Parent’s Guide to

STAR™ Assessments

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Your child will be taking a STAR assessment during this school year. This guide will explain what a STAR assessment is. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher or visit the STAR website at www.renlearn.com/se.

What are STAR assessments?
Renaissance Learning™ pioneered computer-adaptive testing in the classroom in 1996 with the introduction of STAR Reading™, and has been improving upon it ever since. As a result we offer a line of testing products that all function the same, are all built with the same high level of measurement accuracy, and all share the same design principles.

STAR Early Literacy Enterprise™ is the leading computer-based diagnostic assessment of early literacy skills developed for Pre-K–3 students. STAR Early Literacy Enterprise tracks development in three domains and ten sub-domains:
- Word Facility and Skills
  - Alphabetic Principle
  - Concept of Word
  - Visual Discrimination
  - Phonemic Awareness
  - Phonics
  - Structural Analysis
  - Vocabulary
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
  - Sentence-Level Comprehension
  - Paragraph-Level Comprehension
- Numbers and Operations
  - Early Numeracy

STAR Reading Enterprise™ is an assessment of reading comprehension and skills for independent readers through grade 12. STAR Reading Enterprise tracks development in five domains:
- Word Knowledge and Skills
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- Analyzing Literary Text
- Understanding Author's Craft
- Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text

STAR Reading Spanish™ is an assessment of Spanish reading comprehension for independent readers from grade levels 1–5; however, it can be administered to Spanish-speaking students at grade levels 1–12. STAR Reading Spanish tracks a student's:
- Spanish reading level
- Spanish ZPD for independent reading practice of Spanish literature
- Spanish reading growth and overall progress

STAR Math Enterprise™ is an assessment of math achievement for students in grades 1–12. STAR Math Enterprise tracks development in four domains:
- Numbers and Operations
- Algebra
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability
What are computer-adaptive tests?

All STAR assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child’s test by choosing each test question based on the child’s previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. CATs save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.

How long does it take to complete a STAR assessment?

STAR tests are designed to be as efficient as possible. On average, students will complete the STAR Math Enterprise test in about 20 minutes, the STAR Reading Enterprise test in about 15 minutes, the STAR Early Literacy Enterprise test in 15–20 minutes, and the STAR Reading Spanish test in about 10 minutes. However, some students may require more time.

What are STAR assessments used for?

The STAR assessments are often used to screen students for their reading and math achievement levels. STAR Reading and STAR Math™ assessments help determine reading and math achievement levels in order to place students into the Accelerated Reader™ and Accelerated Math™ programs. STAR Early Literacy Enterprise assessments help educators monitor students’ growing literacy skills and students’ progress toward becoming independent readers. STAR Reading Spanish assessments help educators working in bilingual and dual-language programs to inform instruction, match students to books, and monitor Spanish reading growth. In English-only programs, educators can use STAR Reading Spanish to determine the Spanish reading level of incoming English language learner students to help inform instruction. STAR Enterprise™ assessments can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, to estimate students’ understanding of state standards, and predict students’ performance on the state test. In addition, STAR can help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

What kind of score does my child get?

For every STAR assessment, your child receives a scaled score (SS), which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child’s performance over time and across grades. STAR Reading and STAR Math scaled scores range from 0–1400. STAR Early Literacy Enterprise scaled scores range from 300–900. For STAR Reading Spanish, the Spanish scaled scores range from 0–780.

STAR offers educators a variety of scores and reports. Some STAR scores compare your child’s performance to a specific criteria or to a standard (criterion-referenced scores). STAR Enterprise reports also include scores which compare your child’s performance to other students who have taken the same test (norm-referenced scores). The criterion- and norm-referenced scores are based on the scaled score.

Please see the sample Parent Reports on the following pages for examples of some of the scores and score definitions.

How can I help my child prepare for a STAR assessment?

The teacher who gives the test uses pre-test instructions to explain the test to your child. It is important for you to encourage your child to try to do his or her best on the assessment. Since STAR is a general measure of student ability in math or reading, students perform best on the assessment in the same way they perform best in school—when they have had plenty of rest, attend school regularly, and have eaten.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Please ask your child’s teacher for the results from any of the STAR assessments. Teachers can run a Parent Report for any of the STAR tests. Often teachers may share this information during a parent/teacher conference. Due to federal privacy laws, Renaissance Learning is not able to release an individual student’s data directly to parents.
Parent Report
for Lisa Carter

Dear Parent or Guardian of Lisa Carter:

Your child has just taken a STAR Early Literacy Enterprise assessment on the computer. STAR Early Literacy Enterprise measures your child's proficiency in up to nine areas that are important in reading development. This report summarizes your child's scores on the assessment. As with any assessment, many factors can affect your child's scores. It is important to understand that these scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

Scaled Score: 475

The Scaled Score is the overall score that your child received on the STAR Early Literacy Enterprise assessment. It is calculated based on both the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct responses. Scaled Scores in STAR Early Literacy Enterprise range from 300 to 900 and span the grades Pre-K through 3.

Lisa obtained a Scaled Score of 475. Scaled Scores relate to three developmental stages: Emergent Reader (300 - 674), Transitional Reader (675-774), and Probable Reader (775 - 900). A Scaled Score of 475 means that Lisa is at the Emergent Reader stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Tested</th>
<th>Scaled Score</th>
<th>Emergent Reader</th>
<th>Trans. Reader</th>
<th>Probable Reader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/08/11</td>
<td>475</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children at the early Emergent Reader stage are beginning to understand that printed text has meaning. They are learning that reading involves printed words and sentences, and that print flows from left to right and from the top to the bottom of the page. They are also beginning to identify colors, shapes, numbers, and letters.

At this stage, Lisa knows that spoken speech can be represented by letters and that letters have specific shapes. She is likely to be able to identify the letters and to see the differences between them. Also, Lisa is beginning to recognize rhyming sounds.

The most important thing you can do to encourage your child's growth in emergent reading skills is to read storybooks aloud to Lisa at home. If your child asks for the same book again and again, go right on reading it. Also, talk with Lisa about what you've read. Through listening to and talking about stories, Lisa will learn to relate spoken words with printed words on the page.

If you have any questions about your child's scores or these recommendations, please contact me at your convenience.

Teacher Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________

Parent Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________

Comments:
Parent Report for Matthew Bosley

School: Oakwood Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. M. Adams
Class: Grade 4 (Adams)

Dear Parent or Guardian of Matthew Bosley:

Matthew has taken a STAR Reading computer-adaptive reading test. This report summarizes your child’s scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student’s scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GE</th>
<th>PR</th>
<th>PR Range</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Average 50</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>IRL</th>
<th>ZPD</th>
<th>ZPD 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22-35</td>
<td>←</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.6-3.7</td>
<td>361-561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Norm Scores:

Grade Equivalent (GE): 3.1
Grade Equivalent scores range from 0.0 to 12.9+. A GE score shows how your child’s test performance compares with that of other students nationally. Based on the national norms, Matthew reads at a level equal to that of a typical third grader after the first month of the school year.

Percentile Rank (PR): 29
The Percentile Rank score compares your child’s test performance with that of other students nationally in the same grade. With a PR of 29, Matthew reads at a level greater than 29% of other students nationally in the same grade. This score is average. The PR Range indicates that, if this student had taken the STAR Reading test numerous times, most of his scores would likely have fallen between 22 and 35.

Instructional Reading Level (IRL): 3.2
The Instructional Reading Level (IRL) is the grade level at which Matthew is at least 80% proficient at recognizing words and comprehending reading material. Matthew achieved an IRL score of 3.2. This means that he is at least 80% proficient at reading third grade words and books.

Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD): 2.6-3.7
The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) is the reading level range from which Matthew should be selecting books for optimal growth in reading. It spans reading levels that are appropriately challenging for reading practice. This range is approximate. Success at any reading level depends on your child’s interest and prior knowledge of a book’s content. Matthew’s ZPD 2000 is 361-561. The ZPD 2000 score is the ZPD converted to a 2000-point scale.

I will be using these STAR Reading test scores to help Matthew further develop his reading skills through the selection of books for reading practice at school. Matthew should also practice silent reading every day, continue reading aloud and with others, and practice reading more challenging books.

If you have any questions about your child’s scores or these recommendations, please contact me at your convenience.

Teacher Signature: ____________________________ Date: ________________

Parent Signature: ____________________________ Date: ________________

Comments:
Dear Parent or Guardian of Rosario Martinez:

Rosario has taken a STAR Reading Spanish test so that I have a better understanding of her reading ability in Spanish. This report summarizes the scores on her latest test.

**Spanish Instructional Reading Level: 3.7**
This means Rosario is successful at reading words and books in Spanish that students in the third month of third grade are commonly expected to understand.

**Spanish Zone of Proximal Development (SP ZPD): 2.2-4.3**
This is the reading level range that is recommended for Rosario when she is reading books independently in Spanish.

To help Rosario improve her reading skills, she should continue to practice reading materials within her ZPD. To help choose books for Rosario, use AR BookFinder at [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com). This is a free online tool that helps students identify books that match their interests, their maturity level, and their ZPD.

If you have any questions about your child’s scores or these recommendations, please contact me at your convenience.

Teacher Signature: ______________________________ Date: ________________

Parent Signature: ______________________________ Date: ________________

Comments:
Dear Parent or Guardian of Timothy Bell:

Timothy has taken a STAR Math computer-adaptive math test. This report summarizes your child’s scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student’s scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

National Norm Scores

Grade Equivalent (GE): 3.3
Grade Equivalent scores range from 0.0 to 12.9+. A GE score shows how your child’s test performance compares with that of other students nationally. Based on the national norms, Timothy’s math skills are at a level equal to that of a typical third grader after the third month of the school year.

Percentile Rank (PR): 16
The Percentile Rank score compares your child’s test performance with that of other students nationally in the same grade. With a PR of 29, Timothy’s math skills are greater than 29% of students nationally in the same grade. This score is average. The PR Range indicates that, if this student had taken the STAR Math test numerous times, most of his scores would likely have fallen between 23 and 33.

I will be using these STAR Math test scores to help Timothy further develop his math skills through the selection of materials for math practice at school. At home, you can help Timothy develop his math skills as well. At this stage, he needs to work with numbers in the thousands and practice multiplying and dividing basic facts.

If you have any questions about your child’s scores or these recommendations, please contact me at your convenience.

Teacher Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Parent Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Comments:
## STAR Reading Assessment
### Domains and Skills Measured

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Skill Set</th>
<th>Skill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Word Knowledge and Skills</td>
<td>Vocabulary Strategies</td>
<td>• Use context clues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Use structural analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vocabulary Knowledge</td>
<td>• Recognize and understand synonyms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Recognize and understand homonyms and multi-meaning words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Recognize connotation and denotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Understand idioms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Understand analogies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension Strategies and</td>
<td>Reading Process Skills</td>
<td>• Make predictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructing Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify author’s purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and understand text features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Recognize an accurate summary of text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructing Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Understand vocabulary in context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Draw conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and understand main ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Extend meaning and form generalizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and differentiate fact and opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Structure</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify organizational structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Understand cause and effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Understand comparison and contrast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and understand sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyzing Literary Text</td>
<td>Literary Elements</td>
<td>• Identify and understand elements of plot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and understand setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify characters and understand characterization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and understand theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify the narrator and point of view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre Characteristics</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify fiction and nonfiction, reality and fantasy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and understand characteristics of genres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Author’s Craft</td>
<td>Author’s Choices</td>
<td>• Understand figurative language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Understand literary devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify sensory detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyzing Argument and</td>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>• Identify bias and analyze text for logical fallacies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating Text</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify and understand persuasion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>• Evaluate reasoning and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Evaluate credibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR™) program. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or librarian, or visit the Accelerated Reader website at www.renlearn.com/ar.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?
AR is a computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children’s independent reading practice. 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, teachers, and librarians feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher or librarian 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 and librarians 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.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher or librarian may help your child:
- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before your child takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another student, or even have the book read to your child.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they’re reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

How much will my child read during the school day?
According to research, children who read at least 35 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percent correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child should have at least 35 minutes set aside for reading during each school day.

How can I help my child become a better reader?
As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child’s age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning, and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family affair!
What if my child doesn’t like reading?
Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books he wants to read. The teacher or librarian will make certain the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the AR Reading Practice Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With guidance from the teacher or librarian, and success, even students who say they don’t like reading will develop a love of reading.

Will my child have to read a book I don’t want him to read?
No. There are many, many choices of books at your child’s level. Your child will never be forced to read a book you find questionable.

I’m concerned that my child will be unfairly compared to others.
Then you’ll really like AR because it helps the teacher or librarian work with each child individually. Students using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and set their own goals with the help of the teacher. The aim of AR is for all children to succeed in achieving their goals.

How does the school determine my child’s reading level?
Teachers or librarians determine your child’s reading level in one of three ways: a STAR Reading™ test, a grade equivalent score from a standardized test, or using their best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child.

What is a STAR Reading test?
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 test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

What is a 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 test, or teachers and librarians can use their best professional judgment to determine a ZPD. The ZPD and the GE (Grade Equivalent) score from the STAR Reading test will show up in Accelerated Reader, making it easier for teachers and librarians to set goals for students. It’s important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs should be adjusted based on the needs of your child.

What is an ATOS book level?
Book levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, an ATOS book level of 4.5 means that the text could likely be read by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth grader during the fifth month of school.

What is ATOS 100 or ATOS 2000?
Renaissance Learning™ strives to make it easier for schools to use Accelerated Reader, even if they use book levels based on readability formulas other than ATOS. Therefore, Renaissance Learning has created two alternate book levels based on the Degrees of Reading Power™ and the Lexile Framework® scales. These alternate book levels are named ATOS 100 or ATOS 2000 in the software. Schools have the option of whether or not to use them and to rename them. The 100-point scale, ATOS 100, that Renaissance Learning created, is a transformation of a book’s ATOS level to a scale that is similar—but not identical—to the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP™) scale. Renaissance Learning has also created a 2,000-point scale, ATOS 2000, which is a transformation of a book’s ATOS level to a scale that is similar—but not identical—to the Lexile scale.
What if my school uses Lexiles?
Schools that use the Lexile readability formula to report book levels can still use Accelerated Reader. Renaissance Learning has created a 2,000-point scale that is similar—but not identical—to the Lexile scale.

What are points?
Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. AR points are computed based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words).

For example, the *Berenstain Bears* books, which are about 1,000 words long and have an average ATOS book level of 3.5, are 0.5-point books. *Hank the Cowdog*, which is about 23,000 words long and has an average ATOS book level of 4.5, is a 3-point book. *The Sun Also Rises*, about 70,000 words long and at an ATOS book level of 4.4, is a 10-point book. Children earn points, or a portion of a book’s points, depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz. For example, a child who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%), etc. A child who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%), 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), etc. A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points.

You may notice that some popular books have more points assigned to them than some classic pieces of literature. Tom Clancy’s *Executive Orders*, for example, is a 78-point book while Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* is a 4-point book. Keep in mind that this doesn’t mean we think *Executive Orders* is a better book or more worthwhile to read than *Macbeth*, only that—at 458,453 words vs. 19,048 words—it is much longer and provides more reading practice time.
How are Accelerated Reader point goals set?
The Accelerated Reader Goal-Setting Chart provides guidelines for the approximate number of AR points children should be able to earn depending on how much time they read and their reading level. Monitoring AR points earned by children and comparing them to the guideline values listed on the Accelerated Reader Goal-Setting Chart enables your child's teacher and librarian to determine how well your child is using the time provided for reading practice. If you have STAR Reading, students' scores will be accessible in Accelerated Reader, making it easier for teachers and librarians to set point goals for students.

How many Accelerated Reader quizzes are there?
There are over 152,000 AR quizzes available. However, schools may not have all quizzes. If a school has purchased Accelerated Reader Enterprise, it will have access to all quizzes.

What kinds of quizzes are there?
Accelerated Reader includes several types of quizzes designed to support the development of several reading skills. Quiz types include:

- **Reading Practice Quizzes** are the most common type of assessment in AR. The purpose of these quizzes is to determine whether your child has read a book, to measure literal comprehension of the book, and to provide immediate feedback. Each Reading Practice Quiz consists of 5, 10, or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on book level and length. They are available in English, Spanish, and Recorded Voice formats.

- **Recorded Voice Quizzes** are designed for beginning readers and students learning English. They are professionally recorded by a narrator who reads the quiz questions and answer choices as they appear on screen.

- **Vocabulary Practice Quizzes** measure a child's command of vocabulary words encountered while reading. They are designed to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, assist with individualizing vocabulary instruction, and generate your child's interest in words through authentic, in-context literature experiences. Quizzes include 5, 10, or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books. Vocabulary Practice Quizzes are available only in the Renaissance Place™ versions of Accelerated Reader.

- **Literacy Skills Quizzes** are designed to give your child's teacher information on specific reading skills. Questions are randomly generated from a 36- or 60-item bank, resulting in 12 or 24 quiz questions. Due to item-bank technology, Literacy Skills Quizzes can be taken up to three times. Quiz questions are based on 24 specific, higher-order reading comprehension skills from state standards, basal reading series, and standardized tests.

- **Other Reading Quizzes** are designed to determine whether a child read and understood content in his textbook. Other Reading Quizzes are aligned to a variety of textbooks series and are specifically linked to how textbooks and other materials are used in the class.
How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?
To know which quizzes your school has available, contact your child’s teacher or librarian, as schools may not have purchased all quizzes. You can also visit the AR BookFinder™ at arbookfind.com to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

![AR BookFinder](link)

How can I help my child find books that are interesting to him?
Visit arbookfind.com and click on Advanced Search. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.

My child’s teacher or librarian put a book list on the Web. How do I access it?
Log onto AR BookFinder at arbookfind.com. Enter the key code given to your child by his teacher or librarian and click Go to access the “Teacher List” created by your child's teacher or librarian.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of her reading level?
Just because a child can read the words in a book doesn’t mean the content is appropriate. The interest level of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. The chart below shows which grades fall into each interest level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LG—Lower Grades</td>
<td>K–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG—Middle Grades</td>
<td>4–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG+—Middle Grades Plus</td>
<td>6 and up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UG—Upper Grades</td>
<td>9–12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are recommendations. It is the responsibility of teachers, librarians, and parents to use their best judgment when guiding children to appropriate books.
In many cases, a book’s interest level coordinates with its book level. *Hank the Cowdog*, for example, the content of which is suitable for fourth-graders, has a book level of 4.5. Many books, however, have a low book level but are appropriate for upper grades and vice versa. For example, Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises* has a book level of 4.4 because its sentences are short and its vocabulary is simple. The interest level, however, is UG for Upper Grades. In contrast, *Arthur Throws a Tantrum* has a book level of 4.9 because it contains fairly long words and sentences, but it is intended for students in the lower grades.

My child already does well in school. Why does she need this?
Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, she has to practice to develop her talent. Bright children, like all children, need to be challenged. Teachers using AR software in their classrooms find it easy to guide each student to books that give the child both challenge and success, regardless of the child’s level.

My child is not a strong reader. Can she still use Accelerated Reader?
Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from students with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at an appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers and librarians work with children to set appropriate goals based on each child’s reading level.

How will my child take a quiz?
There are three different ways students can take Accelerated Reader quizzes at school: on the computer, on a NEO 2™, or on a mobile device (iPad®, iPod touch®, or iPhone®). Quizzing from home is not permitted.
**How will I know how my child is doing?**

A TOPS Report may print automatically after a child takes a quiz to give you feedback on your child’s understanding of the book and shows cumulative data for the marking period and school year. The TOPS Report may be sent home with your child. You should review the report, sign it, and send it back to school with your child.

If your child’s school has the Enterprise version of Accelerated Reader, you can access your child’s AR information in Renaissance Home Connect™ from a computer with web access. You must first gain access to the program from the school. Once in the program, you can view your child’s progress toward goals, points, and books read. You can also access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest. You can only access information about your child.

**What if I have more than one child using Accelerated Reader?**

If you have more than one child in your home using AR Enterprise, the information contained in the reports is only for the child you choose to view. You must request access to the information for each of your children.

**What if my child’s primary language is Spanish?**

In Renaissance Home Connect, click **Español** in the upper-right corner of the page to see Renaissance Home Connect in Spanish instead of English.

**What if I have questions about using Renaissance Home Connect?**

After logging in, click **Help** in the upper right-hand corner or contact your child’s school.
Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are pleased that you will soon begin using Renaissance Home Connect as a way of monitoring and encouraging your child’s reading and/or math practice. We are confident that you’ll find it to be a valuable tool for monitoring your child’s progress. Research confirms that parental involvement in a child’s education is a strong predictor of student achievement. Thank you for your involvement in your child’s education.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

www.renlearn.com

Parent’s Guide to Renaissance Home Connect

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Renaissance Home Connect Web Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Login</th>
<th>Student Password</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Become a More Informed Parent

Now you can view your child’s academic progress online!
Renaissance Home Connect provides parents with a snapshot of their child’s reading and math progress. Accelerated Reader progress includes average percent correct on quizzes, number of points earned, and results on the last quiz.

Students can choose to see Renaissance Home Connect pages in Spanish by clicking Español.

You have the option to receive email notifications in English or Spanish at home or at work when your child has completed an Accelerated Reader Quiz.

This screen provides a list of words learned and results on their latest Vocabulary Practice Quiz.

Renaissance Home Connect links to AR BookFinder, the new online search tool that makes it easy for you and your child to search for the next AR book to read. In AR BookFinder (as in Renaissance Home Connect), you may choose to see the pages in English or Spanish.

Your child’s progress toward reading goals can be monitored by either marking period or school year by using the drop-down menu.

This screen enables you and your child to see all the books the child has read. By clicking on a book cover, you can get details on the book such as ATOS book level, word count, points, and more.
Renaissance Home Connect also provides you with a snapshot of your child’s Accelerated Math progress, including average percent correct on tests, number of math objectives mastered, and results on the last test.

This screen enables you and your child to view a list of all of the math objectives that have been mastered during the school year and the week in which they were mastered.

Your child can open Accelerated Math to review past work. If the teacher has the related preference turned on, your child can also work on or score practices and exercises.

Worked Examples build procedural knowledge for math skills by providing step-by-step guidance on how to solve problems for each Accelerated Math objective.

Students can choose to see Renaissance Home Connect pages in Spanish by clicking Español.

You have the option to receive email notifications in English or Spanish at home or at work when your child has completed an Accelerated Math test.

Your child can use the math glossary to find the meaning of a term in his or her Accelerated Math problems.

You have the option to receive email notifications in English or Spanish at home or at work when your child has completed an Accelerated Math test.

You can choose to see Renaissance Home Connect pages in Spanish by clicking Español.

This screen enables you and your child to view a list of all of the math objectives that have been mastered during the school year and the week in which they were mastered.

Worked Examples build procedural knowledge for math skills by providing step-by-step guidance on how to solve problems for each Accelerated Math objective.
Renaissance Home Connect also provides information on your child’s math facts practice, including overall progress, the results of the last session at school, levels mastered at school, and the results of the last practice session at home.

You have the option to receive email notifications in English or Spanish at home or at work when your child has mastered a MathFacts in a Flash level.

Students can choose to see Renaissance Home Connect pages in Spanish by clicking Español.

Students can select a level to practice at home so that they are ready to master the level at school. Home practice results are kept separate from school practice.

Students can see a list of the levels they have mastered at school.

Students can see the results from their last practice session in Renaissance Home Connect.
What is Renaissance Home Connect?
Renaissance Home Connect is a tool that connects the school and home to keep parents informed of their child's progress toward Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math, and MathFacts in a Flash goals, and encourages the child to practice reading and math at home.

How does Renaissance Home Connect help me improve my child’s reading progress?
• You can view your child's progress toward reading goals and reader certification, and view all books that your child has read and quizzes your child has taken.
• You can view all words a child has learned through Vocabulary Practice Quizzes. In addition, words the child missed are clearly marked so you can help your child learn those words.
• You can access an online search tool, AR BookFinder, to search for books using various criteria, including author, subject, or reading level.
• You can receive emails that reveal results for Reading Practice Quizzes and Vocabulary Practice Quizzes and provide links to the website where you can check progress.

How does Renaissance Home Connect help me improve my child’s math progress?
• You can see the most recent Accelerated Math practice and test results, as well as overall percent correct and total math objectives mastered toward goals.
• You can open Accelerated Math from home to review past work, and students may be allowed to work on or score assignments from home.
• You can give your child more practice on all levels of math facts from home via the web without the need to install separate software.
• You can receive emails that reveal results of math tests and provide links to the web site where you can check progress.

How do I get access to Renaissance Home Connect?
Schools that have the Enterprise Edition of Accelerated Reader or Accelerated Math Live automatically have access to Renaissance Home Connect. Renaissance Home Connect for MathFacts in a Flash is available to schools with the Renaissance Place version of MathFacts in a Flash. Your child's teacher will provide you with the web address for Renaissance Home Connect. The same login and password that your child uses at school will work at home.

What if I have questions about using Renaissance Home Connect?
Contact your child's school if you need help or have questions about using Renaissance Home Connect.
Dear Parent or Guardian,

There are many things you can do to help your child become a better reader:

• Read with your child.
• Start a home library.
• Ask questions about the books your child has read.

When you make learning a family affair, there’s no limit to the success your child can achieve!

Selecting the right books for your child to read is easier than ever.

Visit www.arbookfind.com to access AR BookFinder.

With just a few clicks, you can search for titles at the appropriate level that your child will find interesting and enjoyable.
Find Books and Create Book Lists in Seconds!

Quick Search

To use Quick Search in AR BookFinder:

2. Click the **Quick Search** tab (on the top of the page).
3. Type a book title, author, topic, or quiz number into the blank field.
4. Click **Go**.
5. To narrow the results, select any of the options on the left of the screen under **Refine Your Search**. You can continue to refine your search until you get your desired results.
6. To create a book list from the titles you have found, click **Add to AR BookBag** below the description of any book you want to add to your list.

AR BookBag

The AR BookBag is a place to create your own book list. This list can be printed and taken to the library or bookstore. It cannot be saved in AR BookFinder. However, you can save the list (a PDF file) to your computer’s hard drive.

AR BookFinder Help

For information about specific features of AR BookFinder, click **Help** in the upper-right corner.

Buy from Amazon.com

Located on the right side of a book’s description page is the Buy from Amazon.com button. You can use this to purchase books not available at your child’s school or local library.

Notes:

If you do not see the Buy from Amazon.com button, you will see this message: A book matching this AR Quiz is not available from Amazon.com, based on ISBN(s).

Renaissance Learning cannot guarantee that a particular book will be available through Amazon.com.

Students do not see this button as long as they selected “Student” when accessing AR BookFinder.
Refine Your Search to Zero In on Specific Books

Advanced Search

The Advanced Search tab allows you to enter more search criteria such as ATOS book level, interest level, topics/subtopics, fiction/nonfiction, and language to get more specific results.

1. Click the Advanced Search tab (on the top of the page).

2. To determine the parameters of your search, select Contains, Starts With, or Exact Match.

3. Enter your search criteria and click Go.

To be sure that the results are appropriate for your child, we recommend that you enter an ATOS book level. The ATOS book level is provided by your child’s teacher or librarian. The ATOS book level may be written on the first page of this document.

When entering an ATOS book level, you are also required to enter an interest level.

For more information on ATOS book levels and interest levels, click the question mark icon.

If you are uncertain what books may interest your child, choose a topic and a subtopic to see a list of book categories.

4. When AR BookFinder returns your list of search results, you can narrow the results list by selecting any of the options on the left of the screen under Refine Your Search (not shown). You can continue to refine your search until you get your desired results.

5. You can add any of these books to your AR BookBag.

Collections

You can view four different types of book collections: Awards, State Lists, Librarians’ Picks, and What Kids Are Reading.

You can add books from any of these lists to your AR BookBag.

1. Click the Collections tab on the top of the page.

2. Select a collection and continue to click on your choices until you locate the desired book list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>State Lists</th>
<th>Librarian’s Picks</th>
<th>What Kids Are Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You can view some of the most commonly referenced award lists. The Collections tab provides access to some of the most commonly referenced award lists, but not all.</td>
<td>You can view recommended reading lists published by library or reading associations for most states.</td>
<td>Each fall, librarians and media specialists are invited to vote for the books published in the prior year that they recommend most to their students. You can view the top 50 titles for each interest level for each year.</td>
<td>The books found using the What Kids Are Reading search come from Renaissance Learning’s annual publication, What Kids Are Reading: The Book-Reading Habits of Students in American Schools. To see the titles in rank order or to simply learn more about this exciting report, please visit: <a href="http://www.renlearn.com/whatkidsarereading">www.renlearn.com/whatkidsarereading</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have questions about AR BookFinder or how to best help support your child’s reading practice, please contact your child’s teacher or librarian.
What Is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his or her own level and reads at his or her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz indicates that your child understood what was read. AR gives children, teachers, and librarians feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher and librarian then use 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 and librarians 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.

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher or librarian may:

- Help your child choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before your child takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another student.
- Have the book read to your child.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

What Is the ATOS Book Level?

Book level represents the difficulty of the text and is determined using the ATOS readability formula. For example, a book level of 4.5 means the text could likely be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth-grader in the fifth month of school. The content of the book, however, may or may not be appropriate. The interest level will give you a recommendation regarding the appropriateness of the content.

What Is the Interest Level?

The interest level attached to the book indicates age group appropriateness. Interest level is based on a book's content including theme, characterization, and plot. The interest levels are based on the recommendations of the publisher and/or literary book reviews by professional organizations. However, the final decision on whether the content of a book is appropriate for a particular child is left to parents, school librarians, and teachers.

To help you choose the books most appropriate for your children, Accelerated Reader quizzes are divided into four interest levels:

- LG (Lower Grades, K–3)
- MG (Middle Grades, 4–8)
- MG+ (Middle Grades Plus, 6 and up)
- UG (Upper Grades, 9–12)