

## What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a reading program that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.

## What is a Star Reading test?

Star Reading is an online test used to measure your child's reading level. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes around 20 minutes. At Hawarden High School, pupils in years 7,8 and 9 take Star reading tests at least once per term to track reading development.

## How do students select books?

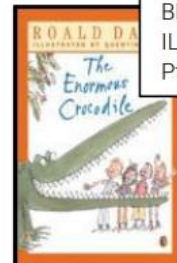
AR includes over 30,000 books. These can be found in the school library (The Book House) as well as public libraries, books shops, homes, etc. Each book is assigned three scores to help your child make a suitable choice:

- **Book Level**  
Book Levels represent the difficulty of the text. The Star Reading test tells your child what range of Book Levels to read within. This is called the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).
- **Points**  
Books are assigned Points based on their word count. Points are earned by passing quizzes. Students are set personalised targets each term by their teacher.
- **Interest Level**  
The Interest Level indicates for which age group a book is suitable for. It does this based on the content and themes.

Interest Level	Age (in years)
LY - Lower Years	5-8
MY - Middle Years	9-13
MY+ - Middle Years+	12+
UY - Upper Years	14+



BL: 4.0  
IL: UY  
Pts: 14



BL: 4.0  
IL: LY  
Pts: 0.5

The two examples above both have a Book Level of 4.0. This is because both have short sentences and simple vocabulary. However, '*Noughts and Crosses*' is worth 14 Points because it's quite a lengthy text and is intended for Upper Years' students. Meanwhile '*The Enormous Crocodile*' is worth 0.5 Points as it is much shorter, and it is intended for Lower Years.

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

- Make time for them to read at home. Children need to read for at least 20 minutes every day to improve their reading ability. Pupils in years 7,8, and 9 will read for 10 minutes at the start of each English and LaND lesson but they should be supplementing this with lots of reading in their own time.
- Encourage your child to read; discuss books, asking questions about what they have read; and visit your local library.
- Find suitable books for your child at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk). Use the Search function to look for specific titles or topics, or go to Advanced Search to browse for books within your child's ZPD and interest level.