



Plumcroft Primary School



**Accelerated  
Reader<sup>®</sup>**

# Why is reading important?



- It helps us develop empathy - the ability to stand in someone else's shoes and understand their thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- Reading helps us manage stress - regular readers sleep better, have lower stress levels and higher self-esteem than non-readers.
- Reading improves our relationships and friendships. Social situations are complex and sometimes difficult to navigate, but reading fiction can help us develop skills and understanding in this area.
- Reading expands and improves our vocabulary and the better our vocabulary, the more able we are to access the curriculum and the better we do at school.
- Reading expands our life experience. Our brains react to stories as if we are actually living the events we are reading about. This means that from your desk in the classroom, you can travel to anywhere in the world and experience almost anything!
- And most importantly, reading makes us happier! Many studies have shown that people who read regularly, report feeling happier in general than those who don't.

# What is Accelerated Reader?



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Accelerated Reader (AR) is a reading management and monitoring programme that aims to foster independent reading. The software assesses reading age, and suggests books that match pupils' needs and interests. Pupils take computerised quizzes on books to test for reading comprehension. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.



# What is Accelerated Reader?



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Accelerated Reader is used as part of a comprehensive reading programme in place at Plumcroft Primary School. While we continue to teach the skills of reading in class through shared texts, the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed. Pupils using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and they have personalised targets based on their reading ability. The aim of AR is for all children to succeed in achieving their targets.



# Why are we using Accelerated Reader?



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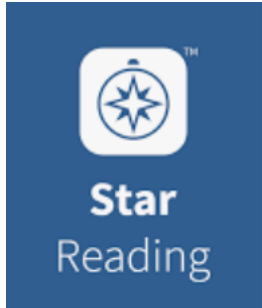
- Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupils with special needs to those who are avid and confident readers.
- Accelerated Reader encourages children to read for at least thirty minutes each day and rewards effort and achievement.
- When children read books at their appropriate level they experience success and grow in confidence and reading stamina.
- The teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's current reading ability or attainment.



# Two parts to the program



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## **Star Reading**

A computer-adaptive reading test used to assess pupils' reading ability and to determine their recommended reading levels for Accelerated Reader. Measures growth over time.



## **Accelerated Reader**

A database of quizzes to test the comprehension of books read. Provides instant feedback and monitoring.



# What are STAR Reading Tests?



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Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR reading test at the beginning of the year and at the end of each term. It multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer at school. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses so if their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced. The test comprises of 34 multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes. 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 child. The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement assists in identifying your child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range.



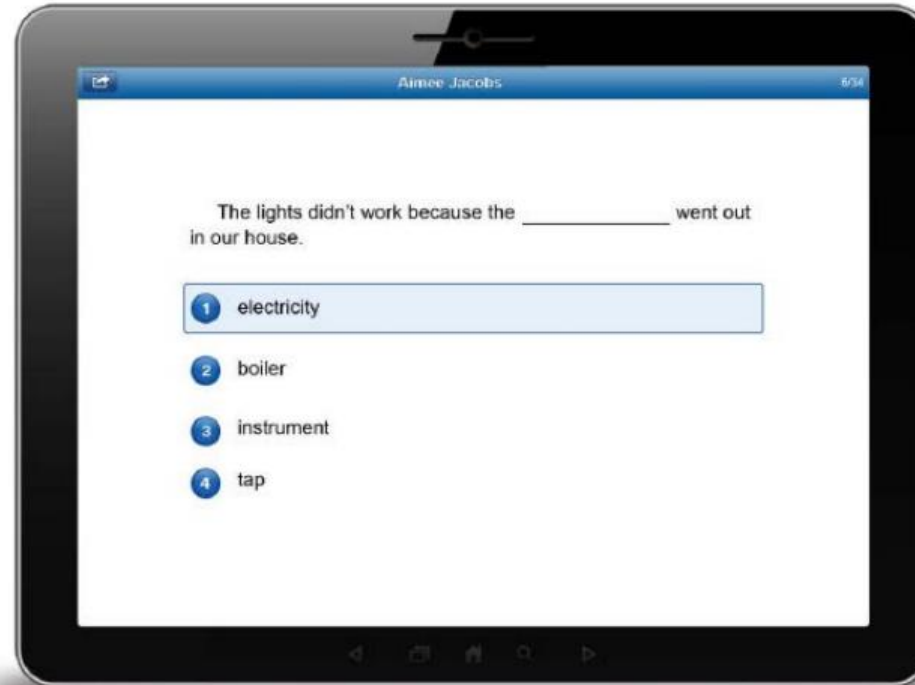
# STAR Reading Question Examples

## Questions 1 - 10



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The first ten questions will ask you to pick the best word to fill a gap in a sentence.





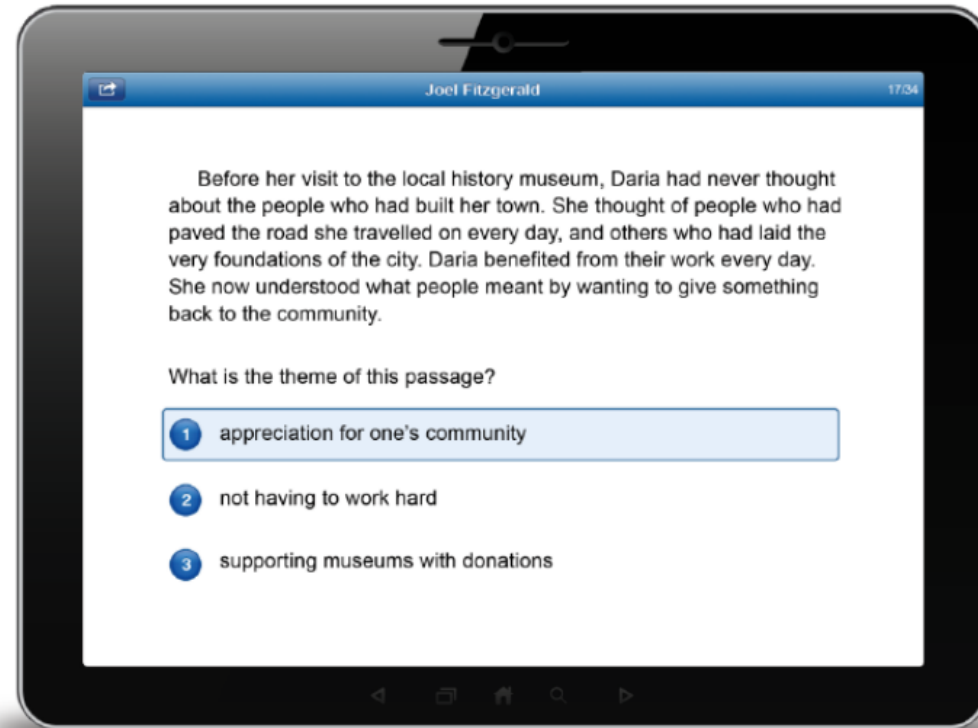
# STAR Reading Question Examples



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## Questions 11 - 34

The other 24 questions will give you a few sentences to read and will ask you about what they mean.



# What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?



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After your child takes a STAR reading test, the AR software will assess the results and give him/her a ZPD reading range. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will know their ZPD range and the books they should be choosing. There is a record of this in their reading records. A ZPD can change throughout the year based on STAR reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results. Please try not to compare your child's ZPD with that of other children. Your child is reading at a ZPD that is appropriate for where they need to be. Each child is an individual, with individual needs, capabilities, interests and abilities and AR caters for this.



# What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?



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Practising with books that are too hard results in frustration. Practising with books that are too easy does little to improve skills and leads to boredom. The ZPD represents the level of difficulty that is neither too hard nor too easy, and is the level at which optimal learning takes place.

To encourage a love of reading, we will not strictly control students' choices within their ZPDs. If your child would like to try a 'challenging' text, they are still able to complete quizzes for them as long as it is on the AR catalogue.

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



# AR Book Levels & ZPD



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**Book Level** - Each book on the Accelerated Reader system has a book level which represents the difficulty of the text. This is calculated using ATOS formula based on average length of sentences, length of words and the difficulty in the level of words.

**ZPD** - Your child's individual range of book levels recommended for their reading ability. Below is an example for a child with a ZPD range of 3.2 – 5.0. They would be encouraged to choose books within these book levels.



# Book Level, Interest Level & Points



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Book Level - Difficulty of text (range: 0.2 – 13.5)

Interest Level - Relates to content and appropriateness

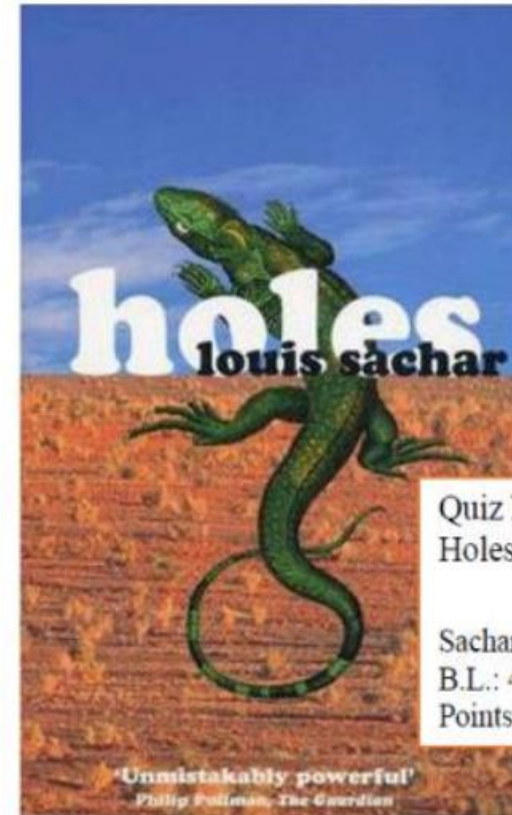
LY - Lower Years ages 5-8

MY - Middle Years ages 9-13

MY+ - Middle Years Plus ages 12-13

UY - Upper Years ages 14+

Points - Text length (points range from: 0.5 – 118)



Quiz No 203031

Holes

Sachar, Louis

B.L.: 4.6 MY

Points: 7.0

UY

# What are the Accelerated Reader quizzes?



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When your child has finished reading a book, they will be given time to take a quiz independently on the computer.

Reading Practice Quizzes - The purpose is to determine whether your child has read a book, to measure your child's literal comprehension of the book and provide immediate feedback. Each quiz consists of 3, 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on the book level and length.



# AR Target Setting



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Average percent correct - The most important goal for all pupils is to average at least 85% on quizzes. This indicates a student is reading with a high level of comprehension, which accelerates reading growth. Averages of 90 percent are associated with even greater gains.

Average daily engaged reading time – Once a book is completed and quizzed on AR can calculate ‘average daily engaged reading time’. In KS2 we expect all children to read for a minimum average of 25 minutes per day.



# When will my child take a quiz?



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Time is allocated each school day for children to take quizzes when they have completed a book. Quizzing from home is not permitted. Ideally your child needs to take a quiz within 48 hours of completing their book where possible. Children may take quizzes on books they have read at home but should make sure they have read and understood each book before completing a quiz. Children in KS2 are expected to take notes on the books they are reading before they quiz

