



Accelerated Reader: Parent Workshop

To read without
reflecting is like
eating without
digesting.

- EDMUND BURKE

<http://fkb.me>

Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

From Year 3 all students take part in the **Accelerated Reader** programme, which is designed to do the following things:

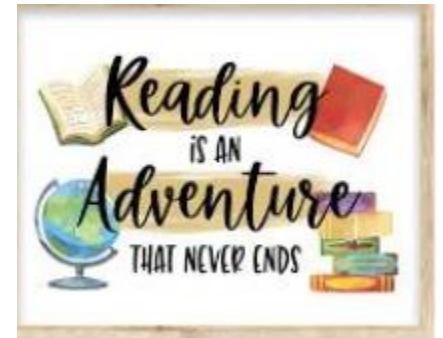
- Ensure your child is reading a book that is the right level for them
- Improve your child's comprehension and engagement with the books they are reading
- Motivate your child to read more

How it works...

At the start of the year every student takes a **Star Test**, which is a computer-based test that measures a student's reading ability through a series of 34 questions.

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 son or daughter.

Once the student has completed the test, they are then given a **ZPD score** by their teacher.



How STAR tests work

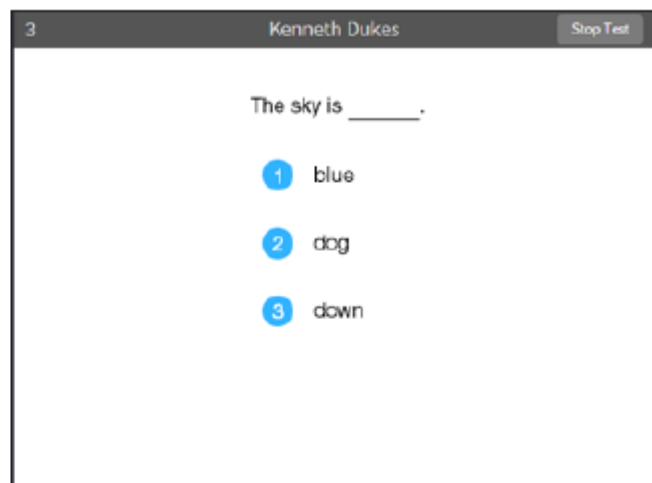
- 1) The student must take their time. It is recommended that each child should spend at least 20 minutes on their tests.
- 2) During a STAR test children are reminded that concentration, focus and careful reading are essential skills to use.
- 3) Students should not guess answers to questions. Instead, they should wait for the question to time out. This is to ensure the computer is not given a false impression of the student's reading ability.
- 4) Tests are done independently without any help from other students or the teacher.



STARTM
Reading

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.



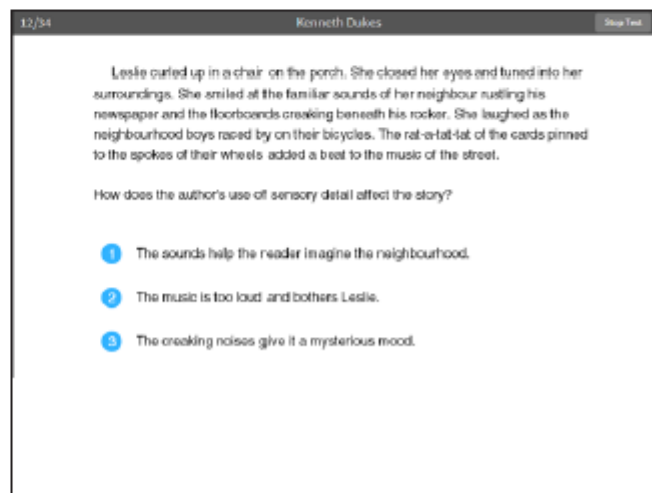
3 Kenneth Dukas Stop Test

The sky is _____.

- 1 blue
- 2 dog
- 3 down

Web browser

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.



12/34 Kenneth Dukas Stop Test

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.

A ZPD score is given to your child after completing the STAR test

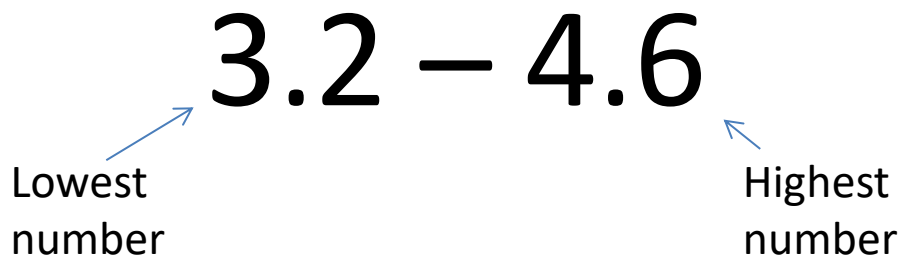
In AR a ZPD is two numbers that the student uses to choose their next reading book.

The lowest number is the lowest level of book the student should be choosing.

The highest number is the highest level of book the student should be choosing.

Students keep a record of all their ZPDs in reading diaries.

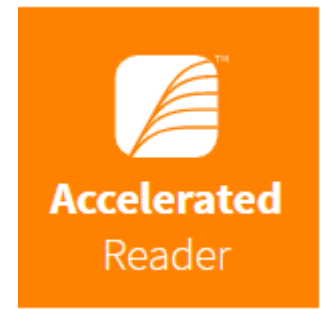
A new STAR test takes place every half term. This enables staff, pupils and parents to monitor progress.

**3.2 – 4.6**
Lowest number Highest number

What happens when my child has read his/her book?

- They take an Accelerated Reader quiz.
- A quiz is different to a STAR test because children only take a quiz after they have *finished* a book.
- There are usually about 10 questions on the book that has been read. At the end of the quiz the children are given a percentage to show them how well they have done.

AR Quizzes



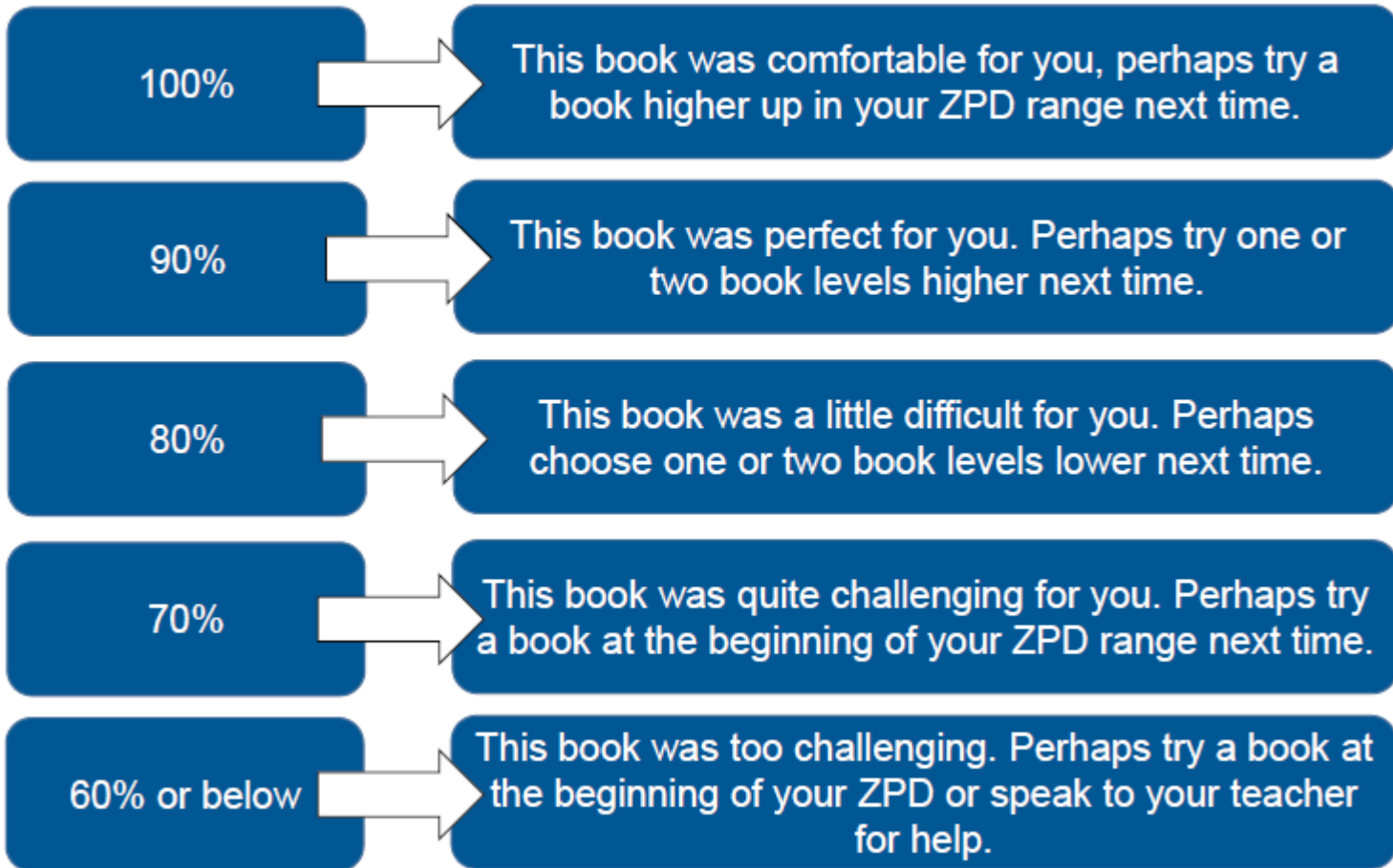
- As mentioned above, children take a quiz once they have finished their book. It is important that children take their quiz as soon as possible after finishing their book (no more than a week later!) as this can affect their scores. Once they have finished their quiz children can immediately see if they have passed. If they pass they can review their incorrect answers.

AR Quizzes

- There are some important rules for taking quizzes:
 - 1) The book the child is quizzed on must be a book they have read in the last two weeks. AR is not a memory test but rather measuring reading ability.
 - 2) A child cannot take a quiz until they have read the entire text.
 - 3) Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.
 - 4) Quizzes can be completed at home or school

AR Quizzes

What does my score tell me?



How do our children get rewarded?

In AR quizzes:

80% - A pass and awarded 1 team points

For every 100% children are awarded 2 team points.

How is success celebrated within the Key Stage?

- Display in the shared area
- Updated weekly to show number of quizzes passed.

“How can I help?”

As with anything, performance improves with practice.



- Encourage your child to read at home.
- When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child comprehends what they have read.
- Make a habit of discussing books that each of you has read.
- Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library, charity shop or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you reading.

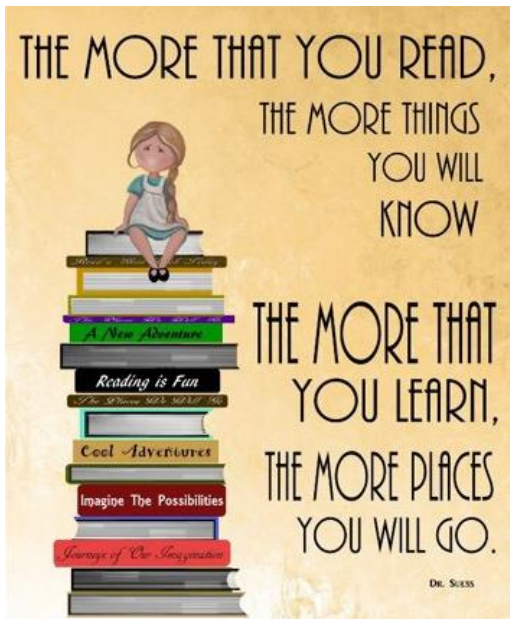
ARBookFind.co.uk

It's not just books from school that students can read, they can read books from home and take quizzes on them!

You can use ARBookFind.co.uk to check whether your child's current book is on Accelerated Reader.

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

Can a child who is not a strong reader still use Accelerated Reader?



- Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupil, regardless of initial ability.
- When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success.