

Porter Ranch Community School is proud to use both **STAR Reading** and **Accelerated Reader** to support and motivate each elementary school student to achieve his or her own personal best in reading growth.

What is STAR Reading?

STAR Reading is *computer adaptive test* that assesses your child's reading ability. As such, it continually adjusts the difficulty of each child's test based on your child's previous response. If your child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If your child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. It reduces boredom of being tested on material that is too easy and the frustration of being tested on material that is too hard. More importantly, your child is not limited to grade-level material, so you can see what reading level your child is capable of, whether it is below, at, or far above grade level.

The test is administered at least six times per year. Ask your child's teacher for a copy of your child's latest scores.

STAR Reading test results will provide you with a snapshot of your child's reading ability in terms of:

- **Percentile Rank:** Percentile Rank is an indication of how well your child ranks relative to other students nationally in the same grade. For example, if a student has a Percentile Rank of 85, the student's reading skills are greater than 85% of other children in the same grade.
- **Instructional Reading Level:** Instructional Reading Level is a criterion-referenced score that indicates the highest reading level at which your child is at least 80% proficient at recognizing words and comprehending the text.
- **Estimated Oral Reading Fluency:** Estimated Oral Reading Fluency is an estimate of your child's ability to read words quickly and accurately in order to comprehend text efficiently. Estimated ORF is reported in correct words per minute.
- **Grade Level Equivalent:** Grade Level Equivalent scores represent how your child's test performance compares with that of other students in the same grade nationally. For example, if a 5th-grade student has a GE of 7.6, his or her score is equal to that of a typical 7th grader after the sixth month of the school year. This score does not necessarily mean that the student is capable of reading 7th-grade material. It only indicates that the student's reading skills are well above average for his or her grade level.
- **The Zone of Proximal Development:** The Zone of Proximal Development is the recommended *reading range* for your child's reading practice. This range covers text that your child will find easy to enjoy as well as those texts which are more challenging. All of which comprise a good reading diet for your child's optimal reading growth.

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a personalized reading management tool that helps teachers, parents, and students monitor, manage, and encourage reading practice and consequently, reading growth. Please be aware that “AR” does not teach reading skills.

Reading growth is a result of instruction supported by PRACTICE. Independent reading practice is one of the best ways to encourage optimal reading growth, which in turn is associated with academic success.

This school year, in conjunction with the Leader in Me Program, PRCS students will take personal ownership of their reading goals and reading achievement using Accelerated reading data.

The Accelerated Reader Program works as follows:

1. Typically, your child can choose his or her own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.
2. With assistance if needed, your child chooses books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success. This is called the Reading Range or Zone of Proximal Development.
3. It does not matter from where your child got the book. It can be from any source such as the classroom library, school library, or public library. What matters is that there is an Accelerated Reader quiz available for the book and the book is within their personal reading range. WWW.ARBookfinder.com is a resource you can use to check to see if a quiz is available for a book that your child would like to read.
4. When your child is confident that he or she understood the book, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read. The GOAL for every student is, on average, at least 85% comprehension. Earning 100% comprehension all of the time is most likely an indication that your child is not choosing sufficiently challenging books.
5. In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they're reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.
6. Your child will learn how to monitor their own reading work. The Leader in Me program will work hand in hand to instill ownership in setting and achieving goals, including reading goals.