

## Accelerated Reader Information

The Accelerated Reader (AR) Program is aimed at developing independent reading habits by allowing you to choose your own books to read and earn points for them.

10% of your final grade in Language Arts in each semester is based on meeting your AR goals. That large percentage could mean the difference between passing and not passing.

I check to see if you have an AR book every day. If you go more than three class sessions without an AR book, I will email home about my concerns.

### *Here's how to earn AR points:*

#### **1) Determine your AR point goal.**

📖 Your point goal will be determined by a placement test at the beginning of the year. I will tell you what your goal is in the first weeks of school.

#### **2) Choose a book which earns you points toward that AR goal.** For example: your AR goal is 10 points; you can choose to spend the semester reading a book that is worth 10 or more points, or begin with a book that's worth 5 points, and read a second book before the semester ends.

📖 ALWAYS CHECK THE SYSTEM OR SEE ME FOR A CONTRACT BEFORE YOU BEGIN A NEW BOOK.

📖 Books you select must be appropriate for your reading level or higher.

#### **3) Read the book closely and carefully and fill out your Reading ANALYSIS Log .** In order to earn points for reading the book, you will have to take an AR test when you complete it, so read carefully – you never know what will be on the test! You may only take an AR test in the presence of an AR monitor. Only one AR test per week can be taken by each student.

#### **4) Come take an AR test.** Come see me or our school librarian, Ms. Ammirati, and ask to take an AR test. Bring your completed AR Reading ANALYSIS Log. We will direct you through the website and enter the administrative password to give you access to the test.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **How do I know if there's an AR test for a book I want to read?**

You can check the AR system from school or home by logging in and doing a search. Log in to your AR account through the CT English Library website and search for the book to see if there is a test. Remember: it is your responsibility to make sure there is a test for the book before you rely on it for points.

Use our school website to look up tests. DO NO USE GOOGLE. Keep in mind that an AR test for a book may exist, but that does not mean that our school has purchased that test. It is your responsibility to make sure you check the school's AR subscriptions and not the general Accelerated Reader company database.

#### **I want to read a book, but I checked the AR system and there is no test for it. Can I still earn points?**

If there is a book you would like to read but there is no AR test for it, you can still earn points for that book as long as you follow these procedures:

- 📖 You must get the book approved by me. Bring me the title and author so I can research it and determine if it is worthy of academic credit.
- 📖 Fill out a reading ANALYSIS log as you read the book and work on the project we designed in lieu of an AR test.
- 📖 See me with the book when you finish reading it with the assignment we agreed upon completed.
- 📖 All no-test/off-AR options must be arranged at least two weeks before that semester's AR due date.

### **I surpassed my AR goal – what now? May I read a magazine instead?**

Congratulations! You get to read great books for pure enjoyment and no longer worry about points! However, completing your AR goal for the semester does not mean you get to sit back and cruise book-less until the end of the semester. If you do not have an actual book when I do my daily checks, I will begin subtracting AR points from your grade and you will have to make it up. Use this opportunity to read core novels for next year (I can suggest some!). Laziness is never okay in an academic setting and will earn you penalties on your grade.

### **May I take a LATE Accelerated Reader test to bump my grade from 89% to a 90%?**

No. “A” students do not turn in *late* work – especially something as weighted as AR. Therefore, a student who takes a *late* AR test in order to be bumped up to an A is not deserving of that high mark if he or she needed to take the test late. If I award A's to undeserving students, then I am discrediting the grade for those students who earned the A on their own merits and without adjustments.

### **The book we are reading as a class has an AR test – may I get AR points for our whole-class book?**

You may not earn AR points for a whole-class book after we have begun reading it. You may earn AR points if you read the book and take the test *before* we begin reading as a class.

### **I took an AR test recently but it's not reflected on my grade yet – why?**

Did you bring me your reading ANALYSIS log? If you brought me one, I will be able to update it for you before the next grade posting within a week. If you're certain you brought me your reading ANALYSIS log more than a week ago, double check your binder while I double-check the reading ANALYSIS logs I have and we'll get this sorted out together.

### **How many AR tests may I take?**

You may take only one AR test per week. There are two main reasons for this. The first reason is to practice your time management. You cannot rely on taking three AR tests the day that AR is due; you should take tests as you complete the books so that you can answer questions while the book is fresh in your mind. Plan out when and how you plan to earn AR points throughout the semester so that you can avoid the rush at the end of the semester.

If you are reading 3 or more books per quarter, I will require you to challenge yourself by reading a higher level book.

The second and most pressing reason is a lack of resources. If I allow unlimited testing, so many students will wait until the last minute and take up all of the computers when we only have two AR monitors. We cannot accommodate 100 students taking three AR tests each on the day before AR is due! The one test per week policy requires students to practice time and workload management.

*Want a really scary story? Ask me about “The Great AR Shutdown of 2020.”*