

Planning a Successful Start to Accelerated Reader™

1. Give pupils their ZPDs and choose a reading log for them to use. (See notes below on reading logs)
2. Choose a book and read it to the whole class. This could be something short and humorous at a low book level suitable for most, if not all, of the class.
3. Show the class a sample of the quiz. Log on to Renaissance Place™ as a teacher and under the Accelerated Reader tab, choose Manage Quizzes. In Reading Practice Quizzes, search for and select the book and choose 'take a sample quiz'. This will then display the quiz which you could show to your class on a whiteboard and go through one or two questions together as a class. (To end a quiz half-way through, press Ctrl + A which will stop it.)
4. The pupils can then individually log on to the pupil section of Renaissance Place and take the whole Reading Practice Quiz independently. (The recommended way to search for a quiz is by quiz number.) Encourage the pupils to read the questions through carefully and to aim for 100% score.
5. When each pupil finishes a quiz, a TOPS report will generate. This report provides instant feedback on their quiz results to share with teachers or parents. A score of 80% or above on a quiz indicates understanding. The student section of Renaissance Place also shows the student how they have performed on their quizzes so far.
6. Pupils use their ZPDs to help guide their independent selection of books, ideally choosing to read at book levels which are at the beginning of their ZPD and working their way throughout their range. They can record each book on their reading log as they read and take quizzes.
7. Teachers can monitor pupil results in detail in the reports section of Accelerated Reader, but for an overview of the class progress, go to 'Class Record Books' (see notes below). An average score of 85% shows understanding of the text being read.

Notes on using Renaissance Place:

Log on as a teacher or administrator on your Renaissance Place site and go to the Accelerated Reader tab.

Record Books and Targets – Choose 'Reading Practice Quizzes' and select your class to view their latest quiz results. If you click on an individual pupil name you can then delete the quiz from their record or reprint their TOPS report if needed.

Preferences – This is where you can change the setup of the system, e.g. the date and times pupils can take their quizzes or not, whether an administration password is needed to take a quiz, or whether you'd like the TOPS reports print automatically.

Resources – There are many useful resources in this section. In 'Forms and Charts' there are various examples of Reading Logs that you can print, or you could adapt records of reading that you already use in school.