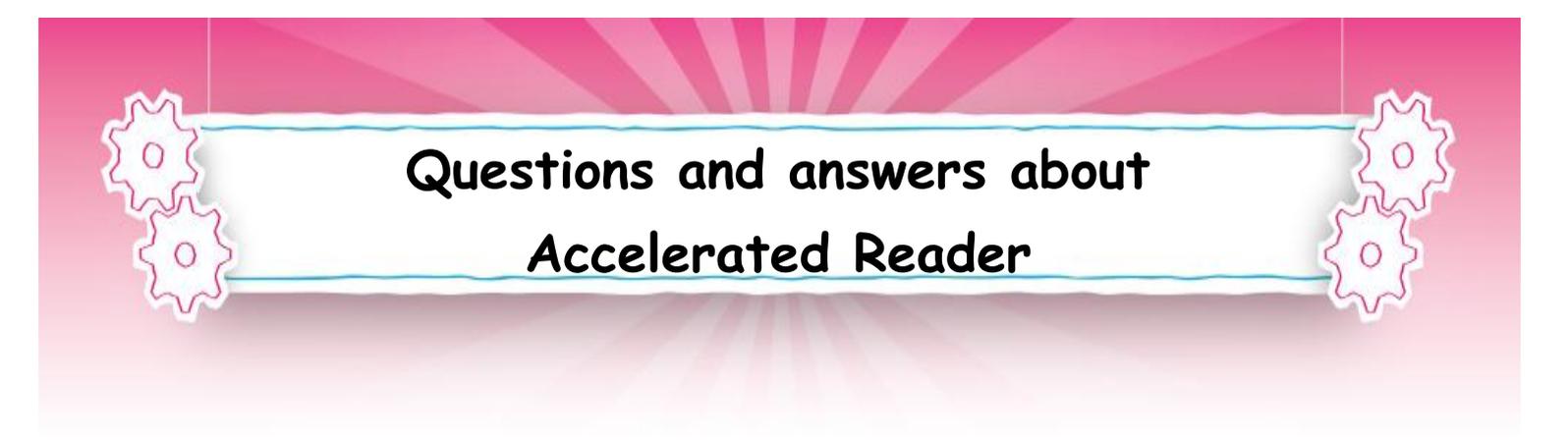
**Accelerated™
Reader**

**Are you an
AR Word Millionaire?**

**Read 1 million words and join the
most exclusive club in school!**

Find your next book:
www.arbookfind.co.uk

RENAISSANCE LEARNING



Questions and answers about Accelerated Reader

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

Students take a test for Accelerated Reader called a STAR Reading Test and we share these results with you.

What is a STAR Reading Test?

STAR Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's response. If their 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 10 minutes. No reading test is 100% accurate 100% of the time, but these tests give a good indication to the school of your child's reading and understanding level.

My child has a low reading age, should I worry?

AR is being introduced to help your child to increase the amount of reading they do and also improve their reading skills. Many students with low reading ages will already be on our SEN register and many may already receive extra support. However, the important thing is to make sure that your child benefits from AR and hopefully makes gains over the year. As a parent/carer, please make sure you support your child's reading at home and talk to the school if you have any concerns.

What is a book level (ATOS)?

Book levels are attached to each book and represent the difficulty of the text. This is not the same as the reading age. As well as a reading age, students will be given a ZPD which sets them a range in which they can choose a book level; for example 4.2 to 6.6.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development?

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs will be adjusted according to the needs of each child.

What is an interest level?

Books are also classified by interest level, depending on their content. These are classified as lower, middle or upper years. The content of upper years may be more suited to students over the age of 14.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. AR points are computer generated based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). For example '13 Words' by Lemony Snicket is a 0.5 point book - about 849 words long and a book level of 3.5, whilst 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix' book, is a 44 point book - about 257,154 words long and a book level of 7.2. A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points.

How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

All of the stock in our library has been labelled to show it is an AR book and also the level of the book. You can go to www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all books with AR quizzes.

What rewards will my child get?

Rewards will be based on points accumulated over a period of time, words read over time and progress made in reading levels - these will be linked to the Vivo reward system.



How often should my child read?

Children will read at school during form time and one English lesson a week will be dedicated to AR. We will, as always, be encouraging children to read at other times - break-time, lunchtime, after school and at home. According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

How can I help my child to become a better reader?

Performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home; you can help by recording progress in your child's Reading Passport. We will set each child a challenge to read at least one hour a week at home; this can be done in increments and does not have to be completed in one sitting. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, visiting the library, letting your child see you read and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading together, stop and ask questions to check that your child understands what they have read. Reading with your child, no matter how old they are, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning.

My child already does well in school. Why do they need this?

All children need to be challenged, no matter what their ability is and Accelerated Reader stretches and challenges all children to become better readers. We want to push our students to reach their full potential in all of their subjects - strong reading skills build strong foundations in order for your child to achieve.

What if my child doesn't like reading?

Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books they *want* to read. Their teacher will make certain the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the AR Reading Practice Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With guidance from the teacher, encouragement at home, and success in AR quizzes, even students who say they don't like reading can develop a love of reading.

What is the Accelerated Reader Bookfinder?

AR BookFinder is an exciting internet based book searching tool from Renaissance Learning that works alongside the AR program. With this free online tool you can search for books that are both interesting and are the appropriate level for your child, quickly and easily.

We would encourage you to take the time to explore this tool with your child, to visit the AR BookFinder just go to www.arbookfind.co.uk

Welcome

Searching for Accelerated Reader books is fun and easy with this free online tool.

Please tell us who you are:

- Pupil
- Parent
- Teacher
- Librarian

Submit



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Parent

Quick Search | Advanced Search | Collections

 AR BookBag™

Enter Keycode

You do not need a Keycode to search. However, if your child's teacher gave you a Keycode, enter it here to search the most relevant books for your child.

You can search for book titles based on authors, topics or titles of books. Just type what you want to search for in the blank field above and click **Go**. You will then be able to sort your search results, select book titles to add to your AR BookBag, print a list of your search results or start a new search.

Learn more about how to help your child develop a love for reading.
[A Parent's Guide to AR BookFinder](#)

How to use the AR BookFinder.

To use Quick Search in AR BookFinder:

Go to www.arbookfind.co.uk

- Click the Quick Search tab (on the top of the page).
- Type a book title, author, topic, or quiz number into the blank field.
- Click Go.
- To narrow the search results, select any of the options on the left of the screen under Refine Your Search.
- You can continue to refine your search until you get your desired results.
- To create a book list from the titles you have found,
- Click Add to AR Book Bag below the description of any book you want to add to your list.

The screenshot displays the AR BookFinder website interface. At the top, the logo 'AR BookFinder' is visible, along with navigation links for 'Home', 'Suggest Quizzes', 'About Us', and 'Help'. Below the logo, there are tabs for 'Parent', 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Collections'. The 'Quick Search' tab is active, showing a search input field with the text 'the hunger games' and a 'Go' button. To the left of the search area, there is a section for 'Enter Keycode' with a 'Go' button and a note: 'You do not need a Keycode to search. However, if your child's teacher gave you a Keycode, enter it here to search the most relevant books for your child.' Below this is a 'Refine Your Search' section with various filters: 'Interest Level' (Upper Years, ATOS Book Level 5.0-5.9), 'Fiction/Non-fiction' (Fiction), and 'Topic' (Adventure, What Kids Are Read..., Science Fiction, Family Life, Arts, What Kids Are Read..., Series). The search results are displayed in a grid. The first result is 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins, with a book cover image. The second result is 'Catching Fire' by Suzanne Collins, also with a book cover image. Each result includes the author's name, AR Quiz No., IL, BL, AR Pts, AR Quiz Types, and a star rating. A green 'Add to AR BookBag™' button is visible below each book description. The page number 'Page 1 of 1' and a 'Print' icon are also present.

How to use the Advanced Search on AR BookFinder

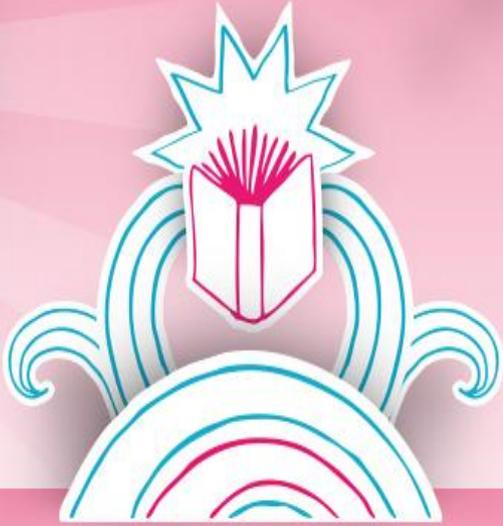
The Advanced Search tab allows you to enter more search criteria such as reading level (ATOS), interest level, topics, fiction/nonfiction, and language to get more specific results.

- Click the Advanced Search tab (on the top of the page).
- To determine the parameters of your search, select Contains, Starts With, or Exact Match
- Enter your search criteria and click Go.
- To be sure that the results are appropriate for your child, we recommend that you enter a Reading Level (ATOS). When entering a Reading level, you are also required to enter an interest level. For more information on ATOS book levels and interest levels, click the question mark icon.
- If you are uncertain what books may interest your child, choose a topic and a subtopic to see a list of book categories.
- When AR BookFinder returns your list of search results, you can narrow the results list by selecting any of the options on the left of the screen under Refine Your Search.
- You can continue to refine your search until you get your desired results.
- You can add any of these books to your AR Book Bag.

The screenshot shows the AR BookFinder website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the AR BookFinder logo and navigation links: Home | Suggest Quizzes | About Us | Help. Below the header, there are three tabs: Parent, Quick Search, and Advanced Search (which is selected). On the left side, there is a sidebar with an AR BookBag icon and a section titled 'Enter Keycode' with a text input field and a 'Go' button. Below this, there is a note: 'You do not need a Keycode to search. However, if your child's teacher gave you a Keycode, enter it here to search the most relevant books for your child.' The main search area contains several fields and options: a radio button selection for 'Contains...' (selected), 'Starts With...', and 'Exact Match...'; input fields for 'Title', 'Author', and 'ISBN'; dropdown menus for 'Quiz Released' (set to 'Any Time') and 'Quiz Type' (set to 'Any Quiz Type'); a checkbox for 'Interest Level' (checked) with a dropdown menu set to 'Any Interest Level'; a checkbox for 'ATOS Book Level' (checked) with two input fields for 'through' and a link to 'Show Lexile® Measure'; a note 'select an Interest Level first'; 'Additional Criteria' section with three dropdown menus: 'All Topics', 'All Subtopics', and 'Fiction and Non-fiction'; and a 'Sort' dropdown menu set to 'Title'. At the bottom of the search area, there are 'Go' and 'Clear Form' buttons.



Thank you
for your
support



According to the International Reading Association:

"Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st century will read and write more than at any other time in human history. They will need advanced levels of literacy to perform their jobs, run their households, act as citizens, and conduct their personal lives. They will need literacy to cope with the flood of information they will find everywhere they turn. They will need literacy to feed their imaginations so they can create the world of the future. In our complex world their ability to read can be crucial."



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