

## AR Points Required for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature Classes

### Why Require Accelerated Reading Points?

Reading is fundamental to function in today's society. If you listen to the news, surf the Internet, or read the newspaper you've probably heard about someone (may be an athlete) who is in college and doesn't know how to read. This is not how it is supposed to be. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade literature teachers will do our best to make sure this doesn't happen to your child.

As adults we have to read well enough to do several things. Imagine for a minute what your life would be like if you were unable to comprehend written text. We use reading everyday for so many important things. I have listed just a few below.

1. Reading directions on a medicine bottle. This is especially true for medicine for our children.
2. Fill out applications for job.
3. Reading is also an important part of standardized testing. Standardized tests require reading skills for all sections not just the reading section.
4. The brain is a muscle reading develops the mind.
5. Reading is how we discover new things, fix things, and how we educate ourselves.
6. Reading is fundamental in developing a good self image. Poor readers tend to have low opinions of themselves and their abilities. This can lead to poor behavior and many students tend to "give up." None of us want any of these scenarios for our children.
7. Reading improves spelling and expands our vocabulary.

Adults understand the importance of reading and we know that good reading skills are essential for everyone. We want the very best for our children and fostering good reading skills is at the top of the list.

### Why Use Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is the most widely used reading software program, making reading practice easier, less burdensome, and more reliable for educators. AR provides daily information about student reading and makes it easy to continuously monitor comprehension, track the time students spend reading, and differentiate reading practice.

It's all about practice. AR encourages substantial differentiated reading practice to create strong readers. Based on each student's independent reading level, AR helps teachers set goals for each student, and select books that are difficult enough to keep students challenged, but not too difficult to cause frustration. In addition, AR helps teachers monitor students' vocabulary growth, literacy skills development, and reading skills taught through basal readers and other reading textbooks.

## How Do We Get Our Students/Children Reading?

First, we have to find an Accelerated Reader book.

1. AR Book Finder is a great way to find out if a book is an Accelerated Reader book. You can visit this website to help you find out if a book is AR or not.  
<http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>
2. The children will be able to check out books here at our school library.
3. They can also check out books from Mrs. Rudin's classroom and my classroom.
4. Public libraries are a great place to check out books.
5. Don't forget to look at home. You can even borrow a book from a friend or why not buy a book instead of a game.
6. AR Book Finder is a great way to find out if a book is an Accelerated Reader book. You can visit this website to help you find out if a book is AR or not.  
<http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>

## How Can You Help Foster the Importance of Reading?

1. Talk to your child about the book he/she is currently reading. Ask to listen to them read. Turn the TV off and open a book.
2. Model reading for your child. Research shows that parent involvement in literacy has a correlation to academic achievement.
3. Make sure that your child has a reading book and require them to bring it home every day. Bring home the book each night is not enough. Require that your child reads a little each day. If your child is not a reader begin with five minutes a night and then increase the amount of time according to your families schedule and your child's ability. Whatever you do, do NOT put reading on the back burner. Make reading a priority at home and you will see your child's reading improve.
4. Please keep this in mind, a study published by researchers at North Carolina State University, Brigham Young University and the University of California-Irvine found that parental involvement has a more powerful influence on students' academic performance than the school the children attend. Parents, you are a direct link to your child success!!!

## AR Points Required for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature Classes

AR points are an element for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade literature classes. Students must earn a minimum of 20 points per quarter to receive 100% of the AR grade. Students, who earn at least 20 points for all four quarters will be able to participate in an end of the year award. This award will be determined by the teachers, but students will have input into what they would like to receive. It goes without saying that only reasonable rewards will be considered.

The AR points will become part of your grade and count as one homework score per quarter. If you get all 20 points you will receive a 100%. To determine your final percentage score for AR, you need to take the total number of earned points and multiple that by five. This will give you your final percentage grade. For example, if you would earn fifteen AR points you would take  $15 \times 5$ .  $15 \times 5 = 75$ , which means that your score would be 75% and you would receive a D+ for that grade.

### General Information for Students

- Books **cannot** be ones that you have read and tested on prior to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Books that are not **AR** will **not** be accepted.
- Be sure to choose “just right” texts so that you are able to comprehend what you are reading.
- AR books can be found in the junior high library, public library, or classroom libraries. Make sure you check to see that the book you want to read is AR and also that the book is on your classroom computer prior to reading it so that you do not waste your time. This is your responsibility. You will have to be responsible and make sure that your book is AR and that there is a test for it on our system.
- Books should be a minimum of 100 pages (unless otherwise set by your literature teacher due to student’s reading level or IEP).
- All AR points must be completed by the following dates for each quarter (no exceptions, including absences at the end of the quarter. Remember, you have had all quarter to read):

1<sup>st</sup> quarter – Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter – Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> quarter – Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Tests taken after these dates will be applied toward the next quarter.

Please have your parents complete the next page and return it to your literature teacher. Keep this page for your records.



Parents, please complete this page and have your child return it to their literature teacher.

I have read the information about how AR points are required each quarter by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade literature teachers. I am aware that these points will count as a homework grade towards my child's final literature grade each quarter.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

