

The Power of Reading Practice: Using Accelerated Reader Effectively

Regional Seminar

Audience and Purpose

This regional seminar introduces teachers to the effective use of Accelerated Reader™ in the classroom. While other educators, such as administrators, librarians, or technology staff, may be present, the seminar is designed to help classroom teachers launch their implementations. The seminar does **NOT** include hands-on in the software; it does, however, provide print instructions and an overview of self-guided online resources that attendees can use to see and learn key software tasks.

What Materials Are Provided?

- Two handout packets:
 - Activities
 - Reports
- *Getting Results with Accelerated Reader* (90-page, spiral-bound book)
- *The Power of 100%* (booklet)
- Goal-setting card
- Unlimited access to online, on-demand sessions that demonstrate how to carry out key tasks in the software

What Are the Objectives for the Day?

After this seminar, you will...

- Understand the purpose of Accelerated Reader to foster growth and lifelong reading
- Understand and use the secrets of powerful reading practice
- Understand the meaning and use of book level, interest level, and points
- Know how to personalize reading practice by establishing ZPDs, guiding book selection, and setting individualized book level and point goals
- Be able to interpret data on the TOPS, Diagnostic, and Student Record Reports and use that data to manage student practice
- Understand that high comprehension, as reflected in a high average on Reading Practice Quizzes, is essential to reading growth
- Learn a few basic strategies for improving comprehension
- Be able to link instruction with reading practice in appropriate ways
- Know why and how to check in with students during practice time
- Know the fundamental human motivators and how to use them to encourage extensive reading practice
- Know what resources are essential for an effective AR™ implementation
- Plan what you will do next when you return to your classroom

Seminar Agenda

Introduction

- Welcome and introductions
- Overview of an AR classroom and why practice matters

The Three Secrets of Powerful Practice

Secret #1. *To be revealed ...*

- STAR assessments and the zone of proximal development
- Matching books to students
- Personalized goals to foster growth and lifelong reading
- Recommended amounts of practice time and types of practice (reading to, reading with, and reading independently)
- The link between instruction and practice

Secret #2. *To be revealed ...*

- High comprehension and strategies for achieving it

Secret #3. *To be revealed ...*

- Reports and routines for daily management
- Reports and routines for diagnosis and intervention
- The most powerful motivators
- Giving grades

Resources

- Books, labels, computers
- Reading folders
- Library access

Next Steps

- What am I going to do when I go back to my classroom?
- What am I going to do in six months?

Wrap-up