



How does Accelerated Reader work at Crawley Down Village C of E School?

The information below will explain how Accelerated Reader is used at the school as a tool to support children in their reading (including the majority of children from Year 2 to Year 6).

The quote below highlights its recent recognition:

The National Literacy Trust's second independent research report into the reading habits of students using Accelerated Reader has been published.

"Children and young people who use Accelerated Reader tend to enjoy reading more, do it more often and think more positively about reading than their peers who do not use Accelerated Reader. They are also more likely to see a link between reading and their successes."

Dr Christina Clark, National Literacy Trust

Why do they have a ZPD (book level reading range) and how is it calculated?

All children from Year 2 upwards complete a STAR assessment at the start of each half term to give a ZPD (book level reading range) based upon their understanding of comprehension and vocabulary.

Each child, who has completed a standard STAR assessment, is given an AR sticker with a ZPD and points target to achieve by the end of that half term. This encourages regular reading at an appropriate but still challenging level. This is stuck in the back of their burgundy home school book.

Choosing Books

All children should have 2 books:

- A phonics book if in KS1 (where appropriate) and in KS2 if they require it. This will be decided by their level of phonetic understanding (ability to sound out and blend)
- A book for pleasure. This can be of any range, could be from the library or home. If it also happens to be an AR book, a quiz can only be completed if it is within the ZPD range.
- An AR book with their ZPD range if they have completed a STAR assessment for children in Year 2 and upwards.

Children choose books with a Book Levels (BL) within their ZPD reading range to ensure it will be accessible but still offer some challenge. If their ZPD reading range is 2.1-3.5, a book with a book level of 2.3 will be very accessible with some

challenge. A book with a book level of 3.4 will still be accessible but of greater challenge.

Colours have been added to the book labels to avoid confusion over decimal numbers in the book level. These colours do not relate to the phonic book colours.

Accelerated Reader Book Area colour codes:

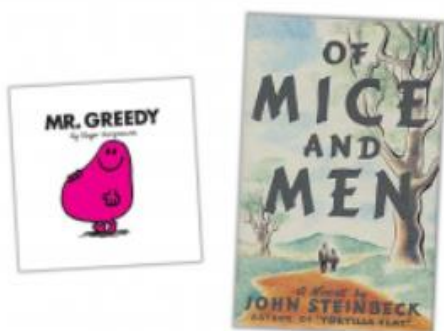
Book Level (BL) shown by your ZPD	Colour code
0 Book Level (BL) (0.1 / 0.2 / 0.3 / 0.4 / 0.5 / 0.6 / 0.7 / 0.8 / 0.9)	
1 Book Level (BL) (1.0 / 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3 / 1.4 / 1.5 / 1.6 / 1.7 / 1.8 / 1.9)	
2 Book Level (BL) (2.0 / 2.1 / 2.2 / 2.3 / 2.4 / 2.5 / 2.6 / 2.7 / 2.8 / 2.9)	
3 Book Level (BL) (3.0 / 3.1 / 3.2 / 3.3 / 3.4 / 3.5 / 3.6 / 3.7 / 3.8 / 3.9)	
4 Book Level (BL) (4.0 / 4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3 / 4.4 / 4.5 / 4.6 / 4.7 / 4.8 / 4.9)	
5 Book Level (BL) (5.0 / 5.1 / 5.2 / 5.3 / 5.4 / 5.5 / 5.6 / 5.7 / 5.8 / 5.9)	
6 Book Level (BL) (6.0 / 6.1 / 6.2 / 6.3 / 6.4 / 6.5 / 6.6 / 6.7 / 6.8 / 6.9)	
7 Book Level (BL) (7.0 / 7.1 / 7.2 / 7.3 / 7.4 / 7.5 / 7.6 / 7.7 / 7.8 / 7.9)	

Each book's book level is calculated carefully using a variety of factors:

- ✓ Word length
- ✓ Word difficulty
- ✓ Sentence length

Some books that may appear longer/harder may actually have a simpler variety of words and sentences. One example is 'Of Mice and Men' a classic book intended for secondary school children and upwards was given a similar Book Level to Mr Greedy. In terms of the 3 factors shown above they are quite similar. They differ in terms of the intended reader and the points awarded for passing the quiz:

Stickers with the book information below can be found inside the front cover of each Accelerated book



Of Mice and Men

Book Level: 4.5

Points earned: 4.0 (more points awarded due to the book length and time required to read it)

Intended Reader: UY (Upper years)

Mr Greedy

Book Level: 4.4

Points earned: 0.5

Intended Reader: LY (lower years)

Please be reassured that whatever Accelerated Book your child has been given matches their understanding of the story and the vocabulary it contains and is ideal for supporting and challenging each individual child's reading ability.

Reading Outside the ZPD reading range

If a child has met their target, they can have a conversation with their teacher about reading books above their reading range (ZPD) providing the jump is within reason.

Individuals are not allowed to read below their reading range unless the book has been chosen as a book for pleasure in which case they will not do the AR quiz. If an individual was reading a book prior to completing their STAR assessment and now the book is not within the new range, they can continue reading the book and complete a quiz providing they have not just started it.

Checking if a home book or an unlabelled book has a quiz.

Books from home can be checked to see if they are in the Accelerated Reader book list using the link below:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>

Taking quizzes:

When a child finishes a book and providing they understand the story, they log on to the Accelerated reader website only in school, type in the quiz number and answer questions about the book. This should be done within 24 hours of finishing the book unless it was finished over the weekend or in a holiday in which case they can still do a quiz providing the individual has a good recall of the events. The general rule is that:

- If it is a **fiction book** they should not refer to the book whilst quizzing as they should know the story.
- If it is a **non-fiction book**, that can refer to the book while quizzing because this is good practice and encourages the uses of contents, index, subtitles... to navigate.

After completing the quiz, they will be shown how many points they have earned and how close they are to their points target (shown as a percentage). Children are expected to share the results of every quiz so teachers can monitor their progress and support where necessary. If a child is unsure of a question, they will be encouraged to stop the quiz, return to the book to find the answer and return to the quiz when they are confident of the answer. If a child does not pass a quiz (Quizzes generally have a 60% pass mark), their next quiz will be done alongside an adult

prompting them to take their time, read the questions carefully and stop if they are unsure.

What to do if children achieve their points target before the end of the half term

After receiving a sticker and certificate they will be challenged to either:

- Read (appropriately) above their ZPD or at the higher end of their range.
- Read Non-fiction rather than Fiction or vice-versa.
- Aim for 100% accuracy on quizzes.
- Set themselves a target using the reading achievement sheet
- Possibly set them a higher point target next half term.

AR time

Children will be given at least 20 minutes of Accelerated Reader time daily where they can read, complete quizzes and the teacher can monitor and provide support. Teachers will record how children are progressing towards their target, this may involve collecting page numbers to help individuals get into regular reading habits.

At home, all children will be encouraged to read regularly for periods of at least 20 minutes so they can 'get into' the story and recall the key events. This could be from their AR book, their book for pleasure or their phonic book.

AR Assembly

At the end of the half term (final week of the half term) there will be an Accelerated Reader Assembly where classes will be awarded certificates for their reading achievements. These have been carefully selected to give all children the opportunity to feel they can contribute towards a class award.

Most awards are for classes succeeding together but children who read a considerable amount of words and/or show a fantastic attitude towards their reading, may receive an individual reward at the discretion of their teachers, which involves a £10 book voucher and visit to a book shop.

We hope that this information gives you a thorough understanding of the Accelerated Reader programme. If you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or Mr Lake.