

How Renaissance® Determines a Book's Quizzability

Accelerated Reader 360® provides assessments of reading practice that determine whether a student read and comprehended a particular book. Accelerated Reader 360® quizzes are carefully constructed to conform to well-established guidelines, which are the result of research, standardization, and consistency.

A sufficient plot- or fact-driven text is necessary to produce a valid, reliable 3-, 5-, 10-, or 20-question reading practice quiz. Content developers select the number of questions to represent the text in the fairest manner for the reader. Accelerated Reader 360® quizzes do not “sample” a text but deal with the main topics of a text of any given length. After review, some books are tagged nonquizzable. The following are common factors in nonquizzable texts.

1. Insufficient Text

There is simply not enough unique text to generate at least three fair and memorable questions. The text needs to be of sufficient length so writers can draw valid, reliable reading practice assessment items.

2. Illustrations

Illustrations may render a book nonquizzable, with the exception of children's picture books or graphic novels. Books at higher reading levels in which illustrations tell the entire story, making it possible for a student to pass a quiz without reading the text, would not be quizzable. Questions for Accelerated Reader 360® quizzes of all question lengths are based on the text of a book, not the interpretation or recall of illustrations within a book.

3. Lack of Plausible Distracters

Distracters in Accelerated Reader 360® quizzes must be both plausible and false. However, some books contain text that is difficult to falsify and would not result in a valid, reliable assessment item.

4. Reference Material

Reference Books

Books that contain small pieces of information about numerous topics are usually nonquizzable. This category includes such books as dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, and other reference books.

How-To Books

Books that provide directions, instructions, or steps in a process are often nonquizzable. Accelerated Reader 360® quizzes do not include questions from steps in a process or lists of ingredients or materials. Students do not approach

such texts for the purpose of reading practice, but instead to create a product or perform an activity. This category includes cookbooks, art and craft projects, and experiment books. A book that provides activities that are merely supplemental to the main text may be quizzable.

5. Book Format or Style

Layout

Sometimes the layout of a book presents a problem. This is most often seen in nonfiction books that use numerous text boxes and sidebars to convey information.

Unidentified Narrator

Texts with a speaker or narrator who is never identified can also present problems in formatting questions that will provide a valid, reliable assessment.

Too Many Selections

Books that present a large number of unrelated facts are often nonquizzable. The same holds true for books with a large number of unrelated short stories or poems.

Familiar Content

Stories and songs that are very familiar (such as nursery rhymes or popular folk songs) are often nonquizzable because the quiz could be passed by most students without reading the book.

Novelty Books

Novelty books, including rebus, puzzles, pick-your-own-ending, lift-the-flap, and pop-up books are usually nonquizzable. There is no guarantee that a student will read information that is concealed under a flap or in a pocket, and flaps can be removed or torn out with heavy use.

Distribution of Useful Material

Quizzable information must be distributed throughout the text. Quizzes will not be written on texts that present useful information on one or two pages only.

6. Poetry

Books with lyrical poetry and no plot, or with collections of poems with no story line to connect them, are usually nonquizzable.

7. Undefined Foreign Words

Books containing foreign words that are not defined in the text are often nonquizzable.