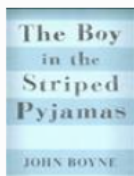


What is a ZPD?

ZPD stands for 'zone of proximal development' – research proves that learners who read books that have the right level of challenge for them will make the more progress with their reading abilities. A ZPD takes the form of a range of numbers from 0.0 – 16.0 (for example, 4.3 – 6.2). These numbers correlate to the 'book levels' of all books that are part of the Accelerated Reader programme. The higher the number, the more challenging the book. To identify a book's 'level', we encourage you to use www.arbookfind.co.uk. Searching its database will allow you to access information on a book's 'book level' (BL) and the amount of points it is worth (AR pts). As an example, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, seen below, has a 'book level' (BL) of 5.8 and is worth 7.0 points (AR Pts).



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

Boyne, John

AR Quiz No. 209058 EN Fiction

IL: UY - BL: 5.8 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz Types: RP, VP

Rating: ★★★★★

Bruno and his family leave Berlin after his father is promoted to commandant at Auschwitz concentration camp. Bruno's innocence leads him to strike up a friendship with the boy on the other side of the fence which leads to a tragic end.

What are 'reading points targets'?

The amount of points a book is worth is important in understanding learners' **reading points targets**. Each learner has a points target that is individual to them, calculated using a combination of their ZPD and the expectation that they read for at least 20 minutes per day. For example, a learner might have a target of 87 points that they are aiming to meet (or exceed) by the end of the academic year.

Each time a learner finishes reading a book they should complete the Accelerated Reader test on that book at the earliest possible opportunity. Tests can be accessed through the Accelerated Reader portal (<https://ukhosted61.renlearn.co.uk/1894449/default.aspx>). Each book test is comprised of 5-20 questions that gauge how successfully learners have understood the book they have just read. After completing a test, learners will achieve a percentage of the points available for that book depending on their test score. For example, if a learner scored 50% on *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, they would achieve 3.5 points; whereas if they scored 100%, they would achieve the full 7 points available.

Can my son/daughter read books that are not within their ZPD?

Of course. There is nothing to stop your son or daughter reading books that are outside of their ZPD. However, if they read books that are below their ZPD they will not necessarily be sufficiently challenged by the book's content. Similarly, if they are reading books with levels above their ZPD, they may not fully understand or comprehend the content of the story.

Can my son/daughter read books that are not part of the Accelerated Reader programme?

Yes, absolutely! Whilst the Accelerated Reader database is extensive, and new books are regularly added, it does not contain every book in existence. Equally, if your son or daughter enjoys reading non-fiction texts, graphic novels or manga (texts that do not commonly feature on the Accelerated Reader programme), then we do not want to discourage this enjoyment of reading. If learners are reading (and enjoying their reading), then we are happy!

If my son/daughter is reading books that are not part of the Accelerated Reader programme, how will they score points towards their points target?

If your son or daughter is regularly reading books that are not a part of the Accelerated Reader programme, then we do not want to prevent them from achieving points towards their points targets. As such, if they inform their English teachers of the books that they have read (after they have finished them) these can be manually added to their points targets.

How does my son/daughter access the Accelerated Reader website?

Learners can access the Accelerated Reader website using the aforementioned link, or by going through the school website. They can do this at home or at school. To login into their account, Year 8 and 9 learners use their normal school username and password. Year 7 learners use their normal school username and the password that their English teacher has given them.