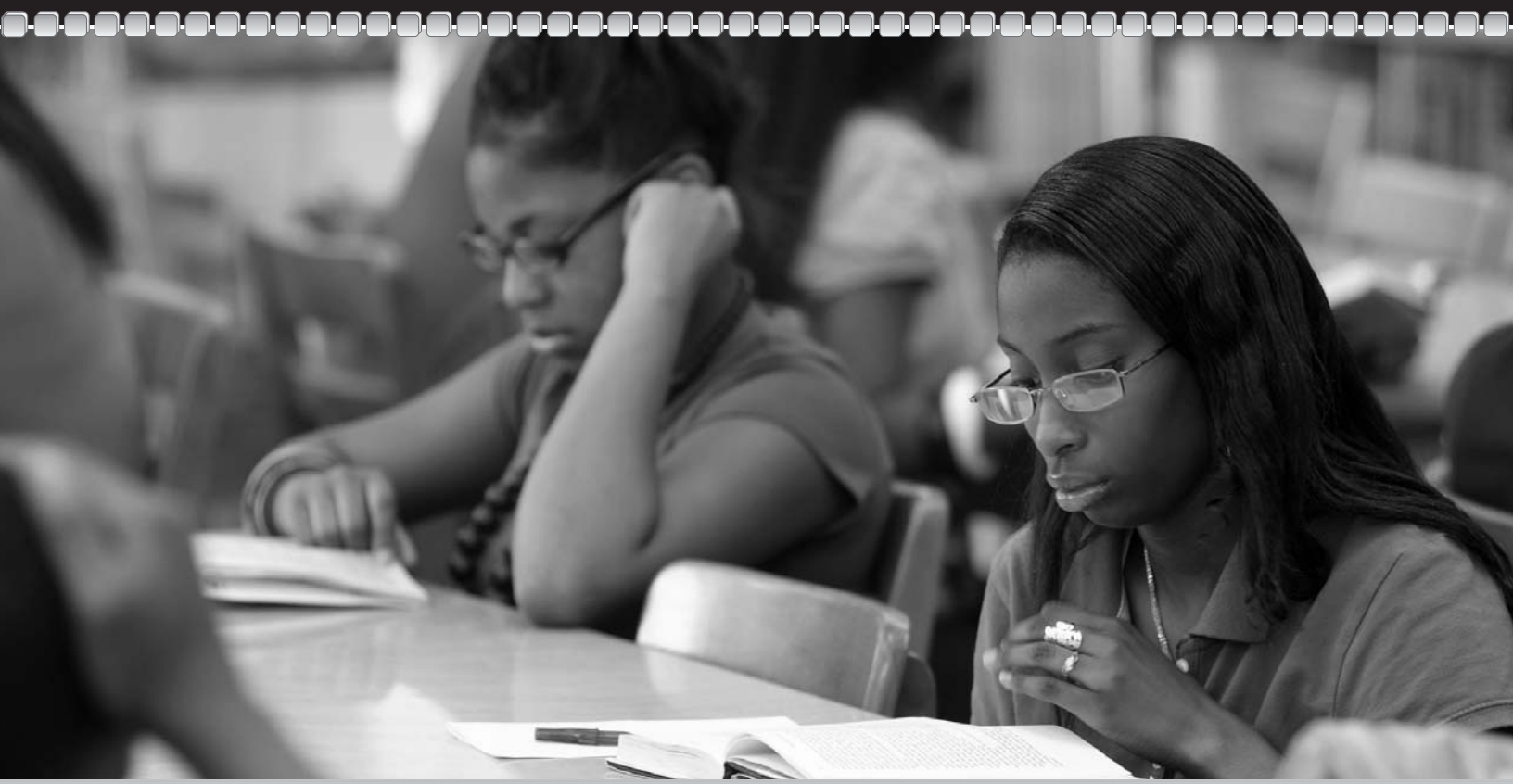


# Bringing the Public Library into Your School's Accelerated Reader Program



## Questions and Answers

Schools and public libraries both exist to provide opportunities for learning and access to information. The teacher's role is to deliver instruction to facilitate learning while librarians serve as a resource in students' learning. Both play important roles, and when partnered together, students stand to benefit greatly.

This brochure is designed to provide some basic background information on Accelerated Reader™ and suggestions for how to involve your public library in supporting your Accelerated Reader program. For more specific information on how you can partner with your public library, please contact the library directly.



### What information does a public librarian need to know about Accelerated Reader (AR)?

- AR™ is a computer program created by Renaissance Learning™ that helps teachers manage and monitor students' independent reading practice. It's used in more than 57,000 North American schools.
- Students choose books at an appropriate level to read at their own pace. In independent literature-based reading, Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) is the range of books that will challenge a student without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Students receive a ZPD after taking a STAR Reading™ assessment or teachers can use their best professional judgment to determine a beginning ZPD. It's important for students to read with a high degree of comprehension and at an appropriate level, broadening that range as their reading skills develop.
- Individual goals that encourage strong comprehension and an appropriate amount of practice are set for students based on their reading levels.
- Books are leveled with two measurements:
  - "Book level" is reported using the ATOS™ readability formula and represents the difficulty of the text based on word length, sentence length, number of words in the book, and vocabulary difficulty. For example, a 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 school.
  - "Interest level" is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. (The intended audience for a 4.5 book could be readers younger or older than fourth grade.) Both book level and interest level must be taken into consideration when recommending books for children.

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
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.*



RP Hatchet

Brian felt the Secret explained why ---.

- A. his mother had moved to Canada
- B. his father had given him a hatchet
- C. he had no brothers or sisters
- D. his parents had divorced

Reading Practice Question 1 of 10 Next

### How is reading practice measured?

- Each book has a specific practice point value based upon its length (word count) and readability. Points are a measure of reading practice, not a judgment on the merit or quality of the book. The longer and more difficult the book, the higher the point value.
- When finished, students take a short computerized comprehension quiz. (Passing the quiz is an indication that they were able to comprehend the text at a basic level; teachers look for scores of 85% or higher.)
- AR gives both students and teachers feedback based on the quiz results. The teacher then uses the results to help students set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

## How can we involve public libraries in our Accelerated Reader (AR) program?

- **Share a list of quiz titles** that your school owns. If you own AR Enterprise, show how librarians can use AR BookFinder™ to determine if a book has a quiz.
- **Provide a tour of AR BookFinder** ([www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com)). AR BookFinder is a free online book-searching tool. One can search by reading level, interest level, topic, subtopic, language, and more. Encourage public libraries to include a link to AR BookFinder on their library Web site.
- **Invite a public librarian to be a guest reader/book talker at your school and encourage them to share a variety of titles at different readability levels.**
- **Invite a public librarian to share information about library services offered to students.** The librarian should cover basic topics such as how to get a library card and hours of operation, along with more detailed information on student activities, Internet policies, materials available for checkout, job opportunities, etc.



**A Screen Shot of AR BookFinder ([www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com))**  
**AR BookFinder is the free online search tool that makes it easy for parents and students to search for just the right book!**

## How can we prepare our students to use the public library?

- **Take a field trip to your area public library.** Tour the library pointing out the children's literature and computer areas. Review the library rules, book checkout and computer policies, and hours. Encourage students to apply for a library card.
- **Provide library skills instruction.** Students should have a basic understanding of how to use library software to check on book availability and location, the Dewey Decimal System, etc.
- **Make sure students know their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).** Students should know and understand the importance of reading books that are at their ZPD level.
- **Teach students how to use AR BookFinder.** AR BookFinder will help students find books that are appealing and at their reading level. For younger students, use the AR BookBag™ (located in AR BookFinder) to print book lists to send home with students.