

## A Parent's guide to **Accelerated Reader**



*“Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will read and write more than at any other point 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 a complex and sometimes even dangerous world, their ability to read can be crucial.”*

Adolescent Literacy: A Position Statement, International reading Association

If your child is in year 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 at Grange Primary Academy he/she is participating in the Accelerated Reader™ (AR) programme from Renaissance Learning. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR.

#### What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer programme that helps teachers manage and monitor a child's independent reading practice. Children pick either a physical book that falls within their ZPD level or choose from the recommended myON digital library. When they have finished reading, they take a short quiz on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that the child has understood what they have read.

If they are reading at the recommended level for them, then most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

Below is an example of an AR quiz:

RP Hatchet

Brian felt the Secret explained why ---.

A. his mother had moved to Canada

B. his father had given him a hatchet

C. he had no brothers or sisters

D. his parents had divorced

Reading Practice Question 1 of 10 Next

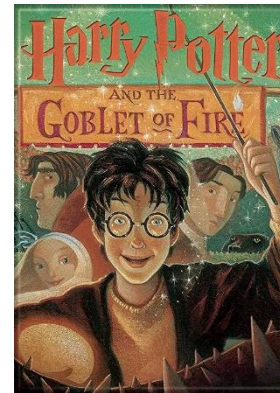
#### What if my child does not like reading?

In most cases, children really enjoy taking quizzes. Using AR, your child will be reading books at his/her own reading and interest level so that after completing the book he/she should do well on the quiz. This success will encourage your child to read more and with continuing guidance and success even those who say they do not like reading will often develop a love for reading.

#### What are points?

Each book that has an AR reading practice quiz is given a point value. These points are based on difficulty and length of the book. Students will earn points depending on how well they do on the quiz. A score of 60% or more is needed to pass a quiz although students should aim for 85% or more.

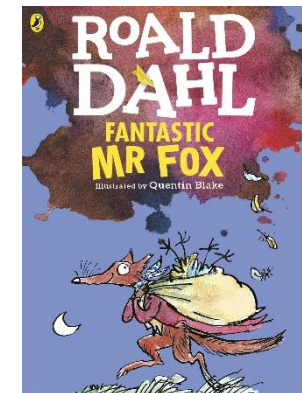
You will notice that the number of points assigned to the books varies according to their length and the amount of reading time required. For example, J K Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is worth 32 points while Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox* is worth 1 point.



Book level 6.8

Interest level UY

Points: 32.0



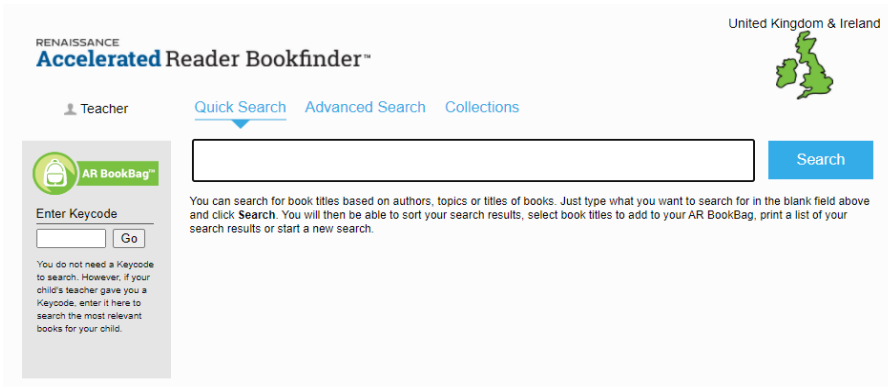
Book level 4.1

Interest level MY

Points: 1.0

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

There are over 20,000 books, both fiction and non-fiction, with an AR reading practice quiz and many of these are available in the school library. The majority of books with quizzes are labelled as such. Students are also encouraged to read books they may have at home or have borrowed from the local library. To find out if a book has a quiz you can visit the AR Bookfinder site at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk).



## How does my child take a quiz?

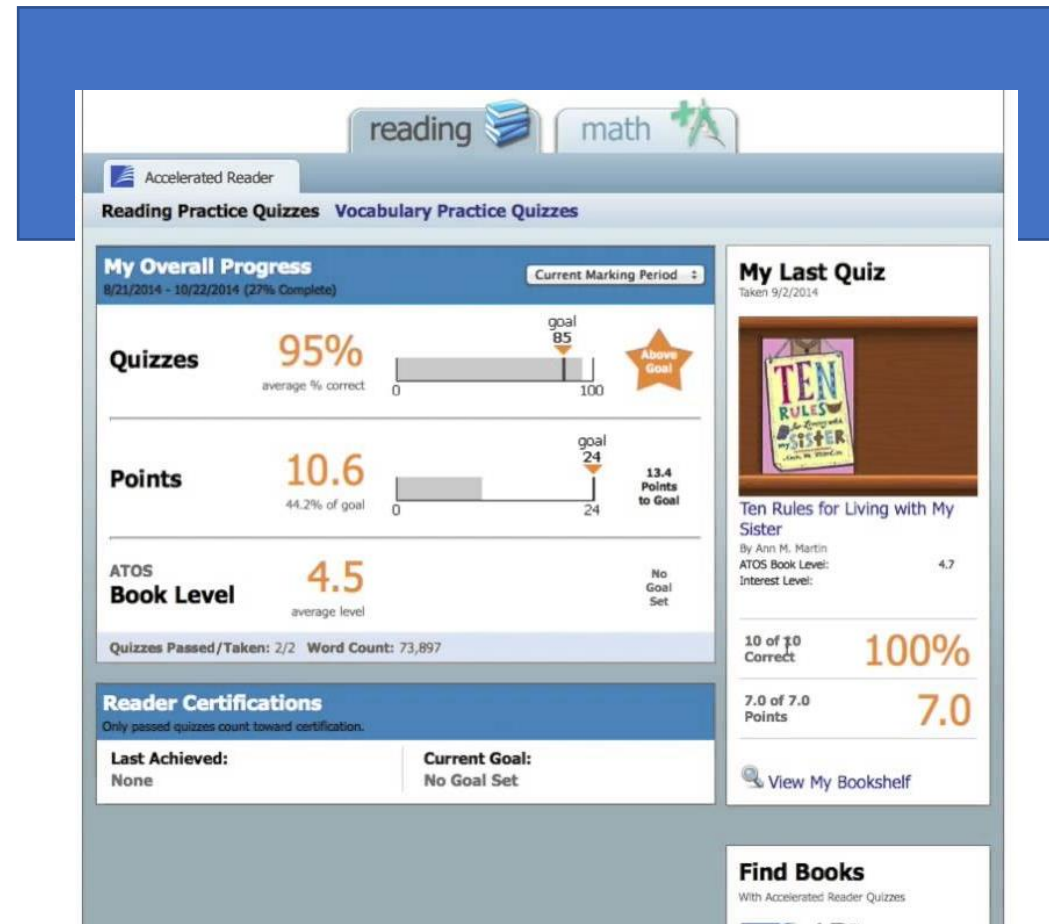
Accelerated Reader quizzes can be taken at school on any computer or device connected to the internet. There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

1. The book the child is quizzes 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 student cannot not take a quiz until they read the entire text.
3. Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.

## How will I know how my child is doing?

You can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect for any web-enabled computer, just go to: <https://ukhosted14.renlearn.co.uk/1915829/HomeConnect/> Once in the programme, you can view your child's progress towards targets, points and books read.

From here you can view your child's progress towards targets, points earned and their virtual bookshelf of books read. You can even sign up to receive an email alert every time your child takes a quiz. There is also a link to AR BookFinder. You can only access information about your own child.



## Renaissance Home Connect

### Celebrating Success

Certificates and, on occasion, other prizes are awarded to students who reach certain points milestones or who achieve Word Millionaire status. Students scoring 100% in a quiz also receive recognition.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact our reading lead Mrs Haynes [vicki.haynes@grangeprimary.org.uk](mailto:vicki.haynes@grangeprimary.org.uk), your child's class teacher or visit the Accelerated Reader website [www.renlearn.co.uk](http://www.renlearn.co.uk).