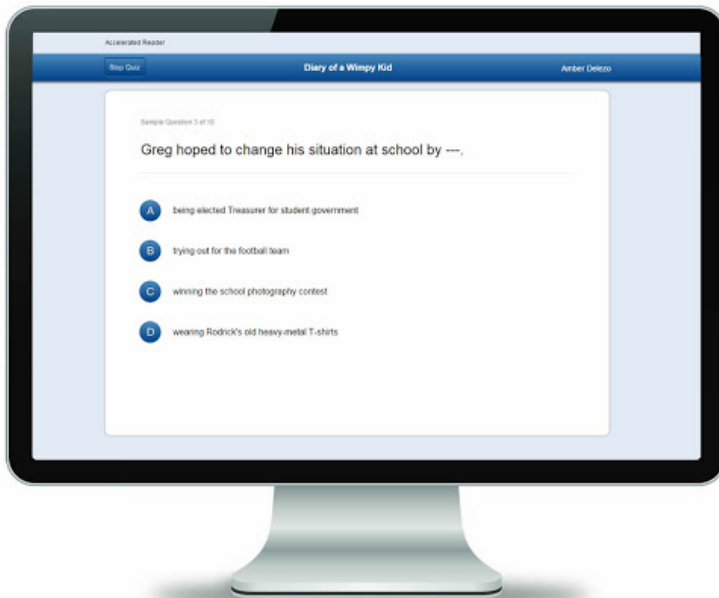


ACCELERATED READER GUIDE

A Guide to Accelerated Reader at St Cuthbert Mayne

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (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. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer (within 24 hours)—passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback, based on the quiz results, to support their reading journey.



A sample quiz question

Children using AR have a free choice (within their range) of the books they read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them. The books that are within your child's reading range will be challenging without being frustrating and at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

At St Cuthbert Mayne, we encourage children to aim for an 80%+ quiz score. Regular scores of 80%+ will earn them more points, show a consistently good understanding of what they have read and contribute towards improved academic progress in Reading.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their own reading level, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

Teachers determine your child's reading level in two ways: a STAR Reading test and by using his/her best professional judgement based on his/her knowledge of your child.

What is a STAR Reading Test?

STAR Reading 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 20 minutes.

What is ZPD?

ZPD stands for Zone of Proximal Development. Simply put in relation to AR, a child's ZPD is their reading range. The ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive their ZPD after taking a STAR Reading test. Teachers will monitor a child's ZPD and adjust if necessary based on the needs and ability of your child. It is important for the children to read with a high degree of comprehension and stay within their reading range.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book (number of words). A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 80% or higher to earn points.

My child is not a strong reader. Can they still use Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupils with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.

How many Accelerated Quizzes are there?

There are over 11,000 AR quizzes available and more being written every month.