



Friday 12th October 2018

Reference: Accelerated Reader: Information for parents

Dear families,

All students in year 7,8 & 9 at UAE South Bank are enrolled on the Accelerated Reader program, as part of our whole-school Literacy improvement plan. Accelerated Reader is an online computer program that monitors students' independent reading practice and progress. Students take online reading tests (STAR tests) during the school year. These tests assess students' reading skills and identify the level that they should read at for optimal development. Students then choose books at their own level, using the colour-coded system, and read them during directed time in school and at home. When they finish reading books, pupils take short quizzes on the computer. Passing a quiz indicates that the pupil has understood what has been read.

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/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. According to Renaissance Learning's research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Encourage your child to read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and visit your local library.

What is a STAR Reading test?

STAR Reading is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer- adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 10 minutes.

What is a Book Level?

Book Levels are reported using the ATOSTM readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.5–13.5. Books are chosen based on the ZPD range recommended for each pupil by STAR Reading.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD, or reading range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within his/her ZPD.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

What is Interest Level?

The Interest level indicates for which age group a book is appropriate, based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only and teachers and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding pupils.

How can I find further information?

Visit [AR Book Finder](#) to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

Visit [Renaissance Learning](#) for more product information.

We hope that this information is useful. If you have any questions regarding the Accelerated Reader then please contact either Ms Lee or Ms Thomas, via the school emails below.

Yours sincerely,

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