

Is AR working for you?



In the beginning...

To build up this love of reading I begin with a read aloud while they relax on the rug. I begin with a chapter book and usually they mimic my love of reading for a while until they develop their own.

Children can start AR right away, even if they don't seem ready.

When do we have time to AR read?

AR time is whenever they can fit it in.

They are given time during the day where they can work on their goals: AR, Zearn, Spanish, Sight Word...

Every goal we have is charted so they can see their progress.

First thing in the morning the students come in eat breakfast and begin a goal of their choice.

Whenever they can find downtime they work on their goals- They LOVE to check their results and graph them.

Partners

We start with a class talk (family meeting) about being a family and succeeding together.

If someone is struggling we wait on them. In other words, everyone needs to take responsibility for every one understanding. We don't leave anyone behind-

Having said this... before someone can take a test, they must have a friend question them on the book. They can do this by scanning the book and asking questions- If the reader can answer the questions they can take the test. (The questioner has to take some responsibility in the reader's test score.)

As children get older and their reading and comprehension improve they are allowed to question themselves. (Basically we are building up their comprehension skills through the process.)

Being a Good Partner



Classroom Setting-

Comfortable, Laid back- Kids can lie down or read in the hallway on cushions.

It is important to have an atmosphere of trust.

Relax and Read!



Student Reading Levels

Star testing is a good starting point

I give students a wide range of levels to choose from- They fall above and below their Star test level

(The purpose of starting lower is to boost their confidence when the 100s start coming in.)

The higher their confidence the more willing they are to explore bigger books with higher reading levels.

I do not wait to retest them on STAR reading in order to raise their reading levels.

The students will decide based on how they feel if they want to move up their levels. I trust their judgement!

Moving Up Your Book Level



Choosing the Right Book



AR Scores

Kids get very excited about point races!

We use Class Dojo to keep up with our AR scores.

We record all 70s, 80s, 90s & 100s.! At the end of the day we choose a boy and girl winner for most points!

Once a month we add up the total points each child has earned from the beginning of the year and they get prizes based on points.

90 or 100- 2 points

70 or 80- 1 point

100 on a Chapter Book- 5 Point

100 on a big Chapter Book- 7 points

100 on a vocabulary test- 2 points

If you read the book at home and test at school I double the AR points.

If you fill up your AR sheet you get 5 points.

The pie chart on Dojo gives the students an overall visual of what they have done.

Tracking our AR Points using Class Dojo



What I do with AR grades less than 60%

Anytime the score is a 60% I say, " Don't worry we all miss some sometimes." Anything lower we privately brainstorm what might have happened to bring the score down. I am also willing to go in and delete the test and have them reread the book and try again, since comprehension and success are my goal.

If a child consistently makes a 60 or below I will sit down with just that child and review the grades with the levels on the AR website. We will try to figure out where the problem is...(It might be that when the child started moving to 4 points her grades dropped, but did really well on 2 points) So we will come up with a plan to get back on the right track, and we will meet back every 5 books to see if it is working. (This allows them to see what making a plan and finishing out can do)

What if I don't pass the test?



How we use our AR Data

- ✓ *****We use the pie chart** on reports from Class Dojo to see where the majority of points come from.***
- ✓ **Student-Led Conferences-**The students will use their AR data sheet during their conferences with parents to explain their reading and comprehension progress- They can also pinpoint their own weaknesses and explain them based on the pattern they see in the levels and scores.
- ✓ **Data Sheet-** We chart our chapter books on a large poster paper

Name	Title of Book	Genre	Level	Points	Score	Date
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We then use our data sheet to **graph our books in a bar graph** format based on level, points, score, date or the book's genre.

We track and chart on the board our class AR progress every Wednesday. We look for how many books we have taken since the first day starting and our comprehension average. Our goal is 85%.

For every passing chapter book we make a paper chain and connect it to the others in the hallway.

Every time we read 20 books we post our AR tracking sheet in the hallway and try to see how much of the hallway we can wallpaper.

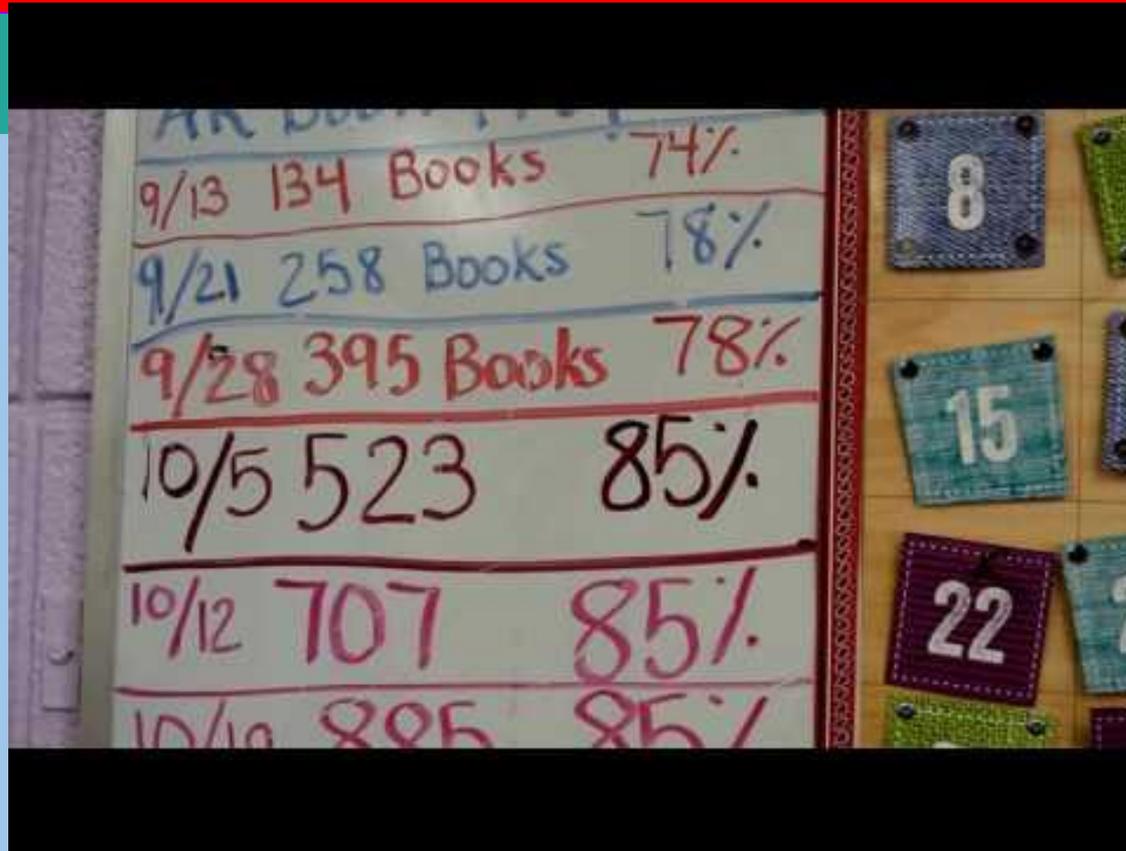
We measure our books in many different ways!



Recording our Accomplishments



TRACKING OUR PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



A photograph of a calendar page with handwritten entries tracking progress. The entries are written in red and blue ink on a white background. To the right of the calendar, several colorful fabric squares with numbers are pinned to a wooden surface.

Date	Books	Percentage
9/13	134 Books	74%
9/21	258 Books	78%
9/28	395 Books	78%
10/5	523	85%
10/12	707	85%
10/19	885	85%

Visible calendar numbers: 8, 15, 22

Need Help With Reading Groups?

When students are laying around reading I take this time to squat down to listen to them. I also will sit down and help them with problems or ask them comprehension questions. I try to focus on my children who struggle more and work on certain techniques that can help them have more success. This allows me to continue with 'reading groups' except without a reading group.

AR REWARDS

I do different types of rewards for the kids! It is all just for fun and makes the day have excitement and makes the day function on a much lighter note- Also- at some point everyone eventually wins!

- ✓ Drawing- You can put your name in a drawing if you make a 100 or 90% on a chapter or 2 90% or 100% on regular books- I choose out of the drawing once a day and twice a day on double day. The children who win can choose from the prize box.
- ✓ Every time a child fills up their AR sheet (20 passing books) they get out of my treasure chest AND 5 points.
- ✓ In the beginning of the year, we will, once a week, look up our scores on the AR website and for each 90 or 100% they earned they get one skittle. They love seeing how many they will get at one time. Every child will get something!
- ✓ At the end of the 9 weeks we do an AR FUNDAY- Every child participates regardless of scores or amounts of books. We celebrate our total class progress!
- ✓ BEST OF ALL- they LOVE to impress me and make me proud....so it is very important to brag on them as much as possible.

Part of the Fun!



Preparing For Next Year

Starting in February my 1st graders will begin to train the kindergarteners on AR!

BENEFITS:

THIS strengthens my students skills in leadership, responsibility, reading and comprehension.

It takes a lot off of my plate for next school year as they are ready to GOOOOOO!!

The Overall Goal

The ultimate goal with AR is to create a love of reading so that 'AR Time' is something that is looked forward to and not dreaded or seen as a 'job' instead as a reward or break-

Children take responsibility for their own reading and raising of their reading levels.

They become self-regulated learners who are aware of their own thinking process.