



**Nunthorpe**  
Academy

14 October 2020

Dear Year 7 & 8 Parent(s) and Carer(s)

Many of you have been asking how best to support your child's reading at school.

Students have the opportunity to enjoy reading for 30 minutes during every school day. If this time is spent wisely, it will have a dramatic effect on their reading ability, which in turn will have a dramatic effect on their ability to learn, progress and succeed in all subjects.

All of Year 7 have sat a STAR Reading Test and recorded their ZPD in their planners on p38. ZPD stands for "Zone of Proximal Development". Basically if a book is too easy it will not improve their reading but conversely, if a book is too hard, it will only improve their reading slightly and might actually put them off reading. If books are at their level and just slightly above, they will improve at their fastest rate - so the ZPD is their Goldilocks level. Having said that, this is a guide - we would never say no to a book that your child wishes to read as reading for pleasure is of the utmost importance.

In order to discover the level of books you already own, you can use this website: [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) (some books are listed under their series title some under their subtitle and some under their author name).

If you are choosing your child's next book to purchase (and Christmas is not far away) you can use the advanced search and input your child's ZPD, their interest level and any additional criteria you wish to add.

Finally, your child's English homework this year is simply to quiz on each book they read. This proves to us that a) they have really read the book and b) they have understood the book. Your child's username and password is on p38 of their planner, as are the instructions on how to quiz. May I point out that they must go through our

Nunthorpe Academy  
Guisborough Road  
Nunthorpe  
Middlesbrough  
TS7 0LA

Phone: 01642 310561

Web: [www.nunthorpe.co.uk](http://www.nunthorpe.co.uk)

Head of School: Kathryn Kell NPQH  
NMAT Executive Principal: Lee Brown NPQH

Company No. 08188507 VAT Registration 142671814





**Nunthorpe**  
Academy

website to quiz and not simply type "Accelerated Reader" into a search bar as it will bring up a random school's account but probably not ours.

Competitions are being run between tutor groups so students could be winning prizes too!

Should you have any problems or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's literacy teacher or myself: [RWilkinson@nunthorpe.co.uk](mailto:RWilkinson@nunthorpe.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

Rachel Wilkinson  
**Librarian / KS3 Literacy Intervention Tutor**

RW/JGO