

## Accelerated Reader

As a school we have recently started to use Accelerated Reader (AR) to monitor and track the reading practice and progress of the children once they leave the Read, Write Inc scheme. AR is a computer-based program, which enables the children to read books matched to their ability.

Every six weeks the children complete a 'Star Test'. This is a range of 34 questions where the children fill in the missing words to form complete sentences or they answer multiple choice questions after reading longer paragraphs. The questions differ in content with some being easy and others more complicated.

The computer chooses questions so that it can determine their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). A ZPD defines the readability range within which children should choose books so that they read in a way that will develop their reading, while avoiding frustration. In September, the children completed a 'Star Test' and from this, they have been able to choose books within their ZPD.

***These Star Tests will be repeated every half term and their ZPD will be changed accordingly.***

### Choosing books in the library

Before the summer every book in the library was logged onto the AR system and given a colour code so each level is a different colour. For example level 4 is green. The library is organised so it reflects a quiet learning space and somewhere the children can go to enjoy the books.



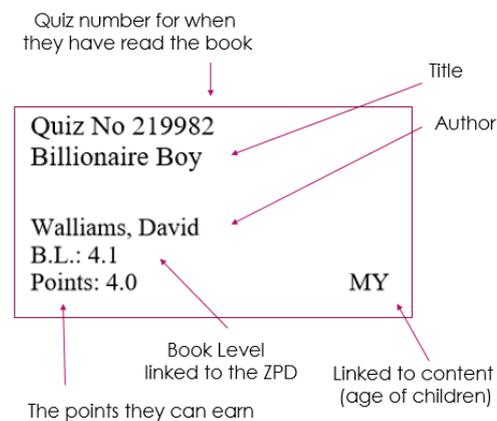
When the children visit the library, they are able to choose a book of interest from within their ZPD.

Inside the book cover, the label helps the children to ensure it is suitable for them and within their range of ZPD. The diagram to the right is an example of a label so that you understand each part. Each book is either LY, MY or UY.

LY is aimed at Lower Years, children who might be in Year 2

MY is aimed at Middle Years, children who might be in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The content of UY is aimed for upper years such as secondary.



Once the children have read a book they need to complete the corresponding book quiz as soon as possible. The pass mark for this quiz is 70% and if this is achieved they will have earned the 4 points (or however many points the label says). The idea is that the children read regularly and complete the book quizzes, which will in turn help them to build their confidence and embed the comprehension skills they will have been learning in lessons.

At the end of each half term a Star Test will be completed and a new ZPD will be given to them ready for the next half term and so the cycle continues.

As a school we are tracking the number of reads a child does so they can work towards achieving their reading certificates and we are also monitoring how often they quiz as well as the progress they make. AR also keeps a record of the number of words the children read and an extra challenge could be for them to be in the 'Million Club' (reading a million words).

We hope the children will enjoy choosing books and be able to see their achievements and success.

If you have any questions please do ask Mrs Turner or email her at [apple@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:apple@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk)

*KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION*