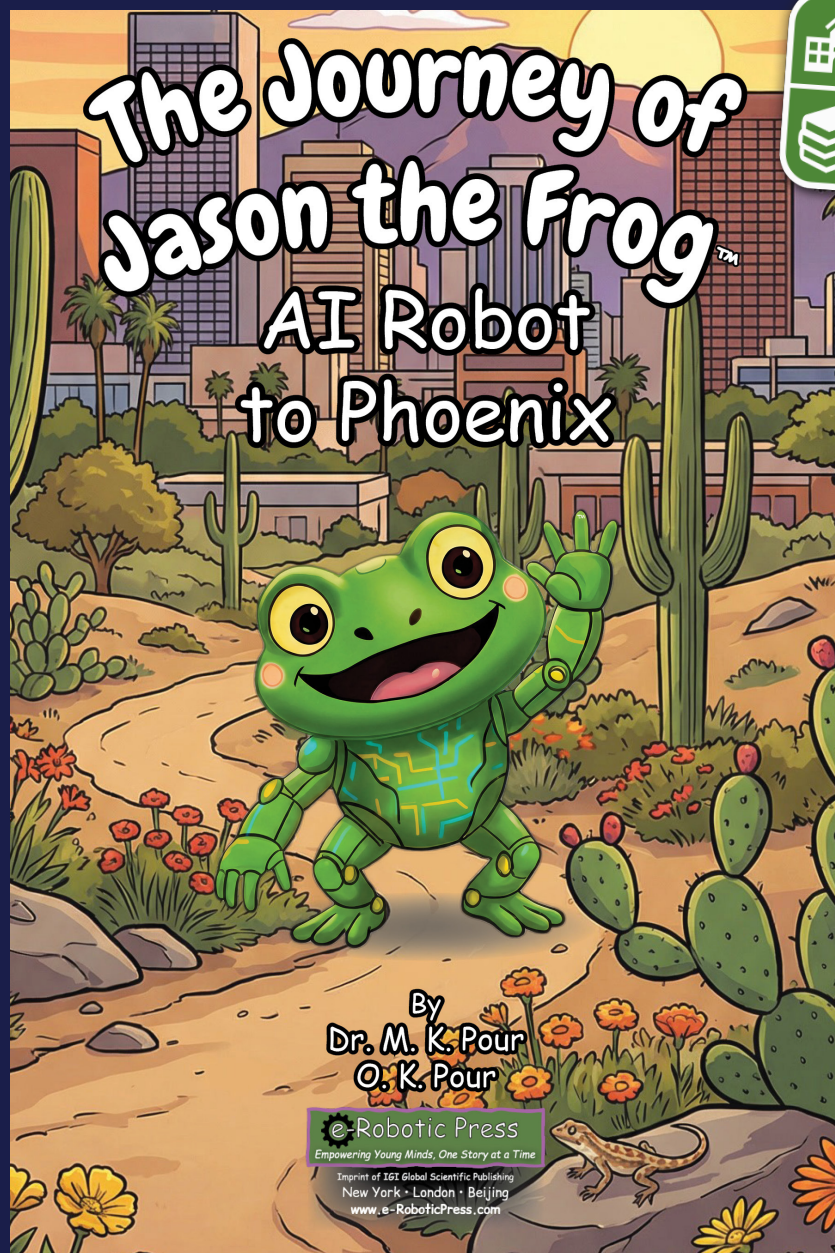


# Educator Guide

## Exploring Phoenix

### With Jason the Frog



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**e-Robotic Press**  
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*<sup>™</sup> 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 Phoenix

In *The Journey of Jason the Frog™ AI Robot to Phoenix*, young readers join Jason the Frog, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robot frog, on an exciting adventure through one of the sunniest cities in the United States. Filled with engaging storytelling, clear definitions, fun facts, quiz questions, and an interactive activity, this book makes learning about nature, culture, technology, and city life exciting and accessible for children.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the City

1. Phoenix is called the “Valley of the Sun” and is located in the Sonoran Desert. How do you think living in a hot, sunny desert affects how people build cities. How do you think it affects their day-to-day lives?
2. How is the land in Phoenix different from surrounding areas? How do major geographical features like the mountains help shape the city’s climate?
3. The book says that Phoenix is home to many different people who speak English, Spanish, and Native American languages. Why are these languages important to the city’s history? What are some ways that different cultures can impact a city?
4. Who were the first known people to live in the Phoenix area? Why were they important? How do they impact the lives of people who live in Phoenix today?
5. Phoenix was named after the mythical phoenix, a bird that rises from its ashes. Do you think this name makes sense based on the city’s history? Why or why not?

### Technology and Critical Thinking

1. The book explains that AI gives answers by finding patterns in information, not by thinking like humans. Why is this difference important? Do you think this difference matters when AI is used to help people?
2. Phoenix is a very hot desert city. How could AI help people stay safe in extreme heat? How could this technology be helpful for people living in the opposite climate, like a cold city?
3. One AI Note mentions that relying too much on AI can weaken memory and creativity. What are some case where using AI can be beneficial? What are some cases where it can be harmful?
4. The book explains that AI can make predictions based on past information. How could AI be helpful in planning things like transportation, events, or new buildings in a growing city like Phoenix?
5. In the desert, water is one of the most valuable resources. How could AI help protect water in a dry place like Phoenix? Why is it important for people to make smart choices about how water is used?
6. One Future of AI sidebar talks about how AI may be able to help students practice music by listening and giving feedback on their performances. How do you think learning from AI would be different from learning from a human teacher? When would a human instructor be more helpful?

### Reflection and Personal Connection

1. How do you think AI might affect the way people learn, work, or solve problems in the future? What are some ways people can use AI responsibly?
2. If you lived in or visited Phoenix, what would you find most interesting or challenging about living in a desert city? How do you think technology or AI could help people stay safe, conserve water, or adapt to the heat?

## Research Questions

1. Choose one Future of AI sidebar from the book (such as AI helping with heat safety, farming, or music learning). Research how this technology is being tested or used today. What problems is it meant to solve, and what challenges still exist?
2. Phoenix is a desert city where water is very important. Research how AI is currently used to manage water resources, droughts, or irrigation in Arizona or another desert region. How does this compare to the irrigation systems described in the book.
3. The book explains that AI learns by finding patterns in large amounts of data. Research one type of data AI might use in a city like Phoenix (such as weather, traffic, or energy use). Where does this data come from, and how can mistakes in data affect AI decisions?
4. Pick a famous Phoenix landmark (such as Camelback Mountain, the Phoenix Zoo, Sky Harbor Airport, or the Arizona Capitol). Research whether AI is used to help protect, manage, or operate this place today, or how it could be used in the future.

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# Writing and Extension Activities

## AI Desert Helper

Imagine you are designing an AI system to help people living in Phoenix. What problem would it solve? How would it help people in their everyday lives?

## AI vs. Human Responsibilities Chart

Create a chart that compares tasks better suited for AI and tasks that should be handled by humans. Explain using examples from the book.

## Create Your Own Future of AI Sidebar

Write an original Future of AI sidebar that could be added to this book. Describe a new or future way AI could help people in Phoenix 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 desert city such as Phoenix.

## Technology Opinion Paragraph

Answer this question: *Should cities rely on AI to help manage things like transportation or public safety?* Use examples from the book to support your answer.

## 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.

**Irrigation Canal System:** An irrigation canal system is a set of man-made channels that help bring water to dry areas so people can grow crops and live there.

**Erosion:** Erosion is the process where wind, water, or ice slowly wears away rocks, soil, or land and carries the pieces to another place.

**Light Rails:** Light rails are electric trains that run on ground-level tracks through cities and suburbs.

**Folk Dancing:** Folk dancing is a traditional style of dance from a specific culture, region, or tribe.

**Career:** A career is a job or type of work that a person chooses to do for a long time.

**Theater:** A theater is a building where performances are shown.

**Pillar:** A pillar is a tall, strong, upright support that helps hold up a building. Pillars are often made of stone or metal and can be both decorative and functional.

**Cacti:** Cacti are plants that grow in dry, desert environments. They store water inside their thick stems and often have spines instead of leaves to protect themselves.

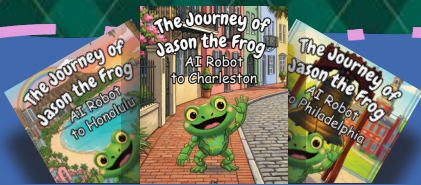
**Charm:** Charm is a special quality that makes a person, place, or thing pleasant, interesting, or fun to be around.

**Wood-Fired:** Wood-fired is a style of cooking that uses burning wood as the heat source.

**Aerial:** Aerial refers to something happening in the air or viewed from above.

**Tournament:** A tournament is a series of games played to determine a winner.

**Botanical:** Botanical means anything about plants, like how plants grow, look, or live.



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# AI Quiz

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

## 1. How do AI systems give answers to questions?

- A) By understanding emotions
- B) By thinking like humans
- C) By predicting patterns in data
- D) By using personal opinions

## 2. What can AI help control in some smart homes?

- A) School schedules
- B) Video games
- C) Heating, cooling, and lights
- D) Internet passwords

## 3. What is one problem with relying too much on AI?

- A) It improves creativity
- B) It weakens memory skills
- C) It speeds up learning
- D) It increases imagination

## 4. How can AI be used in music performances?

- A) To replace musicians
- B) To play instruments alone
- C) To add lights and sound effects
- D) To write song lyrics

## 5. How do modern AI systems first learn?

- A) By guessing randomly
- B) By studying large amounts of data
- C) By copying human behavior
- D) By memorizing rules

## 6. What is AI ethics about, and why is it important?

- A) Making AI faster and stronger
- B) Teaching AI new and exciting languages
- C) Using AI in a responsible way
- D) Turning AI off and back on

## 7. How is AI used in the movie industry?

- A) To act in movies
- B) To film scenes alone
- C) To predict what audiences like
- D) To sell movie tickets

## 8. How do AI systems compare to human thinking?

- A) They understand emotions
- B) They think the same as humans
- C) They predict answers using patterns
- D) They form personal opinions

## 9. How does the book define artificial intelligence (AI)?

- A) When computers learn human emotions
- B) When computers think exactly like people
- C) When computers are taught to make decisions
- D) When computers control the internet

## 10. Why don't AI systems truly think like humans?

- A) They lack physical brains and bodies
- B) They can only respond using learned patterns
- C) They cannot access new information
- D) They refuse to make decisions

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# Fun With Jason the Frog

Instructions: Can you find all the words from Jason the Frog's Phoenix adventure? Look closely!



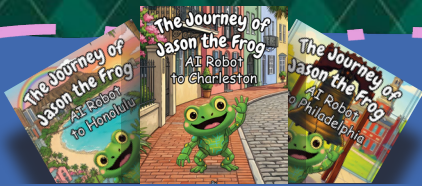
**Jason the Frog's  
Phoenix Word Search**

p m o u n t a i n s e d  
a c a m e l b a c k h e  
l c a c t u s n p l e s  
m q y a a r i z o n a e  
s a g u a r o k f r t r  
j k b p h o e n i x j t  
o e p v a l l e y s i s  
v b s u n s h i n e z i

 **Phoenix**  
**Arizona**  
 **Desert**

 **Cactus**  
**Camelback**  
 **Sunshine**  
**Heat**

**Valley**  
**Mountains**  
 **Saguaro**



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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*<sup>™</sup> 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*<sup>™</sup>, 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**

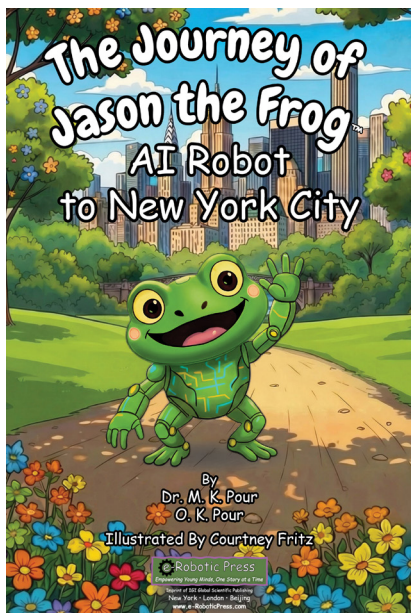
Explore more in one go with our upcoming bundled collections, featuring four complete city adventures per set—perfect for curious kids who love learning through travel, culture, and technology.

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...and more adventures on the way!



# Praise for *The Journey of Jason the Frog™*



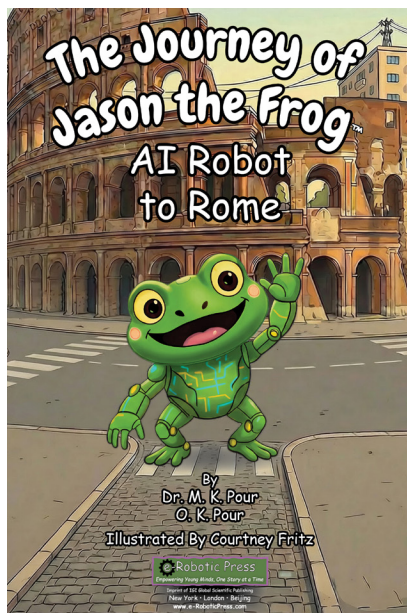
ISBN: 9781971794006

*“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**



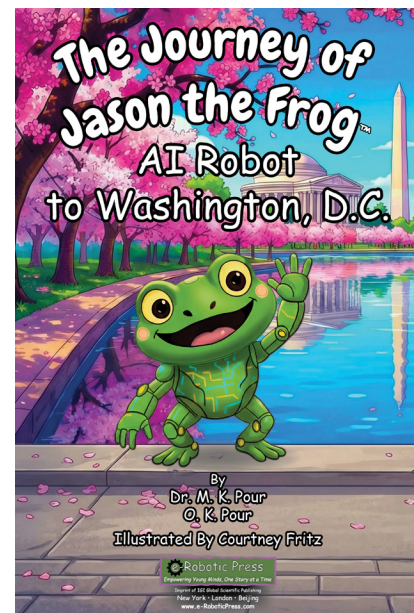
ISBN: 9781971794112

*“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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