

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a special program that involves students choosing books at their AR level, reading these (at home or school) and then completing an online quiz. AR quizzes measure reading and comprehension, so students should use the books as they complete the online quiz, checking for and confirming their answers as they go (i.e. this is not a memory test and does not require them to remember the whole book).

Students are able to access AR quizzes on their iPads or from any school laptops. Students are also able to access the Library catalogue (called Olly) from their iPads. This allows them to choose books they are interested in from the selection provided at their AR level.

Why is this important?

Independent reading is a part of our English program at Mango Hill State School, along with modelled, shared and guided reading. The development of a positive attitude towards reading is an important component of becoming a reader. The development of such attitudes are supported by classroom routines such as Silent Reading, Home Reading and Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader allows students to develop their reading and comprehension abilities, as well as developing positive attitudes as they choose books that match both their interest level and their reading level.

What does the learning look like?

Once students have developed a range of reading strategies which allow them to access different kinds of books up to PM level 30, they are tested using the AR Star test, which is an online reading test. This provides us with an AR reading level and allows us to match individual students to a range of AR books within the general collection of books in our Hub.

Students choose books at their AR level, read these and then complete the online quiz. After a student has successfully passed two quizzes at one level (i.e. achieved more than 85% on two quizzes at 3.8) they are able to move to the next level (e.g. 3.8 to 3.9). (*Note: While the AR website provides a tick (✓) when students achieve more than 60% on a quiz, at Mango Hill SS a pass requires 85% or more.*)

How do we know how our children are progressing?

Many students like to set individual goals in relation to AR including reaching a particular level (e.g. *I'd like to move from 3.0 to 3.5 by the end of the term*); reading a certain number of books (e.g. *I'm going to read 10 AR books before the end of the year*); and achieving particular results (e.g. *My goal is to get 100% in all of my AR quizzes this year*).

The AR database also allows teachers and students to access ongoing data about their participation in the program. We are able to monitor the books read, levels achieved and the number of words students read. This allows us to celebrate when students reach goals (e.g. AR Millionaire's Club where students have read one million words using AR books).

Students' reading abilities are also monitored and tracked through a range of other reading activities and assessment tasks.

What support can be provided at home?

- **Talk about a specific AR goal** (e.g. the number of successful quizzes; a level to aim towards) and strategies to achieve this (e.g. set aside one afternoon every week for reading), reflect on successes and challenges.
- Support students **to find the next book** (e.g. Look up Olly (MHSS library catalogue) or visit the local library). <https://mangohillss.softlinkhosting.com.au/oliver/library>
- Read an AR book together or create a family book club to discuss the latest books.