

Accelerated Reader

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 or her own level and reads at his or her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz indicates that your child understood what was read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers and librarians help your child choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may help him or her:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before he or she takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another student.
- Have the book read to your child.

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

What Is the ATOS Book Level?

Book levels are determined using the ATOS readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, a book level of 4.5 means the text could likely be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth-grader in the fifth month of school. (The content of the book, however, may or may not be appropriate. The interest level will give you a recommendation regarding the appropriateness of the content.)

What Is the Interest Level?

To help you choose the books most appropriate for your children, Accelerated Reader quizzes are divided into four interest levels: Lower Grades (LG), Middle Grades (MG), Middle Grades Plus (MG+), and Upper Grades (UG). The interest levels are based on the recommendations of the publisher and/or literary book reviews by professional organizations. However, the final decision on whether the content of a book is appropriate for a particular child is left to parents, school librarians, and teachers.

The following are the top three errors families experience when using AR from home, as well as quick solutions to try.

1. Cannot access AR program when trying to log on!
 - a. Try this: On 'login' page, at the bottom left hand corner, run "Check Software Requirements". It may be that your computer needs additional downloads to fully access AR.
2. Your student started the wrong quiz. It's OK. The only down side is that the student won't have access to this quiz in the future. But with the 1000's of titles available on AR, this shouldn't be a problem. Just finish the quiz, not worrying about correct or incorrect answers. There is no penalty against a student for scoring poorly on a quiz.
3. Your student is 'locked out'. Not a problem. He /she may have typed the wrong password more than twice. The student is only locked out for 24 hrs. After 24 hours, the password resets itself. If you cannot be without AR for 24 hours, email Ms. Zommers, azommers@stakzoo.org and she will reset the password.