Accelerated Reader

Oak Hills Parent Information Meeting

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

- Computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children's independent practice

- Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace.

- When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer.

Child's Choice of Book

- Child chooses their book rather than having one assigned to them. Allows for a much more enjoyable experience. Encourage a mix of fiction and non-fiction reads.

- Teachers/librarians help 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.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

- **Performance improves with practice**

- **Encourage your child to read at home**

- **Create a culture of reading in your household by:**
  *reading with your child
  *visiting the local library or bookstore
  *letting your child see you reading
  *discussing books that each of you has read

Make learning a family affair!

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 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.

What if my child doesn't like reading?

- Using AR, your child will choose the books he/she wants to read.

- Teacher will make certain the book is at the right level, so that after 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 teacher, and success, even students who say they don't like reading will develop of love of reading.

I'm concerned that my child will be unfairly compared to others.

Then you'll really like AR because it helps the teacher work with each child individually. Students using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and set their 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 and what is the STAR Reading test?

- Teachers determine your child's reading level by using 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 Zone of Proximal Development? (ZPD)

- ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a student without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR reading test.

- The ZPD and the GE (Grade Equivalent) score from the STAR Reading test will show up in Accelerated Reader, making it easier for teachers to set goals for the students. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD. ZPD's 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 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 the school.
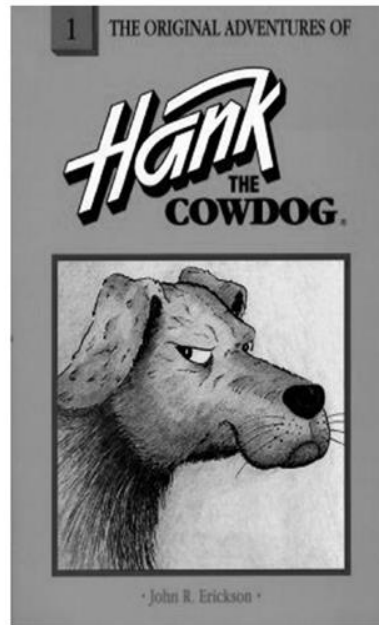
What are Points?

- **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).**
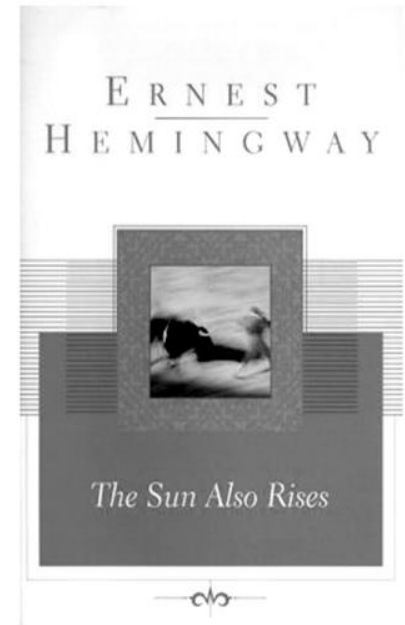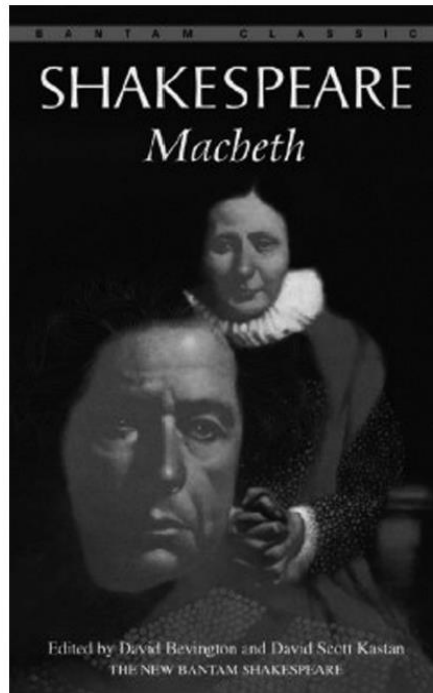
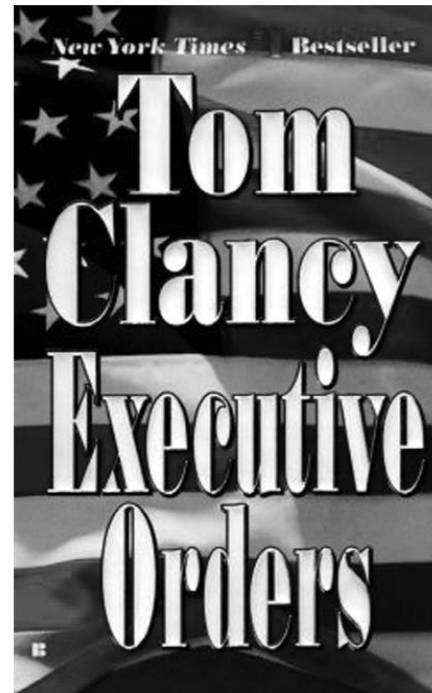# Examples

0.5 pt. (944 words)

3 pt. (23,269 words)

10 pt. (67,707 words)

Some popular books

4 pt. (19,048 words)

78 pt. (458,453 words)

How are Accelerated Reader point goals set?

- **Based on extensive research, there are 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 guideline values enables your child's teacher to determine how well your child is using the time provided for reading practice.**

Point Goal Example

- **3rd grade student**

- **STAR Reading GE (Grade Equivalency) = 3.2**

- **Suggested ZPD (Zone Proximal Development = 2.7 – 3.8**

- **Daily Reading Time = 20 minutes**

- **Point Goal = 7.9 points**

- **August 17, 2017 – November 17, 2017 – 1st trimester**

What does this look like in Kindergarten?

Pre AR

Pre AR begins with learning basic sight words.

- Sight Words build a basic foundation for reading.

- Students will get ten new words every two weeks.

Kindergarten
Pre AR to AR

- **When students learn 100 words they will be tested on STAR reading. *Even though we are using sight words as an opportunity for Kindergarteners to go to the AR Events, they may not be ready to begin AR even if they have learned all 100 words. Phonemic awareness, blending, etc… will also factor into whether or not a student is ready for AR.**

Students will become part of the "100 Club".

First Grade Pre-AR

- **Before students begin the AR reading program, they will have to know 100 sight words**

- **Students will practice 20 words at a time and test when they are confident**

- **They will need to master 5 levels which consists of 100 words (20 words at each level)**

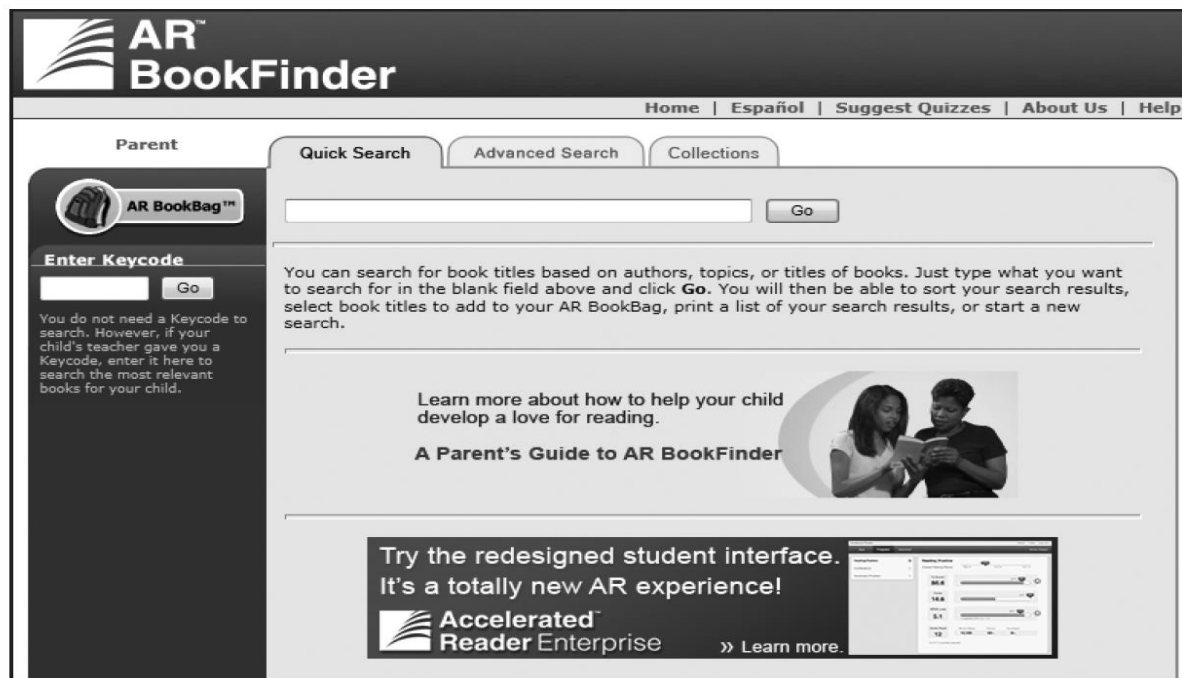- **After students know 100 words they will begin the AR program**

First Grade AR Program

- **Students will take the STAR reading test to determine their ZPD**

- **Teachers will assign goals based on their results**

- **Additionally, students will continue to work on the other 100 sight words while participating in the AR Program**

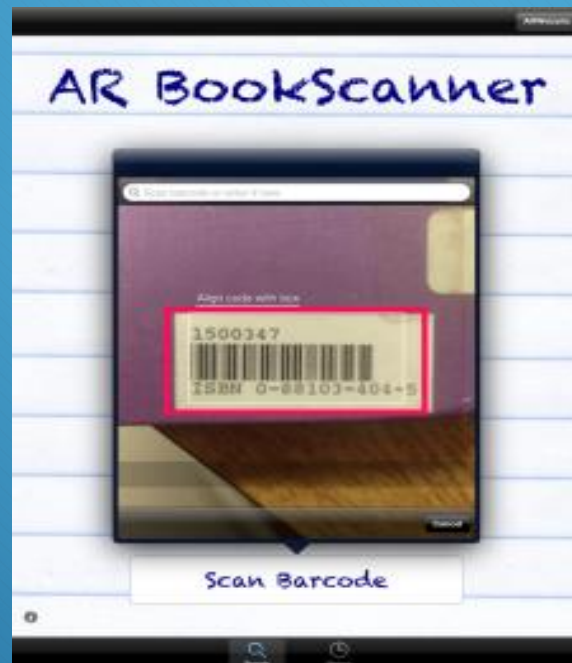# How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

- **arbookfind.com**

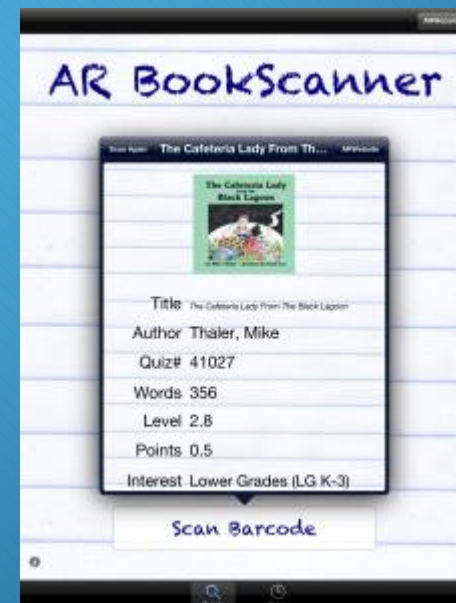# Access AR Info for All Books using

AR BookScanner

The app is very easy to use. Open the app and press the **"Scan Barcode"** button.

Line the barcode on the back of the book up with

the guide that appears in the pop up window.

When the barcode has been scanned, a window pops up with the details you are looking for. It will tell you the title, author, AR quiz number, number of words, book level, points, and an area of interest.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of his/her reading level?

- Just because a child can read the words in a book doesn't mean that the content is appropriate. The interest level of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content - a book's theme and ideas – and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate.
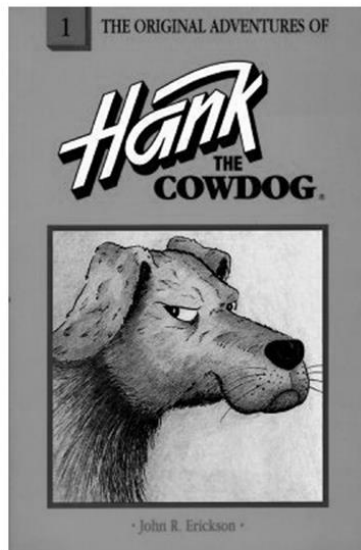
The chart below shows which grades fall into each interest level

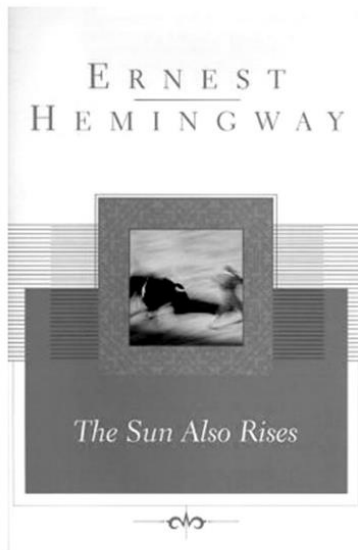| Interest Level	Grade Level
LG—Lower Grades	K–3
MG—Middle Grades	4–8
MG+—Middle Grades Plus	6 and up
UG—Upper Grades	9–12

These are recommendations. It is the responsibility of teachers, librarians, and parents to use their best judgment when guiding children to appropriate books.

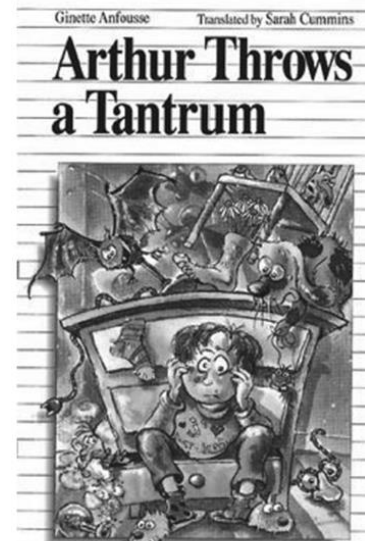# A book's interest level coordinates with its book level

Book Level: 4.5

Interest Level: MG

Book Level: 4.4

Interest Level: UG

Book Level: 4.9

Interest Level: LG

How will I know how my child is doing?

- **You can access you 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 to monitor your child's success. You can also use access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest. You can only access information about your child.**

reading

math

Accelerated Reader

Reading Practice Quizzes   **Vocabulary Practice Quizzes**

My Overall Progress
4/16/2010 - 7/31/2010 (13% Complete)

Current Marking Period

Quizzes   **90%**   average % correct   goal **85**   0 — 100   Above Goal

Points   **3.5**   17.5% of goal   goal **20**   0 — 20   16.5 Points to Goal

ATOS Book Level   **3.2**   average level   goal **3.1**   0 — 3.2   Above Goal

Quizzes Passed/Taken: 6/6   Word Count: 11,527

Reader Certifications
Only passed quizzes count toward certification.

Last Achieved:
Super Reader
Achieved 1/21/2010
Read: 3 books independently
ATOS BL: 2.0 or higher
Worth: 1 point or more per book

Super Reader

Current Goal:
Advanced Reader
Read: 3 books independently
ATOS BL: 3.0 or higher
Worth: 2 points or more per book

Advanced Reader

My Last Quiz
Taken 5/12/2010

The Berenstain Bears Get Stage Fright
By Stan Berenstain
ATOS Book Level: 3.8
Interest Level:

9 of 10 Correct   **90%**

0.5 of 0.5 Points   **0.5**

🔍 View My Bookshelf

Find Books
With Accelerated Reader Quizzes

AR™ BookFinder™
Click to Open in New Window

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.