

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader



At Tower Hill, we are committed to developing a culture of reading for pleasure and creating a lifelong love of reading. We use Accelerated Reader as a way of promoting reading and supporting children to experience success in achieving their reading goals.

This guide is designed to answer your questions about Accelerated Reader. If you would like any further information, please take a look at the website.

How does it work?

All children from Y2 to Y6 will take a STAR Reading Test which will give them a score. This score is called their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). Once your child knows their ZPD, they will be able to choose books from within this range from their classrooms and the school library. This will ensure that they are reading books pitched at the correct level.

Eg: if a child has a ZPD between 2.2 and 4.5, they can choose any book between these Book Levels. The books at the lower end will be easier (Exploration Zone) for them and become harder (Deep Dive Zone) at the top. The best progress will be made if children read books within their ZPD



How can I help at home?

- ✓ Please make sure your child brings their reading book and reading record to school every day.
- ✓ Encourage your child to read at home as much as possible and record this in their reading record. You can ask them questions about their book to ensure they understand the story.
- ✓ Ask them how their Accelerated Reader quiz went – they will love it that you are interested.

How are books put into levels?

Every book has been assessed by Accelerated Reader for the level of difficulty, interest level and the number of words. Based on this information, each book is given a book level (ZPD) and an interest level. Children will be shown what these mean and supported by their teachers so that they choose books of appropriate levels.

Choosing appropriate books

Each book will have a label stating the Book Level (BL) and the Interest Level (LY, MY) eg:

Quiz No 218263
My Name Is Mina

Almond, David
B.L.: 4.2
Points: 5.0

MY

Children will need to choose a book from within their Book Level. They will also need to consider the interest level – just because a child can read the words in a book, does not mean the content is appropriate.

LY – Lower Years – KSI/Lower KSII

MY – Middle Years – KSII

Accelerated Reader Quizzes

When a child has finished a book, they can take a quiz to determine if they have understood it. The quizzes must be taken in school and will earn the children points. The quizzes are normally about 10 questions and the children need to aim to get 80% or higher to show a good level of understanding.