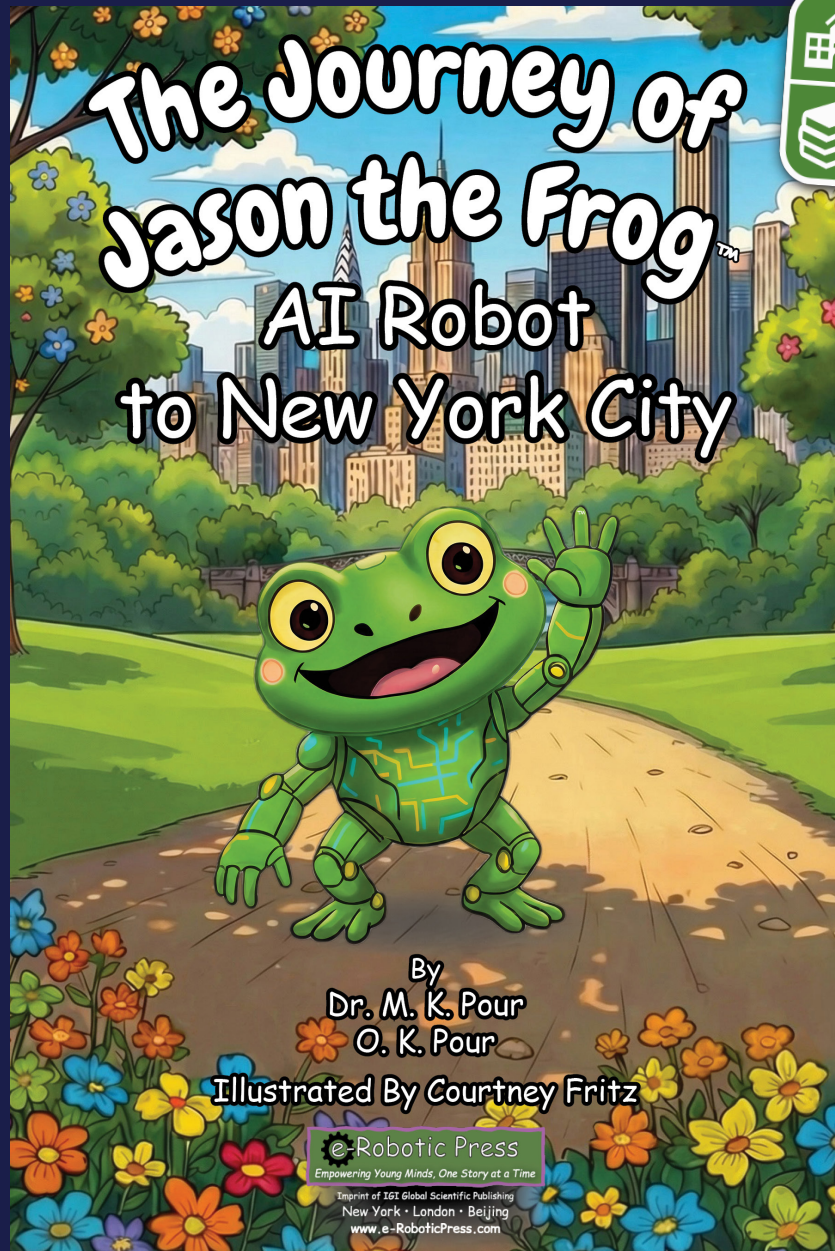


Educator Guide

Exploring New York City With Jason the Frog



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Empowering Young Minds, One Story at a Time

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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 New York City

In *The Journey of Jason the Frog™ AI Robot to New York City*, young readers join Jason the Frog, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robot frog, on his first big adventure to the city where he was created—New York City. Filled with engaging storytelling, clear definitions, fun facts, quiz questions, and an interactive activity, this book makes learning about science, nature, culture, and technology exciting and accessible for children.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the City

1. Why is New York City called the Big Apple? How does the author describe the city's energy and excitement?
2. How did rivers, oceans, and glaciers help shape New York City? Why was strong bedrock important for building tall skyscrapers?
3. Who lived on the land before New York City existed? How did the city change after Dutch and British settlers arrived?
4. The book says people in New York City speak over 800 languages. Why do you think so many different cultures are represented there?
5. Why do most New Yorkers rely on the subway and public transportation instead of cars? How does public transportation help a large city such as New York work smoothly?

Reflection and Personal Connection

1. Do you think AI will benefit society in the long run? How? Why or why not?
2. If you lived in or visited New York City, what part of the city would you be most excited to explore, and why? How do you think technology or AI might help make that experience better or safer?

Technology and Critical Thinking

1. The book explains that AI learns from pictures, words, and sounds through multimodal learning. How is this similar to the way people learn? How is it different?
2. One AI Note mentions that the term “Artificial Intelligence” was first used in 1955. Why do you think people have been interested in intelligent machines for so long?
3. Several Future of AI sidebars describe ways AI might help society, such as checking for fake videos or helping doctors with surgery. Which future use of AI do you think would help people the most? Why?
4. The book suggests that specially designed AI systems could help cities manage traffic and plan routes. How might this improve life in a busy place like New York City?
5. One Future of AI sidebar talks about teaching students how to use AI safely and check its answers. Why is it important not to trust AI blindly?
6. Can you think of a problem in your school, town, or city that AI might help solve in the future? What would the AI need to learn in order to help?

Research Questions

1. Choose one Future of AI sidebar from the book and research how close scientists are to making this idea real today.
2. Pick a famous New York City landmark and research whether AI is used to help maintain, protect, or manage it.
3. Find out how AI “learns.” What kinds of data does it need, and who decides what information it uses?
4. Research a current way AI is used in your city (traffic systems, weather prediction, public safety, or transportation). How is it similar to or different from the examples in the book?

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Writing and Extension Activities

AI City Planner

Imagine you are designing an AI to help New York City. What problem would it solve, and how would it help people stay safe and organized?

AI vs. Human Chart

Make a chart and list tasks that are better for AI and tasks that should be done by people. Explain your choices.

Create Your Own Future of AI Sidebar

Write an original Future of AI sidebar that could be added to the book. Explain a new or future way AI could help the world in 10, 50, or 100 years.

Future of AI Journal Entry

Write a journal entry set 20 years in the future. Describe how AI has changed life in a city like New York City.

Technology Opinion Paragraph

Answer this question: *Should AI make important decisions for people?* Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Design a Smart Neighborhood

Design a smart neighborhood using technology or AI, and explain how it helps people and stays under human control.

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.

Infrastructure: Infrastructure is all the important things a community needs to work properly, like roads, bridges, schools, water pipes, electricity, and buses or trains.

Settlement: A settlement is a place where people start a new community. Long ago, settlers built homes and towns in new areas.

University: A university is a school where people go after high school to study many subjects and earn degrees.

Borough: A borough is like a big neighborhood or section of a city.

Observation Deck: An observation deck is a place near the top of a tall building where people can look out and see the city below.

Subway: A subway is an underground train that people use to travel around the city. It's like a fast bus that goes under the ground instead of on the street.

Parade: A parade is a big celebration where people walk or ride down the street in a line, often with music, colorful costumes, and floats. Sometimes there are balloons and dancers.

Compote: A compote is a sweet sauce made by cooking fruit with a little sugar. It is often spooned over foods like cheesecake, pancakes, or ice cream.

Stadium: A stadium is a big outdoor or indoor place where people go to watch sports games, concerts, or other events.

Film: Film (verb) means to use a camera to make a movie or video of something.

Skyscraper: A skyscraper is a very tall building that looks like it touches the sky. People live, work, and visit inside these giant buildings.



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AI Quiz

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

1. Who asked the question “Can machines think?” in 1950?

- A) John McCarthy
- B) Alan Turing
- C) Joseph Weizenbaum
- D) Garry Kasparov

2. What did Alan Turing make to see if machines could think?

- A) A robot
- B) A computer game
- C) A test
- D) A book

3. What does AI learn from to get smarter?

- A) Only numbers
- B) Pictures, words, and sounds
- C) Books only
- D) People's feelings

4. Learning from pictures, words, and sounds is called:

- A) Fast learning
- B) Robot learning
- C) Multimodal learning
- D) Memory learning

5. Who first used the term “Artificial Intelligence” in 1955?

- A) Alan Turing
- B) John McCarthy
- C) Bill Gates
- D) Joseph Weizenbaum

6. How would you define artificial intelligence (AI)?

- A) Making machines sleep
- B) Making machines play games only
- C) Making machines do things that need thinking
- D) Making machines look human

7. Long ago, what did people imagine in stories and myths?

- A) Flying cars
- B) Smart phones
- C) Robot helpers
- D) Computers

8. What was ELIZA, made in the 1960s?

- A) A robot dog
- B) A chess computer
- C) A talking computer program
- D) A video game

9. What showed how smart computers were in 1997?

- A) They could write stories
- B) They could paint pictures
- C) They could beat the world chess champion
- D) They could build computers

10. What can generative AI make using what it learns?

- A) Only math problems
- B) Stories, pictures, music, and code
- C) Food recipes only
- D) Robots

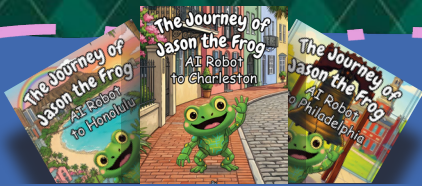
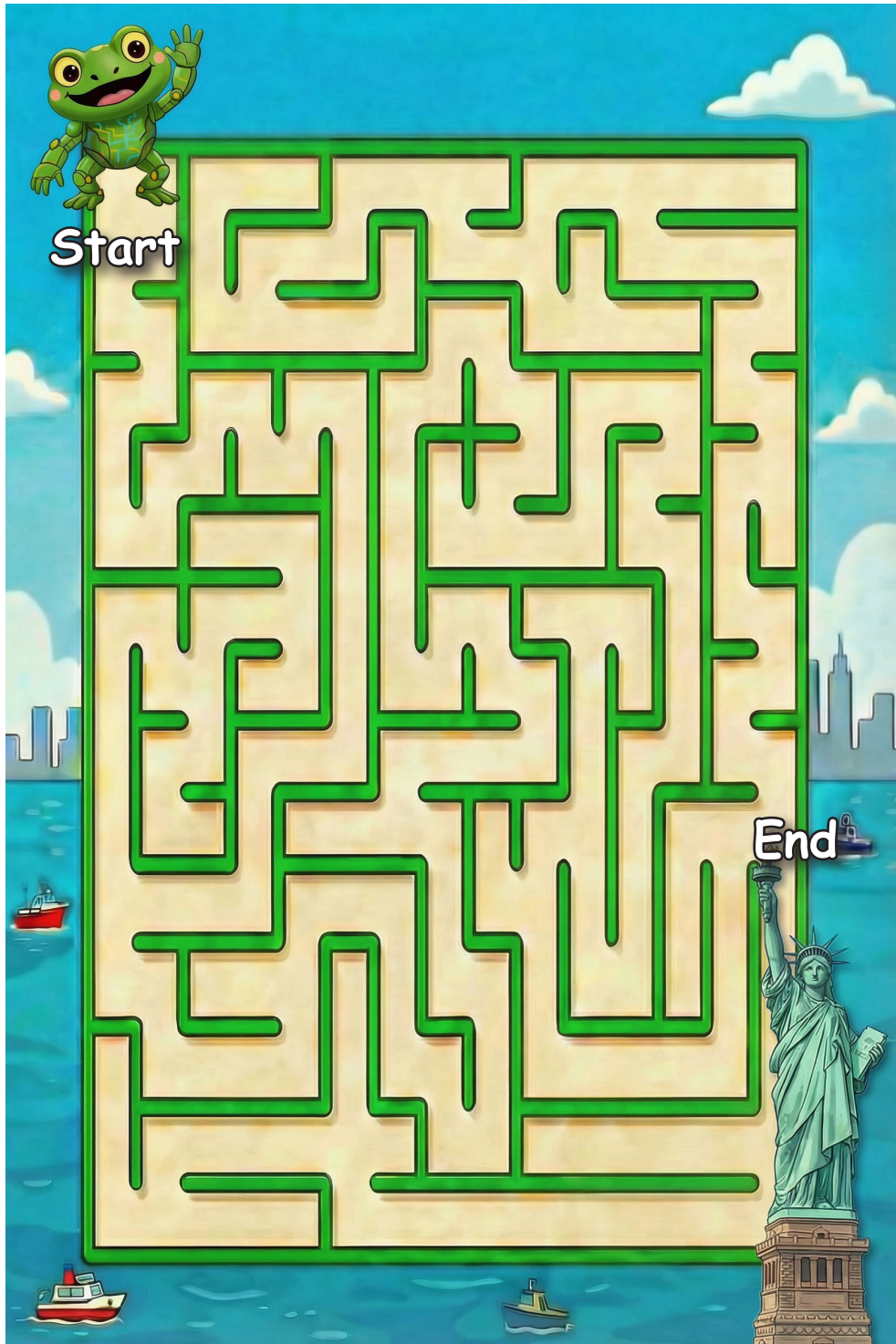
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Fun With Jason the Frog

Instructions: Can you help Jason the Frog on his journey to the Statue of Liberty? Draw his path!



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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*[™] 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*[™], 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:

***The Journey of Jason the Frog™* Volume Sets**

Four Hardcover Adventures in Every Volume

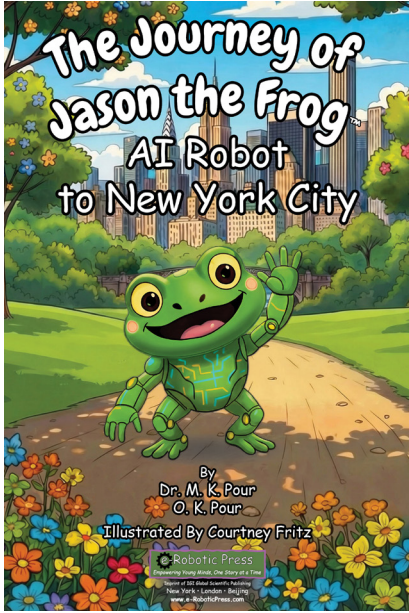
Explore more in one go with our upcoming bundled collections, featuring four complete city adventures per set—perfect for curious kids who love learning through travel, culture, and technology.

Upcoming Collections Include:

New York City • Boston • Philadelphia • Washington, D.C.
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...and more adventures on the way!



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



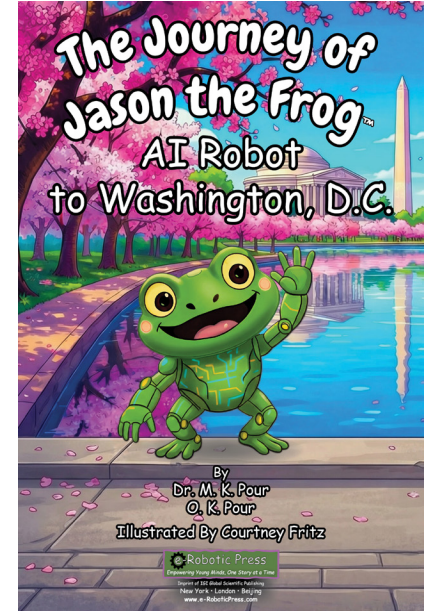
ISBN: 9781971794112

“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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