# What is Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader (AR) is an online tool that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading.

- Children are able to pick books which match their reading ability and read them at their own pace.

- When finished, children then take an online quiz – passing this indicates that the child has understood what they have read. These are challenging without being frustrating, and allow children at all reading levels to experience success.

- AR gives feedback to both teachers and children based on the quiz results.

# What is Accelerated Reader?

- AR gives the children free choice of books to read, making reading a more enjoyable experience and allowing them to feel more in control.

- Staff can assist children in choosing books of an appropriate age if they desire.

- In most cases, children enjoy taking the quizzes. As they are reading books at their own level and which they have chosen (so are interested in), they are more likely to be successful.

- If a child has not done well on a quiz, the teacher may assist them by discussing the level of the book and whether it is appropriate, or supporting them in finding their next book.

# Why do we use Accelerated Reader?

- It helps all children to succeed and develop their reading, whether they have difficulty with reading or are avid and confident readers.

- It encourages children to read and rewards effort and achievement (through word count) in a way children can track.

- Builds confidence and reading stamina

- Allows children to pick books of a suitable level.

# Two parts

A computer-adaptive reading test used to assess pupils' reading ability and to determine their recommended reading levels for Accelerated Reader. Measures growth over time.

A database of quizzes to test the comprehension of books read. Provides instant feedback and monitoring

# Star Reading

- Children will take a STAR reading test in school. This is done multiple times across the year.

- STAR Reading is a computer based reading assessment which uses adaptive technology to continually adjust questions based on children's prior 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.

# Star Reading

- This test provides a range of different information including:

  - Reading age

  - Book level

  - ZPD score (Zone of Proximal Development)

- The ZPD score is then given to the children, and they pick a book within this range as this is suitable to their reading level.

# Taking a test

In 1849, thousands of hopeful people arrived in California. They had come from all over America, from big cities and small towns and farms. Some arrived from Europe. They were there to strike gold or to make money from those miners who did find the shiny metal. They set up camps and struggled to learn the ways of mining. Some really did strike it rich, but most barely got by.

For what purpose was this paragraph written?

1. to inform readers about a historical event

2. to entertain readers with a story about mining

3. to persuade readers to try to strike it rich

If you want a bet like a dog, you should first get a goldfish. A goldfish can help you see if you are ready to take care of a bigger pet. Goldfish are easy to take care of. You have to feed them the right amount every day. You have to keep their tank clean. If you like caring for a goldfish, you might be ready for a bigger pet.

How does the author support the main claim?

1. The author gives facts showing that goldfish are easier to care for than bigger pets.

2. The author explains how taking care of a goldfish can show you are ready for a bigger pet.

3. The author tells a story about how having a goldfish helped her get ready to take care of a dog.

I am beginning to understand how to play this game.

Which word means the same as beginning?

1. knowing

2. starting

3. winning

- Measures growth and progress
- Provides real time data
- Computer adaptive
- ZPDs
- National curriculum level
- Reading age

# What is ZPD?

- ZPD score is a range of book levels recommended or a child's reading ability. This is given to the children as a range, for example: 3.6 – 4.8.

- It gives children a range of books that will be challenging without becoming frustrating so children remain motivated to read.

- Book level relates to the difficulty of the text, with a higher ZPD being a more challenging text. This ranges from 0.5 to 13.5.

- Children are asked to read within this range, starting at the lower end and working up where possible.

# ZPD range

- ZPD range can vary dependent on the skills children have mastered to develop. The range in their ZPD score will broaden as children become more secure with skills, such as decoding, word recognition or inference.

# Accelerated Reader

- There is a huge database of quizzes to test comprehension of books read. These provide the children with instant feedback and allow staff to monitor reading.

- AR books – each book has a level which represents the difficulty of the text.
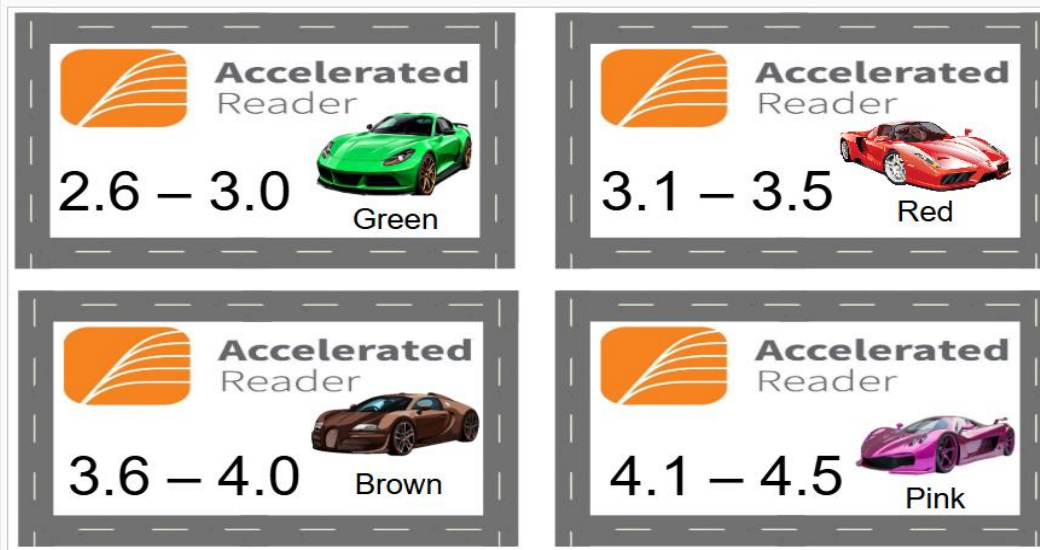
| Accelerated Reader Levels | | |
|---|---|---|
| Black | 0.5 - 0.9 | |
| Orange | 1.0 - 1.5 | |
| Yellow | 1.6 - 2.0 | |
| Light Blue | 2.1 - 2.5 | |
| Green | 2.6 - 3.0 | |
| Red | 3.1 - 3.5 | |
| Brown | 3.6 - 4.0 | |
| Pink | 4.1 - 4.5 | |
| White | 4.6 - 5.0 | |
| Dark Blue | 5.0+ | |

# Accelerated Reader

- Children choose books that are in their ZPD range so they are appropriate to their reading level.

- Books in the library are colour coded, with different colours for different difficulty bands, and then have a sticker with the ZPD score of the book.

# Quizzing

- It is recommended that children quiz within 24 hours. These can be done at home (please see the next slide for details and links), or in school.

- The quizzes are multiple choice, and either 5, 10 or 20 questions.

- They test comprehension of the book.

- Teachers monitor progress, including the word count and the test scores.
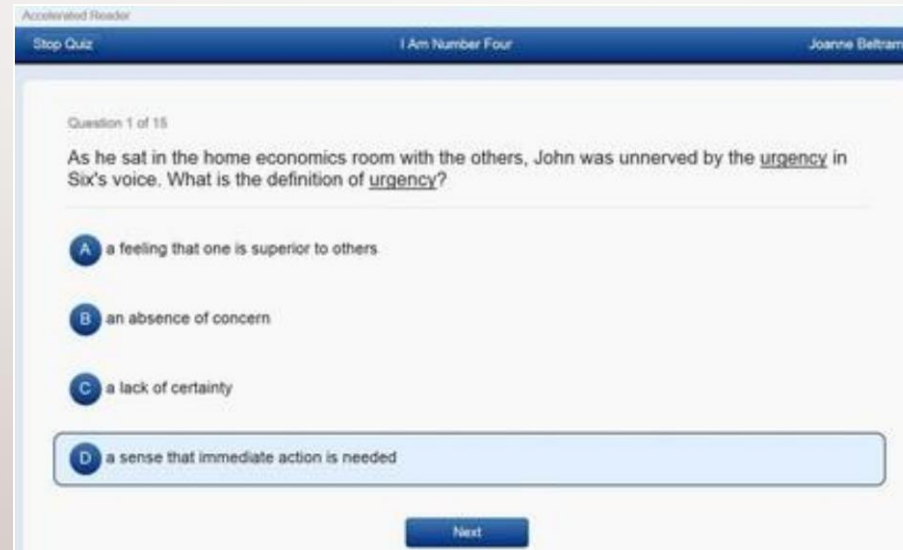
# Quizzing

- Following book quizzes, children are given 'words' to go towards their word count if they pass.

- To pass, children must get 60% in a 5 or 10 question quiz, or 70% on a 20 question quiz.

- This word count builds across the year, and milestones, e.g. 1 million words, are celebrated.
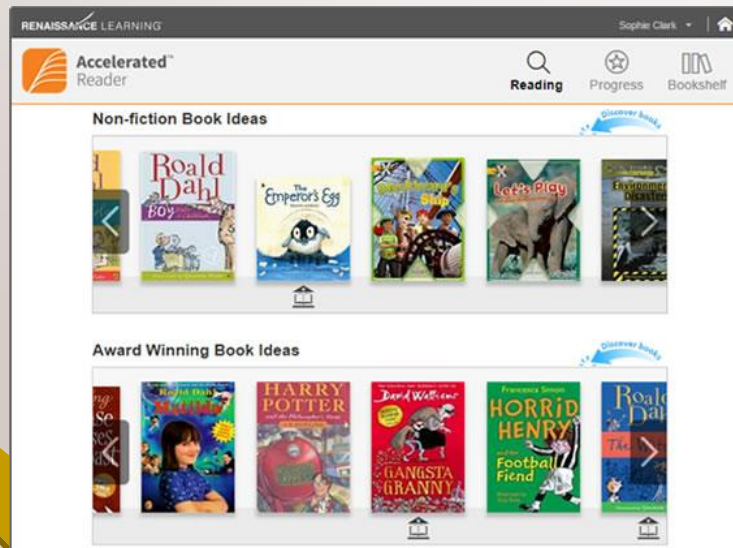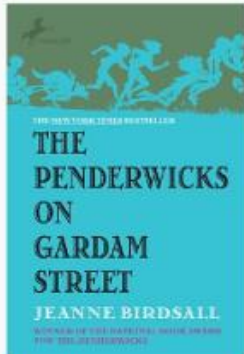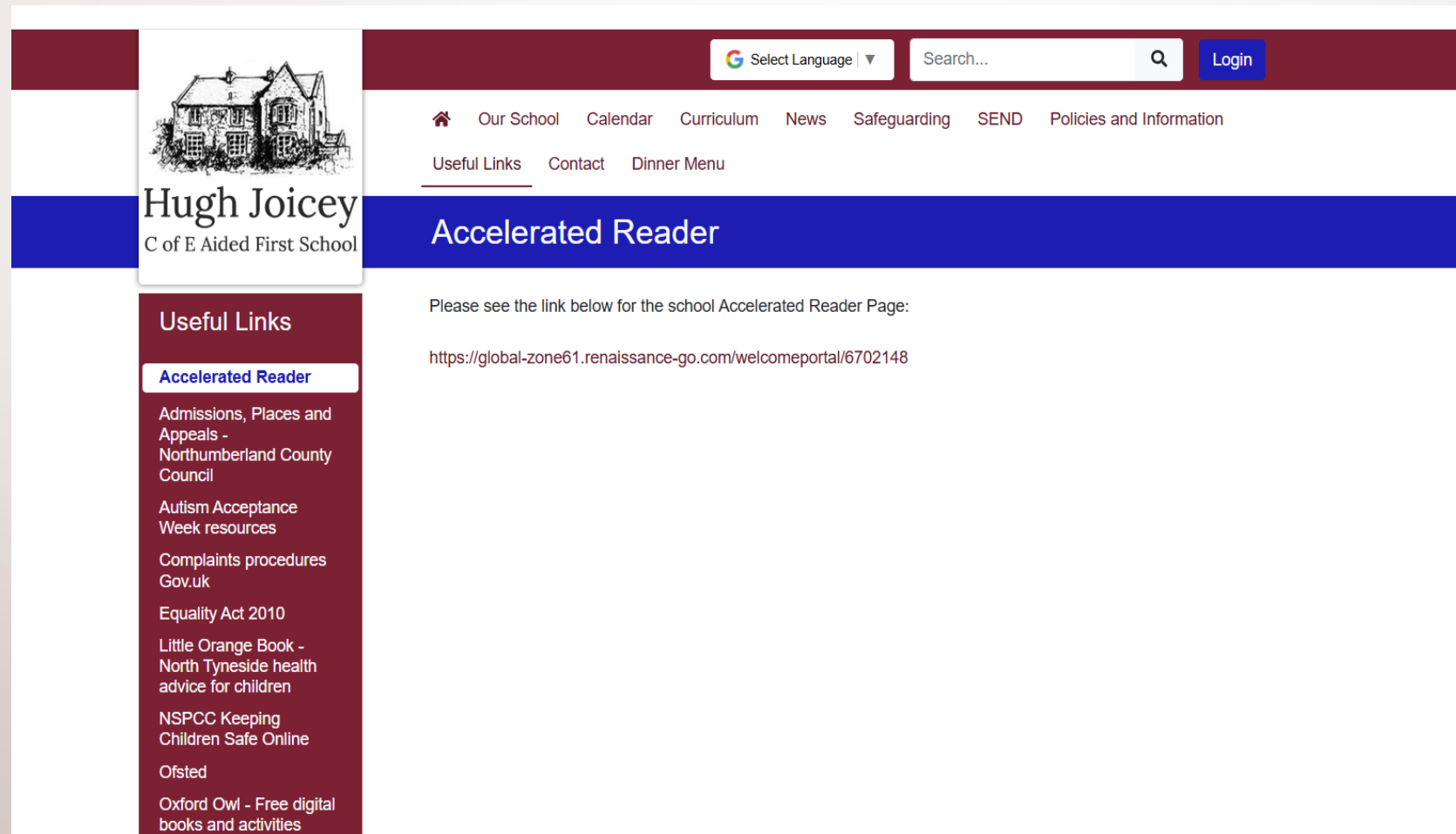
# How can I access from home?

- Your child can access Accelerated Reader through the link on the Useful Links section of our Website .

# How much should my child read each day?

- According to Renaissance Learning's research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

- Therefore, it's beneficial if your child has at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during the day, and is choosing books which are suitable to their reading level.

# How can I help my child become a better reader?

- Encouraging you child to read at home – practise helps to improve performance.

- Read a range of text types and genre's with your child, and discuss these with them.

- Download the AR app and use the ARBookfinder to check for appropriately levelled books at home or in a local library. https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/

- Read regularly with your child, including more challenging books.

# How can I help my child become a better reader?

- When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure they have understood what they are reading, for example:

  - Who are the key characters?

  - What has happened so far?

  - What do you think might happen next?

  - How might the characters be feeling?