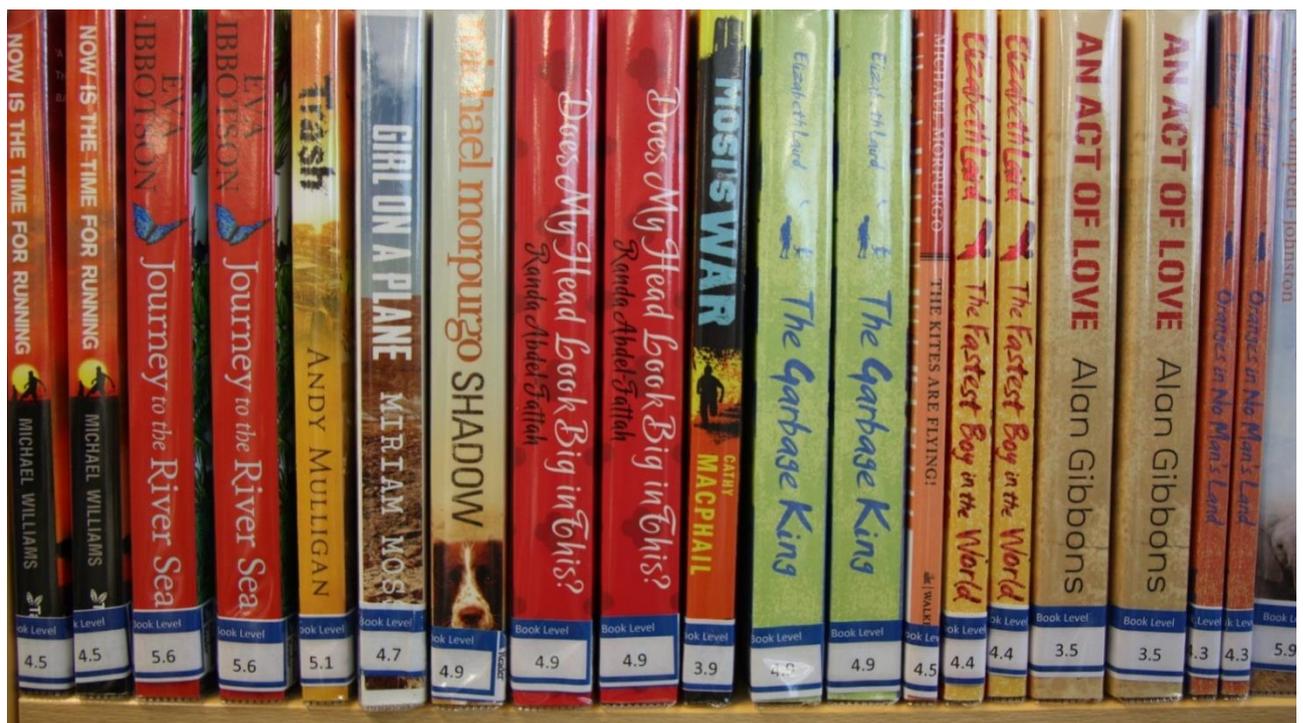


# St Thomas More RC Academy Library



## Accelerated Reader



## A Guide for Parents

## Introducing Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader (or AR) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor your child's independent reading practice.

It provides customised reading programmes to meet the needs of individual students, supporting the development of their reading fluency and comprehension.

Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When they've finished they take a short quiz on a computer/iPad. Passing the quiz indicates to staff that they have understood the book, as well as providing the child with instant feedback on their progress.

Our Year 7 and 8 students use Accelerated Reader during Registration, PSE and in other lessons. They are also encouraged to visit the library regularly at break times and after school where they can take quizzes and exchange books.



## Why Reading Matters for KS3 Students

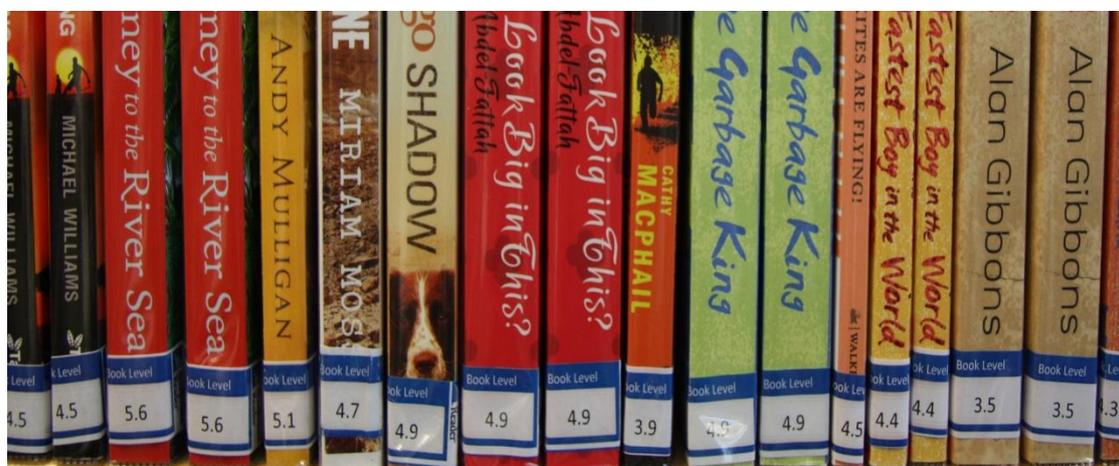
When students join us in Year 7, they have very different reading ages. Children with a reading age below their actual age sometimes stop reading fiction completely when they start secondary school. This means their reading age doesn't improve and may actually decline. When a student starts their GCSE's this puts them at a real disadvantage. We want to help students NOW so that their reading has improved by the time they reach KS4.

## How do you determine my child's reading level?

Using the STAR reading test – a computer based reading assessment that is part of Accelerated Reader. Questions adapt to the ability of the student- if they answer correctly the difficulty increases, if they miss a question it is reduced.

After the test your child will be given a ZPD or Reading Range, for example 4.1-6.5. This is the range of levels from which they can choose a book. The ZPD is a range that will challenge your child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

Most books in the school library have a book level, they are labelled on the spine.



## What are points?

Every book that has an AR quiz is given a points value. This is based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book. For example, this book “The Amulet of Samarkand” is a long read with quite a high reading level....so it earns the student 19 points.

The Amulet of Samarkand
Author: Stroud, Jonathan.
Reading Level: 5.9 MG
Point Value: 19.0
ACCELERATED READER QUIZ# 73958

We have many books in the library which are much shorter and have easier text. These are kept as collections to make them easier for students to find.



Many students who start AR reading these books soon progress onto longer, more difficult reads as confidence and ability develop.

If your child reads books from home or from a public library you can check whether the book has a Reading Level and quiz by using ...

RENAISSANCE

**Accelerated** Reader Bookfinder™

[www.ARbookfind.co.uk](http://www.ARbookfind.co.uk)

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

We recommend that children should be reading at least 20 minutes a day. National research and our own experience here at St Thomas More shows that those who read at least 30 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

Performance improves with regular practise. Encourage your child to appreciate the importance of AR and to read at home every day.

Reading with your child is an important part of developing a good reader. Show an interest in their current book- ask questions and discuss the story. Use the ARBookfinder website together to find quizzes and new books.

Use the Home Connect website to see the books your child has read and check on their quiz activity.

To access this website please see the last page of this guide.



## My child is a confident reader already, why do AR?

To reach their true potential all children need to be challenged, no matter what their ability is. Accelerated reader stretches and challenges all children to become better readers. The school library has a large stock of current and exciting fiction from which your child can choose. Your child should never feel constrained by AR.



## What about rewards?

Rewards can be a real reading motivator!

Rewards may be based on points accumulated, progress made in reading levels, words read over time or quizzes passed. Stickers, lollies and certificates are regularly awarded and AR success is celebrated on display boards in the Library and in English classrooms. There are also termly awards ceremonies and prizes for those who made the most progress and shown the most effort.



## What if my child doesn't like reading?

Some children find reading difficult because they choose the wrong sort of book, maybe too hard resulting in frustration or too easy resulting in lack of engagement.

Using Accelerated Reader, your child, with guidance from Miss Edwards, the librarian and English staff will choose the books they want to read at the right level. With encouragement your child should then do well on the AR quiz. Success on the quiz is a real motivator to read more. Before long even students who say they don't like reading have developed a positive reading habit.

**Books are mint!**



## How will I know how my child is doing?

You can monitor how your child is progressing in Accelerated Reader via the HOME CONNECT website. This is a great way for students to share their successes with you and for you to see what they are reading.

Go to <https://ukhosted1.renlearn.co.uk/1893117/homeconnect/>

Sign in using your child's AR log in. This should be recorded in your child's planner.

Miss Edwards, the school librarian, your child's Form Tutor and English teacher also have access to your child's reading progress. This will be regularly shared with students.

<https://vimeo.com/144731545> Click here to view a short video about Home Connect.



AR  
Awards  
ceremony  
July 2017

Thank you for taking the time to read this information about Accelerated Reader. This reading scheme has the potential to really develop our student's reading skills – making them confident and curious readers. This will equip them with the literacy skills which will empower them in their studies and in the wider world beyond school.

**Together, we can ensure that your child becomes an accelerated reader.**