

# Supporting your child's use of the Accelerated Reader programme

Northampton School for Girls



## What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a computer programme that helps teachers manage, monitor and improve children's independent reading practice.

Your child chooses a book (with support) based on their interests and at their own level (this is a very important part of the programme) and reads at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz online – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and direct ongoing reading practice.

## What are Accelerated Reader quizzes?

When your child has finished reading a book they will be given time to take a quiz independently online in school only. It is best if a quiz can be taken within 48 hours of finishing a book. Depending on the book level of the quiz this may be 5, 10, or 20 questions long and will take around 5 minutes to complete. The quiz assesses general comprehension of the book and results are calculated and shown to the child instantly.

### **Your child can take a quiz when:**

- they have read a book independently
- a teacher has read a book to them e.g. class novel
- they have read a book with someone e.g. parent/carer/sibling/friend.

## What can I do to help?

As with anything, performance improves practice, which in turn will hopefully improve reading attainment. We provide lots of opportunities for reading in school but you can help by providing a culture of reading at home.

- Encourage your child to read at home every day because they will get better at reading if they practise. Find out what your child's ZPD (book level) is and help them to read books at their own level. If your child is in Year 7 or 8, encourage them to complete their reading log.
- Ask what books they are reading and how they are getting on with any quizzes completed. Parents can sign up to receive alerts of any quizzes taken and scores received. Contact [THenn@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:THenn@nsg.northants.sch.uk) to do this.

- Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, having some books available at home, visiting your local library, and by letting your child see you reading too.
- When reading with your child, stop and ask them questions about the text to be sure your child is understanding what they have read.
- Try to regularly discuss books that everyone in your family is reading or has read.
- Book levels can be checked at home by using the website [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)

**Reading with your child, no matter what age, is an important part of developing good reading skills and a lifelong love of reading.**

## Why are we using Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader is proven to help children become better readers
- Accelerated Reader encourages children to read more and rewards them for their 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 reading ability
- Children can choose their own books to read. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

## Approximate Reading Level Guidance

This table provides guidance about the book level your child should be selecting from the school library.

| Reading Age | ZPD Guidance |
|-------------|--------------|
| 6-7         | 0.5 -3.0     |
| 7-8         | 2.0- 4.0     |
| 8-9         | 2.5 - 5.0    |
| 9-10        | 3.0 - 5.0    |
| 10-11       | 3.5 - 6.0    |
| 11-12       | 4.0 - 7.5    |
| 12-13       | 4.5 - 8.0    |
| 13-14       | 5.0 - 9.0    |
| 14-15       | 5.5 - 10.0   |
| 15-16       | 6.0 - 11.0   |
| 16-18       | 7.0 - 13.5   |