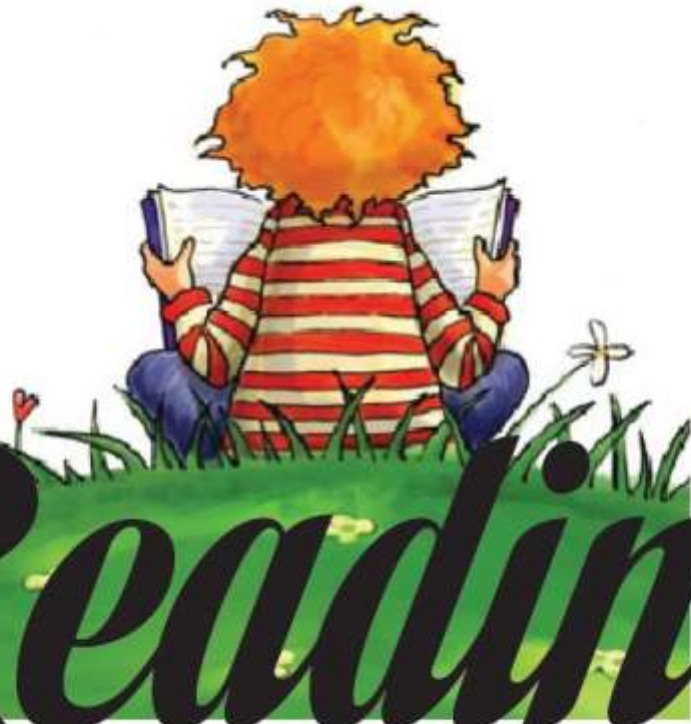




**Accelerated  
Reader™**

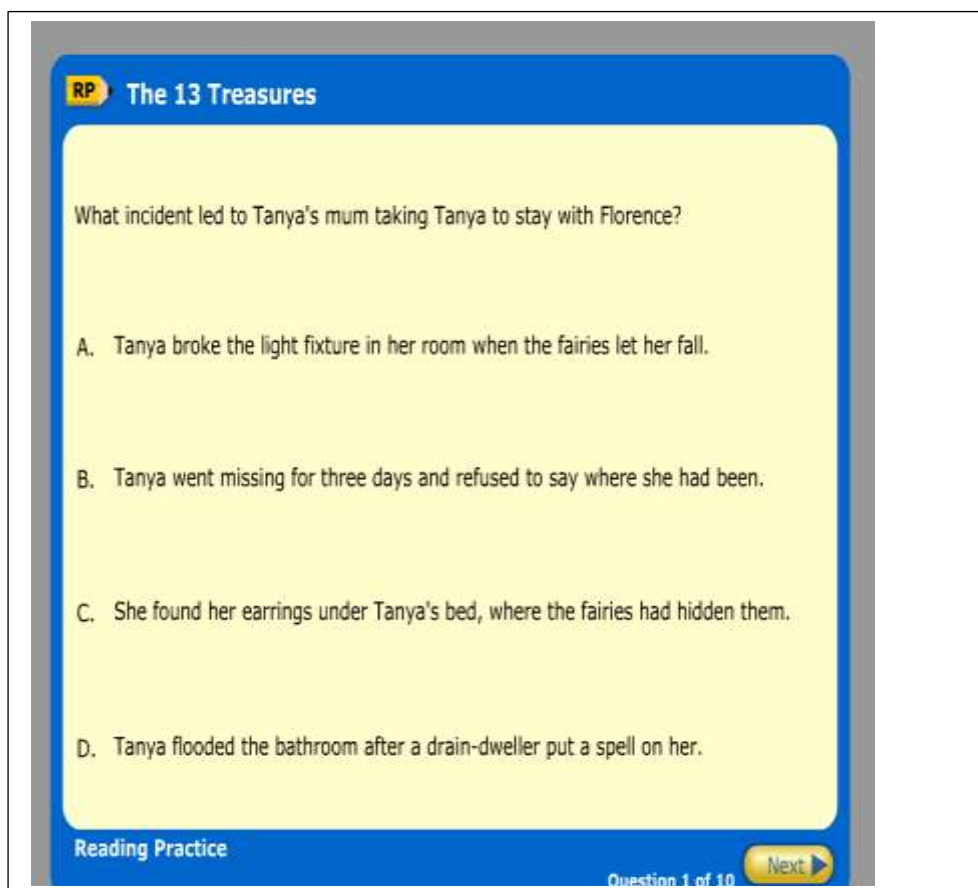


*Reading*

Reading Skills and  
Information on  
Accelerated Reader

## What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading 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 - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.



Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

## How does my child take a quiz?

- Your child will need to go to the Brine Leas School VLE (accessed from the top right hand corner of the Brine Leas homepage)



- Scroll down & click on
- Log on using their AR username & password.  
Username: First letter of their name & first four letters of their surname  
Password: Their English Group e.g. 7yEn3
- Click on 'Accelerated Reader'
- Type in the author, title or quiz number in the search box
- Take a quiz

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

As with anything, performance improves with practice. 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. Encourage your child to read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and visit your school and local library.

## Where can I find further information?

Monitor your child's progress through the "Home Connect" website. By entering your child's AR log in details, you will be able to see how they are doing and can access a TOPS Report that tells you a and your child how they are doing so you can follow their progress



To log in to Renaissance Home Connect Website:  
[https://Ukhosted18.renlearn.co.uk/1893281/Home Connect](https://Ukhosted18.renlearn.co.uk/1893281/HomeConnect) and enter your child's Accelerated Reader log in details.

If you'd like to receive emails showing your child's quiz or test results, click the Email Setup link in Renaissance Home Connect and follow the directions.

Visit [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes

## **What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?**

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD, or reading range after taking a STAR Reading test at the start and end of each academic year at Brine Leas. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within his/her ZPD.

## **What are points?**

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

## **What is a Book Level?**

Book Levels represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.5-13.5. Books are chosen based on the ZPD range recommended for each pupil.

## **What is Interest Level?**

The interest level indicates for which age group a book is appropriate, based on the content and themes, but note that these are recommendations only.

Interest Level	Age
LY – Lower Years	5-8
MY – Middle Years	9-13
UY – Upper Years	14 +



BL 4.0  
IL: LY  
Pts: 0.5



BL 4.0  
IL: UY  
Pts: 14.0

## Reading Statistics

According to The Literacy Struggle, **1 in 6 people** struggle to read in some way. Worryingly, in October 2013, British 16 to 24 year olds came **22nd out of 24 countries** measured for literacy levels by the OECD.

These statistics are shocking, especially when you consider the fact that literacy has such a huge impact on people's life chances. UNESCO defines literacy as the "ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society."

Literacy isn't just a love of reading books (although that helps); **it is all around us.**

According to the National Literacy Trust, parents are the most important reading role models for their children, and furthermore, it is the influence of parents that has the biggest impact on children's

reading skills and reading habits. Children who read for pleasure (and this is a skill that can be taught), whether fiction or non-fiction texts, **do significantly better at school than those who don't.**

*"It is vital that children enjoy reading - motivation is essential for acquiring literacy skills. **Reading for pleasure is more important than either wealth or social class as an indicator of success at school.** Yet only 40% of England's ten year olds have a positive attitude to reading. The figure for Italy is 64% and 58% for Germany."*

### How to reading for meaning:

There are a few practical ways in which you can help your child to read for meaning. Firstly, setting time aside to read is absolutely essential: we advise every student at Brine Leas that they should aim to read for 20 minutes each night. By reading for this length of time, by the end of the school year your child will have read 1.8 million words (compared to a child who reads for the equivalent of 1 minute each night who will have read just 8,000).



## Scanning texts

Quickly identify key bits of information. This skill is important in many subjects at school, when teachers want students to find key information. Once you've scanned the document, you might go back and skim it. There are many strategies that can be used when scanning texts. Firstly, look for specific words (e.g. words from the question.) It is also logical that the answers will follow a sequence, usually in the order of the questions being asked.

## Skimming texts

Quickly identify the main ideas of a text. Skimming is done at a speed three to four times faster than normal reading. People often skim when they have lots of material to read in a limited amount of time.

There are many strategies that can be used when skimming. Some people read the first and last paragraphs using headings, summaries and other organisers as they move down the page or screen. You might read the title, subtitles, subheading, and illustrations. Consider reading the first sentence of each paragraph. This technique is useful when you're

seeking specific information rather than reading for comprehension.

### Close reading

Certain subjects will require students to analyse what they have read: looking for hidden meanings, the writer's ideas and specific techniques used to convey these ideas. This moves beyond reading comprehension. When reading any text, students will be expected to:

- understand the main idea in a passage, understand the gist of it
- pick out specific, individual pieces of information from a text
- understand ideas or feelings a writer presents in a text
- identify and understand writer's attitudes, beliefs and argument
- understand and appreciate a writer's use of language

## **Learning to love reading**

The only way children get better at reading is if they practise!

The best place for a child to do that essential daily practice - which should quickly become a pleasure rather than a chore - is at home. Being a good reading role model means teaching your child about the importance of reading, how we should make time for it, and promoting it as something worthy of attention.

## Useful Children's Book Websites

[+http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children)

[+www.lovereadingsforkids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadingsforkids.co.uk)

[+http://readingzone.com/home.php](http://readingzone.com/home.php)

[+www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site](http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site)

[+www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)

