What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice and its purpose is to develop the habit of reading and, in doing so, to realize the joy of reading. Your child picks a book at his own level and reads it at his own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) AR gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

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

Students in grades 2-8 are administered a Star Reading Assessment which helps determine your child's reading level. Star Reading is a computerized reading assessment 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 misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The assessment uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

What is Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a Star Reading Assessment. Shortly after receiving their ZPD, or reading level, students can begin taking book quizzes.

How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

You can visit Accelerated Reader's BookFinder at www.arbookfind.com.