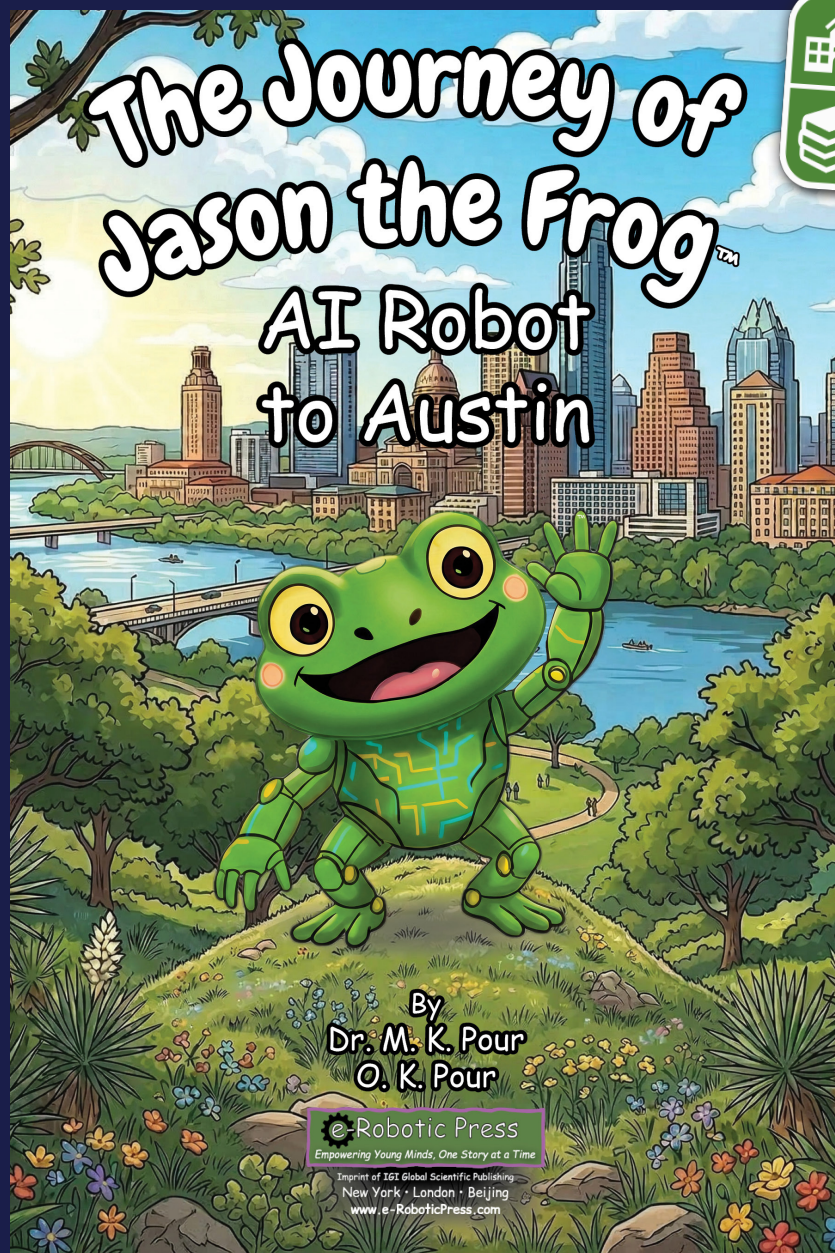


Educator Guide

Exploring Austin

With Jason the Frog



 APPEALS TO
3RD-6TH GRADERS

 READING LEVEL
GRADE 3

ISBN: 9781971794235

 **e-Robotic Press**
Empowering Young Minds, One Story at a Time

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www.e-RoboticPress.com

Dear Readers,

In today's rapidly evolving age of artificial intelligence (AI), many children are hearing about and discussing AI without truly understanding what it is or how it works. At the same time, many parents are wondering whether their children are learning enough about AI and its far-reaching impact on their lives. In other words: *Are we preparing our children for the challenges AI presents today—and the even greater challenges it will bring in the future?*

The primary goal of **The Journey of Jason the Frog™** books is to educate children and spark their curiosity by exploring geographic landscapes while introducing them to AI's history, core concepts, real-world applications, research, careers, and the many opportunities AI systems offer.

As a former technology professor at a major state university for more than 20 years—and now as a parent of two children, ages 9 and 6—my wife and I face the same challenge as many other parents: preparing our children to navigate a world increasingly shaped by AI. It is essential to recognize that the only way our children can truly benefit from AI technologies is by developing their own intellectual and analytical abilities. AI tools are, ultimately, just that—tools created by humans to enhance productivity and improve our lives.

As parents, we must remain mindful that if we do not encourage our children to strengthen their minds, they may struggle to keep up with these systems. We certainly don't want them to become dependent on AI or allow it to think on their behalf. Encourage your children to use their own brains—to solve problems, generate ideas, and think critically—rather than relying entirely on AI to do the thinking for them.

These challenges are real, and they are not easy. But we have no alternative. We want our children to create, control, and master AI systems—not to be controlled by them. Remember: knowledge is power!

Sincerely,
Dr. M. K. Pour



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The Mission of This Educator Guide

The mission of this Educator Guide is to extend the learning experience of *The Journey of Jason the Frog*[™] book series by providing educators, librarians, and families with engaging, age-appropriate activities that deepen children's understanding of geography, artificial intelligence (AI), and critical thinking. Designed to spark curiosity and meaningful discussion, the guide encourages young learners to explore how AI works, where it appears in everyday life, and how it can be used responsibly—while reinforcing the importance of independent thinking, creativity, and problem-solving alongside technology.



“ Finally something with real substance, not just pointless storyline. My child loved the book. The AI notes and Did you know? sections led to deep meaningful conversations we wouldn't have had otherwise. It turned reading time into learning time in the best way. Quality is great too, bright illustrations and cute characters. Highly recommend! ”

—Amazon Review



The Journey of Jason the Frog™ AI Robot to Austin

In *The Journey of Jason the Frog™ AI Robot to Austin*, young readers join Jason the Frog, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robot frog, on a lively adventure through Texas's capital city. Filled with engaging storytelling, clear definitions, fun facts, quiz questions, and an interactive activity, this book makes learning about music, nature, culture, and technology exciting and accessible for children.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the City

1. Austin's unofficial slogan is "Keep Austin Weird." What does this slogan suggest about the city's culture and creativity? How do the author's descriptions of music, art, and festivals support this idea?
2. Austin is located where the Hill Country meets the Prairies and Lakes region. How do the geographical features around Austin shape the city's landscape and outdoor activities?
3. The book explains that Austin has grown quickly and is home to people who speak English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. Why is diversity important to a city's culture and daily life? How might it influence food, music, and traditions?
4. Who lived in the Austin area before it became a city, and how did the settlement change after it was chosen as the capital of Texas? Why was its location important?
5. Austin is known as the "Live Music Capital of the World." Why do you think music plays such a big role in Austin's identity? How can music help bring people together in a city?

Reflection and Personal Connection

1. How do you think AI might change the way people learn, travel, or stay healthy in the future? Which changes seem most helpful or concerning?
2. After learning about Austin's culture, geography, and rapid growth, what stood out to you the most about the city? How does Austin seem similar to or different from your own community?

Technology and Critical Thinking

1. One AI Note explains that relying too much on AI can weaken creativity and memory. Why might it still be useful to use AI sometimes? When is it more useful for people rely on their own thinking?
2. The book describes AI being used for things like privacy protection, smart trash bins, and transportation planning. How could these tools improve life in a growing city like Austin?
3. One Future of AI sidebar explains how AI might help keep older adults safe using wearable technology. Why might cities and families benefit from these tools as their populations grow and age?
4. The book says that AI systems collect large amounts of data, and people don't always know how that data is used. Why is it important to be careful about what information we share online?
5. Several Future of AI sidebars show AI helping with education, healthcare, and everyday tasks. Which future AI idea from the book do you think would help people the most? Why?
6. Some AI systems are trained using data from the past, which may include mistakes or unfair patterns. How might biased or incomplete data affect AI decisions? What should humans do to make sure AI tools are fair and used responsibly?

Research Questions

1. Choose one Future of AI sidebar from the book. How close is this technology to being widely used today, and what problem does it solve?
2. How is AI currently used in the United States for traffic, transportation, or environmental protection? How does this compare to the book?
3. Research one type of data AI might use in a city like Austin. How could incorrect data cause problems?
4. Pick an Austin landmark (like the Texas State Capitol, Congress Avenue Bridge, or Zilker Park). How is AI used now—or how could it be used in the future—to manage or protect it?

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Writing and Extension Activities

AI City Helper

Imagine you are designing an AI system to help people living in Austin. What problem would it solve? Explain how this AI would help people in their everyday lives.

AI vs. Human Responsibilities Chart

Create a chart that compares tasks better suited for AI and tasks best handled by humans. Use at least two examples from the book.

Create Your Own Future of AI Sidebar

Write an original Future of AI sidebar that could be added to the Austin book. Describe a new way AI might help the city in 10, 50, or 100 years.

Future Austin Journal Entry

Write a journal entry set 50 years in the future. Describe a day in Austin and explain how AI has changed everyday life.

Technology Opinion Paragraph

Answer this question: *Should cities like Austin rely on AI to help manage transportation, public safety, or environmental protection?* Explain.

Jason the Frog Bonus Adventure

Write a short story about Jason the Frog and Max visiting an Austin landmark or festival. Include one real fact about Austin and one way AI helps them.

Key Vocabulary

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is when we teach computers to solve problems, make decisions, or help us—almost like they have a brain of their own.

Republic: A republic is a form of government where citizens elect representatives who follow a constitution.

Mosasaur: A mosasaur was a giant marine reptile that ruled the oceans during the Late Cretaceous period.

Natural Science: Natural Science is a branch of science focused on understanding the natural world.

Plateau: A plateau is a large, flat area of land that is higher than the surrounding terrain.

Quarry: A quarry is a large open pit where stone, rock, sand, or gravel is dug from the earth.

Cult Classic: A cult classic is a movie, book, or show that is not popular with everyone but is loved very strongly by a small group of fans.

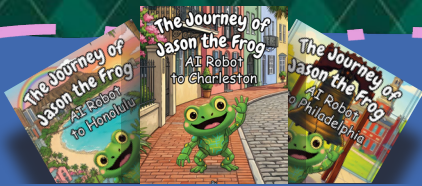
Graphic Design: Graphic design means creating visual content using images, text, and layout to communicate ideas.

Diversity: Diversity means having many different kinds of people, ideas, or things in one group or place.

Texas Longhorn: The Texas Longhorn is a breed of cattle known for its exceptionally long, curved horns.

Metro Rail: A metro rail is a fast, electric train system designed for city transportation.

Rodeo: A rodeo is a competitive event based on ranching traditions.



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AI Quiz

Instructions: Complete the quiz below based on the information provided in the book's AI Notes.

1. What is one possible effect of relying too heavily on AI?

- A) Stronger imagination and faster thinking
- B) Improved emotional understanding
- C) Weakened memory and reduced creativity
- D) Better social skills

2. How do AI-enhanced privacy systems help companies?

- A) By blocking all internet activity
- B) By detecting and reporting suspicious behavior
- C) By storing passwords for employees
- D) By replacing company security teams

3. According to the book, what is a major limitation of generative AI?

- A) It cannot analyze large amounts of data
- B) It understands emotions better than humans
- C) It doesn't understand social or emotional context
- D) It refuses to make predictions

4. Why should you be careful about what you share with AI?

- A) AI systems forget information quickly
- B) AI systems only collect local data
- C) AI systems can use data for anything
- D) AI systems only work with permission

5. How do some professional athletes use AI systems?

- A) To replace coaches during games
- B) To control other teams' strategies
- C) To test hypothetical situations and choices
- D) To play games automatically for them

6. How do AI-assisted Smart Bins help trash collection companies?

- A) They recycle trash automatically
- B) They sort garbage by material
- C) They alert workers when bins are full
- D) They reduce the need for trash bins

7. What is one risk of AI gathering data from past information?

- A) The data disappears too quickly
- B) The data may include errors or unfair patterns
- C) The data can only be used once
- D) The data always improves accuracy

8. Who uses AI to help companies protect private information?

- A) Customers
- B) Maintenance crews
- C) Data Protection Officers
- D) Administrative assistants

9. What does the book say about AI collecting data?

- A) AI only collects data from schools
- B) AI always explains how it uses information
- C) AI collects data from many places
- D) AI systems stop collecting data after training

10. How does the book explain what deep learning is?

- A) AI that follows fixed rules
- B) AI that understands emotions
- C) AI that learns patterns from lots of data
- D) AI that learns from only one data type

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Fun With Jason the Frog

Instructions: Can you help Jason the Frog find all of the words from his Austin adventure? Look closely!

Jason the Frog's

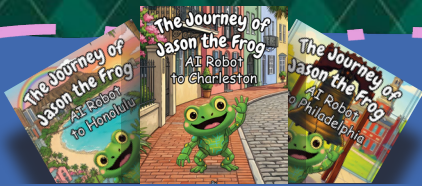
Austin Adventure Crossword

Down:

1. Flowing water that runs through Austin.
3. The name of the river in Austin.
5. Animals that fly out from a famous bridge at sunset in Austin.
7. The capital city of Texas in this book.

Across:

2. Austin is known as the "Live _____ Capital of the World."
4. Austin's original name before it was called Austin.
6. An Indigenous tribe that lived in the Austin area long ago.
8. The state where Austin is located.



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About the Authors

Dr. M. K. Pour, DBA, MS, MBA is an educator, author, and publishing leader with a lifelong passion for learning and knowledge sharing. Throughout his academic career, he has been deeply committed to helping students develop strong analytical and critical thinking skills—an approach that continues to shape his work today.

His professional life has been dedicated to advancing research, education, and ethical knowledge dissemination across disciplines. Over the course of his scholarly publishing career, he has authored and/or edited numerous peer-reviewed articles and books, including his 10-volume reference work, [*Encyclopedia of Modern Artificial Intelligence*](#). In addition, he has served as Editor-in-Chief or founding Editor-in-Chief of many respected academic journals, contributing significantly to the global scholarly community.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. M. K. Pour is also a devoted father of two young children. As both a longtime professor and a parent, he understands the challenges families face in preparing children for a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence (AI). While children hear about AI every day, many lack a clear, age-appropriate understanding of what it is, how it works, and how it should be used responsibly.

The Journey of Jason the Frog™ series was created from this dual perspective—as an educator and as a parent. The books are designed to spark curiosity, strengthen intellectual independence, and encourage children to think critically while learning about geography, technology, and the real-world applications of AI. Dr. M. K. Pour believes that AI should empower children—not replace their thinking—and that true preparation for the future begins with nurturing young minds to question, explore, and learn.

O. K. Pour, MA, MBA developed a love of reading at an early age—a passion that continues to form both her personal and professional life. As an avid traveler and lifelong learner, she firmly believes in the power of education to open doors, spark curiosity, and inspire confidence.

She holds a Bachelor degree in Accounting, a Master of Arts degree in the field of linguistics, and a Master of Business Administration. Her background in finance and business management has strengthened her leadership skills and deepened the appreciation for thoughtful planning and informed decision-making qualities that are increasingly important in a world that is being transformed by artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. These experiences encouraged Mrs. Pour to look beyond her professional work and begin a new journey as a researcher and writer.

Writing for young readers allows her to combine the love of learning with a desire to encourage curiosity, resilience, and humanity in children. Mrs. Pour hopes that every reader walks away with something useful—whether it is a new idea, a sense of possibility, or encouragement to keep asking questions.

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An Interview With O. K. Pour

Q: What inspired you to help create *The Journey of Jason the Frog*TM book series, and why did you feel it was important to introduce topics like AI to children?

A: The inspiration came from several aspects of my life: my professional experience as a Chief Strategy Officer at a scientific publishing house, my own continuous learning mindset, and my life as a parent watching how early my children began interacting with technology and even discussing AI among themselves.

I realized that children are growing up surrounded by AI-driven or soon-to-be AI-driven technologies, yet their understanding of them is often framed by mystery or fantasy. Jason the Frog was born from the idea that complex concepts don't have to be intimidating or abstract.

In *The Journey of Jason the Frog*TM, young readers follow a curious robot frog who learns through machine learning and needs large amounts of data to train his AI. Max, the creator's son and Jason the Frog's best friend, takes him on different adventures where they explore cities, landmarks, animals, and geography. Along the way, we include carefully curated AI notes and Future of AI sidebars to introduce AI technology at present and in its future applications. This approach gives children an understanding that AI is a tool designed by people, so they can feel empowered rather than overwhelmed.

Q: As both an author and a parent, what do you believe children need most when learning about technology and AI today?

A: Above all, children need context and a safe space to ask questions. Research shows that understanding develops best when new information is connected to real-world storytelling. From a parent's perspective, I also see how quickly children lose interest when a story fails to fully capture their attention. Blending a nonfiction narrative with just a touch of age-appropriate descriptions of technology creates a kind of combination that keeps children engaged and curious.

Young children don't need technical depth; they need a simple, foundational understanding of what technology can do, what it cannot do, and why humans must remain responsible for the choices behind it. To reinforce this sense of human control and accountability, each book includes both a warning note and an inspiration note. This approach is especially important when introducing AI, as children should be reminded that creativity, empathy, and judgment are uniquely human qualities and that technology is most effective when guided by these traits.

Lastly, AI is not a passing trend. Despite some skepticism or denial, AI is here to stay, and it will become an integral part of our children's lives. Preparing them with understanding and ethical awareness is not an option, it is a necessity.

Q: The books encourage curiosity and critical thinking. How can parents and educators use stories like Jason the Frog to help children ask better questions about the world around them?

A: The stories of Jason the Frog create a safe space for learning, not only in the field of technology, but also across subjects such as domestic and international travel, biology, archaeology, and space exploration (with many more topics to come!). When children follow a character like Jason the Frog, they naturally begin to understand that the world is a big place, and that it takes many different kinds of people and technology to make it function.

To support this learning, we have developed free supplemental materials for parents and educators that offer guidance on how to use *The Journey of Jason the Frog™* at home or in classroom settings. Both parents and teachers are encouraged to pause during or after the story to ask open-ended questions, such as:

- What do you think would happen if the technology worked differently?
- Why is the city we are reading about called "XYZ?" How does the book show how the city's past and present exist together today?
- How do food, celebrations, or sports help people feel connected to the city?

These discussions don't require right or wrong answers. Their purpose is to help children think critically about what they are reading by questioning assumptions, considering alternatives, and making connections across different subjects.

Q: What is one misconception about AI that you think is especially important to clarify for young learners?

A: In my opinion, one of the most important misconceptions to address is the idea that AI "thinks" or "decides" independently like a human. AI is not capable of these skills, at least not yet, if ever. For young learners, it is crucial to understand that AI doesn't have emotions, intentions, or morals. It doesn't "know" things the way people do, it follows instructions and patterns created by humans. When this distinction isn't clear, children overestimate AI's abilities and underestimate human responsibility. By clarifying that people design, train, and guide AI systems, we help children understand accountability and ethics. They learn that technology reflects human choices and that those choices matter.

Q: What do you hope readers take away from reading this book series, not just about AI, geography, or animals, but about learning itself?

A: Across our books, we touch on many topics including conservation of landmarks and endangered animal species, emerging careers that do not yet exist, and the evolving relationship between people, technology, and the planet to reinforce the idea that the future is not something to fear, but something to embrace. More than anything, I hope young readers take away the idea that learning is an ongoing journey, not a final destination. Whether they are learning about AI, geography, or a completely different subject, the habit of curiosity will serve them for life. I also hope they come away with confidence that big ideas are accessible, that learning is a privilege, and that each of them have a role to play in shaping the future of the world.

Coming Soon:

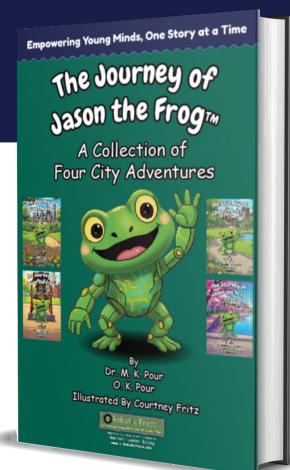
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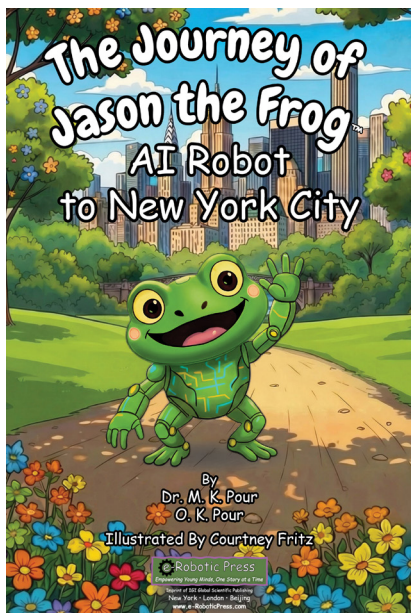
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Praise for *The Journey of Jason the Frog™*



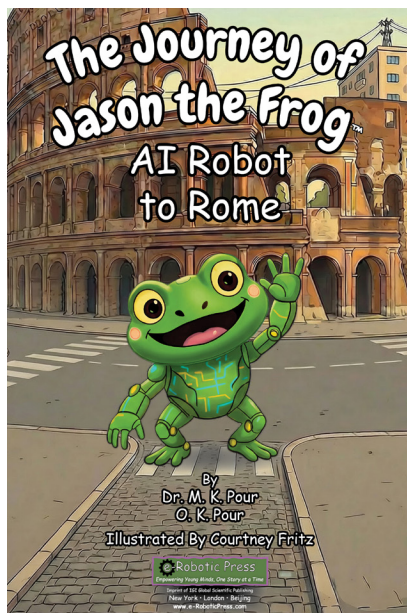
ISBN: 9781971794006

“As a mother of two young boys, it can be difficult to find books that strike the perfect balance between engaging characters and facts that are meaningful, interesting, and educational. The Journey of Jason the Frog books do exactly that, while also making travel and learning feel exciting, approachable, and fun for children.”

—Amazon Review

“Our whole family loves this series. Navigating AI is hard enough as an adult—trying to explain it to kids is a whole different challenge. Jason’s journey makes everything feel fun, clear, and surprisingly easy to understand. We’ve really enjoyed it and found it genuinely helpful.”

—Amazon Review



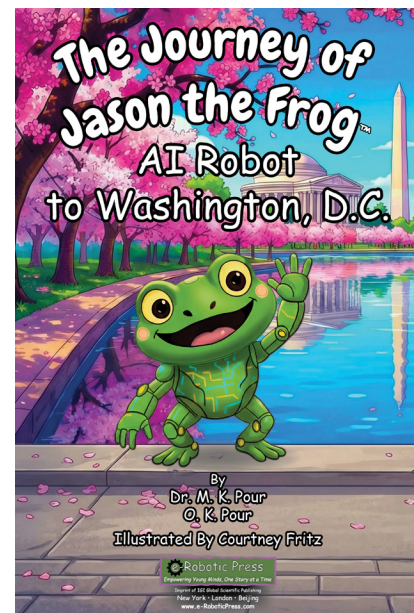
ISBN: 9781971794112

“As a homeschool mom, I think this book is excellent! It provides a lot of information about Rome and AI at a level that kids can understand. It’s well organized, and the characters are fun. The artwork is very well done, and my grandkids love looking through the pictures and finding details. I would use these books as an elementary geography course.”

—Amazon Review

“Finally something with real substance, not just pointless storyline. My child loved the book. The AI notes and Did you know? sections led to deep meaningful conversations we wouldn’t have had otherwise. It turned reading time into learning time in the best way. Quality is great too, bright illustrations and cute characters. Highly recommend!”

—Amazon Review



ISBN: 9781971794044

“I bought this book to try it out, as my child has been asking a lot of questions about AI, and I’m glad I did! The book is very educational and engaging, with interesting facts about cities and landmarks. It’s also not just a one-time read—kids can come back to it and keep learning. I’m definitely planning to order more from this series. Highly recommend!”

—Amazon Review

“I just finished reading Jason the Frog to Washington, D.C. with my kids, and I absolutely loved it! The story is charming and educational, and Illustrations are vibrant. The bonus AI Quiz at the end had us all laughing, some of the answers were hilarious. A wonderful book that keeps kids engaged!”

—Amazon Review

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