

RENAISSANCE®

RESOURCES

Top 10 tips for motivating students to read

 RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader™

 RENAISSANCE
Star Reading®

 RENAISSANCE
Star Early Literacy™



1. Success: the prime motivator

Nothing succeeds like success, as the old saying has it. Experiencing success with an activity reinforces self esteem and gives us a chance to demonstrate mastery to others. We return to successful activities again and again. Our minds are alert, and our self confidence leads us to attempt greater challenges. On the other hand, we avoid failure whenever we can, even if it means we miss opportunities or leave important work undone.

Set your students up for success by helping them set realistic targets - challenging yet attainable. Match students with books of the right reading level to start them on the road to success. Reading Practice quizzes are written so that they can be passed easily by any student who has read the

book and understood it at a basic level. Students learn this quickly, and eagerly anticipate their success as they sit down to each new quiz. If a student consistently performs poorly on Reading Practice quizzes, however, it almost invariably means that they are not reading or comprehending the reading material.

Persistent failure on quizzes robs quiz taking of its motivating effect. To ensure that students pass Reading Practice quizzes, provide ready access to a computer so students can quiz as soon as they are finished reading. Make sure they are adequately trained in using the software. Above all, monitor student quizzing. If a student fails a quiz, intervene immediately to determine the source of the problem.



2. Pass the trophy

Keep a large (the larger the better) reading trophy at your school. The team/class/year group that shows the greatest improvement or reaches a certain pre-agreed target first, gets to keep the trophy. Issue a challenge each term for another team etc. to take the trophy away from the team that currently has it. Of course, the challenge for the team with the trophy is to keep it for as long as possible.

3. Millionaires Club

One of the easiest and most enjoyable motivators to implement is that of the Millionaires Club - particularly as your Renaissance Place website will track the word count data you need to identify new 'members'!

Who wouldn't want to become a 'millionaire' and join this exclusive club? Whether motivating your students individually, as a class, year group or across the whole school, Accelerated Reader (AR) records the word count of all quizzes passed. If the student does not pass the quiz those words are not counted, so in fact many students may have actually read far more words than are recorded.

Students are enthused by the challenge of reaching – or even exceeding – this illustrious target and when applied to a class, year group or school even those struggling readers can feel proud of the valuable contribution they have made to reach it. Rewards for reaching this milestone can take various forms such as certificates, badges, prizes, etc. and can be recognised in assemblies, newsletters - display boards and so on. You may wish to host an end of term or end of year celebration for the "millionaires" that could involve an outing such as the cinema, bowling or sports activity - the options are endless.

RENAISSANCE®

©Copyright 2016 Renaissance Learning, Inc. All rights reserved. | 020 7184 4000 | www.renlearn.co.uk

All logos, designs, and brand names for Renaissance's products and services, including but not limited to Accelerated Reader, and Renaissance are trademarks of Renaissance Learning, Inc., and its subsidiaries, registered, common law, or pending registration in the United States and other countries.

Brooklyn | Dallas | Fremont | Hood River | London | Madison | Minneapolis | San Francisco | Sydney | Toronto | Vancouver | Wisconsin Rapids

4. Non-uniform day

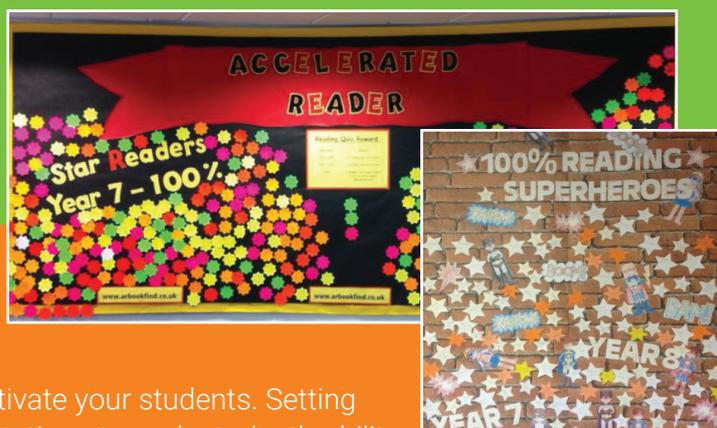
As a motivator, the opportunity to be uniform-free for a day is very compelling for students. Clear guidelines need to be set regarding dress code, however, the targets can be individual or for a class, which often proves to be more successful as the class feel like they belong to an exclusive club for the day.



5. 100% board

Many schools that achieve the most success with AR designate a special place in the building for a '100% Board' where they celebrate reading achievements. This display tends to be located in the library, although any central location in the school would suffice.

On the 100% Board, you post the names of students who have exceeded, met or made progress towards their individual targets or have achieved 100% in their quizzes, or any other criteria your school decides. Every time their name is posted they receive a raffle ticket and once a term all the raffle tickets are placed in a draw and the winner receives a prize. It is very important for the motivation of your students to ensure that they all have the chance to see their name on the 100% Board, so please choose the criteria carefully. You can also include photos or pictures of the students; this approach is often very well received by students in Primary Schools.



6. Targets and certifications

Points, book levels and certificates are great ways to motivate your students. Setting individualised student targets enables you to tailor expectations to each student's ability. By working with them to set achievable targets, you enable every student to feel a sense of success and accomplishment. The levels at which certificates are awarded can be set at the beginning of term and once this is done the system monitors the data and informs you when each level is achieved, allowing you to set the next one. Visit the Customer Zone area of the Renaissance Learning website (renlearn.co.uk/customer-zone) for examples of certificates in MSWord format that you can edit accordingly. Points target setting measures the quantity of reading being completed by students and is very easy to monitor. However, to ensure a 'well-rounded' motivational system, and improvement in every area of a student's reading ability, we recommend that you set the book level and minimum average percentage correct (APC) targets along with the point targets.

RENAISSANCE®

©Copyright 2016 Renaissance Learning, Inc. All rights reserved. | 020 7184 4000 | www.renlearn.co.uk

All logos, designs, and brand names for Renaissance's products and services, including but not limited to Accelerated Reader, and Renaissance are trademarks of Renaissance Learning, Inc., and its subsidiaries, registered, common law, or pending registration in the United States and other countries.

Brooklyn | Dallas | Fremont | Hood River | London | Madison | Minneapolis | San Francisco | Sydney | Toronto | Vancouver | Wisconsin Rapids

7. Privileges

Tap into the power of privileges – the opportunity to do something new or different or to belong to a special group can be very motivating for students. When a student reaches a certain target, let them have 10 minutes extra lunch or break time, or be the first in line for lunch for a day. Little rewards such as this can be tremendously motivating for students.

8. Reading Champions

Introduce a bronze, silver and gold Reading Champion. Once the agreed criteria has been achieved this can be acknowledged by Reading Champions t-shirts, trophies or badges, depending on how much you want to spend. You may wish to make this a termly target, presenting the rewards in an assembly that acknowledges high achievers.

9. Staff challenges

Introduce a 'Wall of Fame' for the teachers; this can be a '100% Wall' where, like the students, teachers have to achieve 100% in their quizzes. This encourages healthy competition and will set challenges for both students and teachers. Staff should also be encouraged to always have a book with them as this will encourage conversations between students and staff, whilst also instilling a reading culture within the school.

10. Newsletter

Allow students who have met an important target for the year to publish an AR newsletter for the school. Not only can this be a great motivational tool, but it can also help to keep parents informed of the school's progress. Ensure that every noteworthy accomplishment of almost every student is included in this fun, inexpensive project, which also promotes teamwork and other literacy skills.

Share your stories of success

We love hearing your stories of success with Accelerated Reader (AR). Even if you have just completed the training process or started START testing, we welcome your comments and quotes (from you and your students), which will appear throughout our literature and the pages of our website*. More detailed stories of success make great articles for our Newsletters –and for every story you submit we will send you a certificate to mark your success. You can read success stories from other schools on our website: renlearn.co.uk/success-stories

Any time you have something to share, simply email us at: success@renlearn.co.uk

Renaissance Certification

Renaissance Certification guides successful implementation of Renaissance products at classroom and school levels.

Classes, schools and Project Managers can certify for Master status, acknowledging their success in implementing Renaissance Accelerated Reader or Renaissance Accelerated Maths effectively using proven best practices.

Learn more and apply for Renaissance Certification at: renlearn.co.uk/certification

**You will be given final approval of any testimonial or information you supply to us before it appears on Renaissance website or any printed materials.*

Find out how you can inspire a love of reading by visiting
www.renlearn.co.uk | 020 7184 4000

RENAISSANCE®

©Copyright 2016 Renaissance Learning, Inc. All rights reserved. | 020 7184 4000 | www.renlearn.co.uk

All logos, designs, and brand names for Renaissance's products and services, including but not limited to Accelerated Reader, and Renaissance are trademarks of Renaissance Learning, Inc., and its subsidiaries, registered, common law, or pending registration in the United States and other countries.

Brooklyn | Dallas | Fremont | Hood River | London | Madison | Minneapolis | San Francisco | Sydney | Toronto | Vancouver | Wisconsin Rapids