

# AR GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## *Fostering Readers and Authentic Reading Practices*

**Reading** is a vital component of any English Language Arts course. Students Grades 8 through 12 are expected to “independently select and read, for sustained periods of time, texts for enjoyment and to increase fluency” (BC Ministry of Education).

Even at a very moderate pace, **20 minutes of dedicated reading every day** works out to 70-100 pages a week. With daily practice, it becomes entirely possible to finish a book of average length in 2-3 weeks. Students who make reading part of their day-to-day routine experience greater success not just in English, but also in other subject areas with a heavy emphasis on textual understanding.

**Accelerated Reader** is a school-wide program that enables the monitoring of student progress towards grade-level benchmarks, thereby allowing teachers to recognize more readily your individual achievements in the area of independent reading. **You** collect points for successful completion of titles that interest and challenge you.

To ensure that AR continues to foster authentic reading practices for all learners, the following policies and procedures are in effect from September 2015:

- ❑ **Accelerated Reader is worth 8% of every coursework mark.** This is calculated by measuring the number of points you’ve collected by the end of any given reporting period against **the grade-level benchmark which is standard for all students enrolled in the same course**. It is NOT calculated based on personal targets for reading achievement.
- ❑ **Bring a book to every class**, and take advantage of whatever time is offered for independent reading. Audiobooks of full texts are permitted for AR.
- ❑ You, the student, are responsible for checking whether or not there is a quiz in the AR database for the book you wish to read.
  - ❑ This should be done **BEFORE you start reading the book in earnest**, not halfway through the book or at the very end.
  - ❑ If a quiz exists, you must confirm your own eligibility to take it. (For example, if the quiz was ever previously attempted, you are not permitted to take it again.)
  - ❑ If a quiz does NOT exist, you must confer with your English teacher about alternatives well in advance of finishing the book.
- ❑ **Only your English teacher will provide the monitor password if he/she is satisfied that you have read the book;** do not approach Mr. McCracken, other teachers in the English department, or Student Services. AR quizzes and alternative assessments for AR points must be completed at school under supervision.
- ❑ To consider your eligibility for points, your teacher may require **evidence of reading** from you; observe his/her instructions. You may also be asked to register new titles you wish to read, along with the expected finish date and other details.

- **If the title you’ve chosen has been (or is being) adapted for film or television, you may still be able to collect AR points for reading the book:**
  - You will be required to show **evidence of reading** before your English teacher considers your request to take the AR quiz. Again, it is imperative that this conversation occur at the start of your reading, not merely moments before you wish to claim points for the title.
  - **You will be locked out of writing any other AR quizzes or alternative assessment for a period of a week if you fail the quiz for this title.**
  - Harsher penalties may apply if you fail multiple quizzes for book titles with known movie/tv adaptations (e.g. You may be locked out of writing any other AR quizzes or alternative assessment for the rest of the reporting period).
  
- **If the title you’ve chosen does NOT have an AR quiz in the database, you may still be able to collect AR points for reading the book:**
  - You will be required to **complete/submit the Google Form, “My book doesn’t have an AR quiz”** (<http://goo.gl/forms/JjzluAB6ou>), with the title and author of your book, the number of pages and chapters, the date when you expect to finish reading, as well as a full page of typed text from your book. (This helps determine how many points your book is worth.)
  - You will be expected to complete the **alternate assessment** under school supervision at the appointed time.
  
- Individual articles and short stories can only be used to **“top up”** points at the end of each reporting period; they should not make up more than 10% of the year-end target.

	<b>RP1 (by NOV 3)</b>	<b>RP2 (by JAN 26)</b>	<b>RP3 (by APR 12)</b>	<b>RP4 (by JUN 7)</b>	<b>Total Top-Up Available</b>
<b>Gr 8</b>	7.5 pts	15 pts	22.5 pts	30 pts	3 pts
<b>Gr 9</b>	10 pts	20 pts	30 pts	40 pts	4 pts
<b>Gr 10</b>	12.5 pts	25 pts	37.5 pts	50 pts	5 pts
<b>Gr 11</b>	15 pts	30 pts	45 pts	60 pts	6 pts
<b>Gr 12</b>	17 pts	35 pts	52 pts	70 pts	7 pts

- The cut-off for AR quizzes is **3:30pm on the last Tuesday of each reporting period** (i.e. see dates in the chart above). As you will be permitted to take only **ONE quiz a day in the week leading up to a deadline**, please plan ahead accordingly.
- **Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty with regards to AR will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action.**
- **Final say in whether or not AR points get counted toward your gradebook rests with your English teacher.** He/she is under no obligation to give credit for questionable titles.