

What are Reading Vipers?

These are the key reading skills for children to be able read and comprehend a wide range of literary texts.



Vocabulary

Looking at the choice of words that an author uses in a text.



Infer

What is suggested but not said in the text? The 'hidden' meaning.



Predict

What might happen next based on what has happened in the text?



Explain

Explain an aspect of the text. This may include why the author includes it.



Retrieve

Retrieve information from the text to answer questions.



Summarise

Sum up key points in the text or sequence events as a summary.

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child will pick books at their level and when finished, they will take a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what they have read.) Children's reading level is determined by their ability to answer questions based on what they have read and not their ability to read the words on a page. Therefore, when children are new to AR, they may begin with easier texts than they had previously been reading.

Starting AR

When your child is ready to join AR, they will go on to a computer and sit a STAR test. These are designed to test children's comprehension as well as their ability to decode

words to read. During a STAR test, children will read a range of questions and the children will pick the correct answer from the 4 different multiple choice options given. Questions will continually adjust depending on your child's answer. If your child gets the answer correct, the difficulty level is increased. If your child doesn't answer or gets the answer wrong, the difficulty level is reduced. The STAR test will take around 15

It took us five days by car to _____ across the country.

1. swallow
2. journey
3. tumble
4. glance

minutes and once complete the teacher will be given a Reading Range (known as a ZPD) which will determine the level of books that your child reads.

Selecting a book

When children are given their Reading Range they will then be able to visit the school library to select a book at their level. All of the books in the library are organised by levels so the children will be able to select from a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Once they have picked a book, they will then be able to use their library card to scan out the book.

Reading books

After selecting a reading book, they will bring the book home to read. With shorter books we encourage children to read each book more than once to help build reading fluency and understanding. When your child is confident with the book, they can come into school and take a short quiz about what they have read. Each quiz has either 3, 5, 10 or 20 questions depending on the length/level of the book. The quiz is completed online and the child and teacher will be given an instant result. Scoring 80% or more on a quiz is classed as a pass. Once children have passed 3 books at each level they can move up to the next level until they reach the top of their reading level and then they will be a free reader within that band. Children really enjoy taking the quizzes since they're reading books at their reading and interest levels meaning that they are likely to be successful.

Ways to support your child

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. See VIPERS on the next page for ideas.

Home connect

When your child starts AR they will come home with a Home Connect letter. This will give you a login to use at home to check your child's progress. If you connect your email, you will be emailed each time your child takes a quiz complete with the result that they achieved. On the Home Connect website you will also be able to check your child's progress towards their target (Years 2-6 only), the number of books read, the number of words read, as well as their average results. You can also use AR book finder to find books that are the right level for your child so that they can quiz on these books too (really useful to encourage reading during school holidays).

