

Educator Guide

Exploring the World of Polar Bears With Jason the Frog



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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



Table of Contents

Discussion Questions	4
Research Questions	4
Writing and Extension Activities	5
Key Vocabulary	5
AI Quiz	6
Fun With Jason the Frog.....	7
About the Authors	8
Interview With O. K. Pour	9
Praise for <i>The Journey of Jason the Frog</i> [™]	11
List of Distributors.....	12

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 animals, 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 Explore the World of Polar Bears

In *The Journey of Jason the Frog™ AI Robot to Explore the World of Polar Bears*, young readers join Jason the Frog, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robot frog, as he learns all about polar bears. Filled with clear definitions, fun facts, quiz questions, and a hands-on activity, this book makes learning about polar bears, ecosystems, science, and technology engaging and accessible for young explorers.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Animal

1. Polar bears are the largest carnivorous land animals. What physical features help them survive in extreme Arctic conditions?
2. Why are polar bears called “marine mammals,” even though they look like land animals?
3. Where do polar bears live, and how does sea ice affect their hunting and movement?
4. How do polar bear cubs survive during their first months of life, and why are mother bears so important during this time?
5. How do polar bears communicate without words? Which behavior surprised you the most?
6. Why is climate change such a serious threat to polar bears, especially when it comes to their food and habitat?

Reflection and Personal Connection

1. Polar bears have special adaptations that help them survive in very cold environments. Which polar bear trait do you find most interesting or impressive, and why?
2. Which AI Note from the book connects most closely to your own life? Explain your choice.

Technology and Critical Thinking

1. One AI Note explains that AI systems can learn by recognizing patterns in large amounts of information. How is this similar to the way humans learn? How is it different?
2. The book includes examples of AI-powered dishwashers, toothbrushes, and recycling systems. How do these technologies help save energy and resources?
3. One AI Note warns users not to share personal information with AI tools. Why is this an important rule for using technology safely?
4. Several Future of AI sidebars show how AI could help scientists, astronauts, or environmental workers. Which future use of AI do you think would be most helpful, and why?
5. How could AI technologies described in the book help protect animals like polar bears and reduce human impact on the environment?
6. Why is it important to check AI-generated information instead of assuming it is always correct? What are some ways people can check generated information?

Research Questions

1. Choose one Future of AI idea from the book and research how scientists or engineers are working toward this goal today.
2. Research how technology, such as tracking collars or collecting environmental DNA, is used to study or protect polar bears in the wild.
3. Find out how AI systems learn from data. Why is it important for humans to decide what kinds of data AI uses?
4. Research how climate change affects Arctic ecosystems and how AI might help scientists predict or reduce these effects.

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Writing and Extension Activities

AI Conservation Helper

Design an AI system that could help protect polar bears and their Arctic habitat. What would it track? How would it help scientists or conservation workers?

Human and AI Roles Chart

Create a chart showing tasks best handled by humans and tasks best handled by AI to help in animal research or conservation. Use examples from the book.

Create Your Own Future of AI Sidebar

Write an original Future of AI sidebar about animals that could be added to this book. Describe how it might be able to help animals or people in the future.

Future Scientist Journal

Write a journal entry set 50 years in the future describing how AI helps scientists study animals such as polar bears.

Technology Opinion Paragraph

Answer this question: *Should AI be used to help make important decisions about wildlife and the environment?* Use examples from the book to explain.

Design a Smart Habitat

Design a smart habitat for polar bears using technology or AI, and explain how it helps polar bears 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.

Guard Hairs: Guard hairs are the long, thick outer hairs that protect a bear's skin and keep warmth inside.

Starvation: Starvation is serious harm or death caused by not having enough food for a long time.

Ecosystem An ecosystem is a place where plants, animals, and other living things interact with each other and with their environment.

Hybrid: A hybrid is an animal born from two different kinds of parents.

Litter: A litter is a group of baby animals born at the same time.

Marine Mammal: A marine mammal is a warm-blooded animal that breathes air and depends on the ocean for survival.

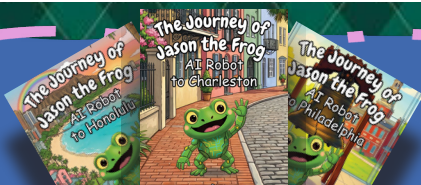
Arctic Circle: The Arctic Circle is an imaginary line that marks the boundary of the Arctic region around the North Pole.

Gait: A gait is the pattern or style of movement an animal uses when it walks or moves to another place.

Climate Change: Climate change is a long-term change in Earth's temperature and weather patterns, mainly caused by human activities.

Den: A den is a sheltered place where animals rest or raise their young.

Prey: Prey is an animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal for food.



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AI Quiz

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

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

- A) When computers are taught to solve problems
- B) When robots replace humans in everyday jobs
- C) When machines only store information
- D) When computers behave exactly like humans

2. What is an important rule for using AI safely?

- A) Share personal details so AI can learn faster
- B) Never share personal information with AI tools
- C) Always trust AI answers and don't check them
- D) Keep AI use a secret from adults

3. How do AI-powered dishwashers help the environment?

- A) They use more water to clean dishes
- B) They adjust settings based on how dirty dishes are
- C) They wash dishes by using hotter temperatures
- D) They clean faster by skipping normal wash cycles

4. How do some artists use AI-powered robotic arms?

- A) The robots finish artwork without human help
- B) The robots shape materials before artists add details
- C) The robots decide what artwork should look like
- D) The robots replace artists in creative work

5. How does AI help architects restore old buildings?

- A) By removing damaged buildings completely
- B) By scanning damage and showing repair ideas
- C) By rebuilding structures without human input
- D) By designing new buildings instead of old ones

6. How does AI help people with limited movement use computers?

- A) By speaking instructions out loud computers
- B) By tracking eye movements to control screens
- C) By using voice commands only
- D) By typing automatically without user input

7. How can AI help firefighters stay safe?

- A) By sending robots to put out fires alone
- B) By predicting how fires will spread
- C) By controlling fire trucks remotely
- D) By replacing firefighters during emergencies

8. Why does AI still depend on humans for some tasks?

- A) AI can think and feel emotions like humans
- B) AI can't understand emotions and feelings
- C) AI can learn without any human guidance
- D) AI makes moral decisions better than people

9. Why should people always check AI-generated information?

- A) AI never uses real information
- B) AI can make mistakes or misunderstand
- C) AI refuses to answer difficult questions
- D) AI changes answers randomly for fun

10. How does AI learn to answer questions?

- A) By thinking independently like humans do
- B) By finding patterns in large amounts of data
- C) By memorizing facts permanently
- D) By copying answers from people directly

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Fun With Jason the Frog

Instructions: There are 17 polar bears hiding in the picture below. Can you help Jason the Frog find all 17? They're very sneaky, so look super closely!



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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:

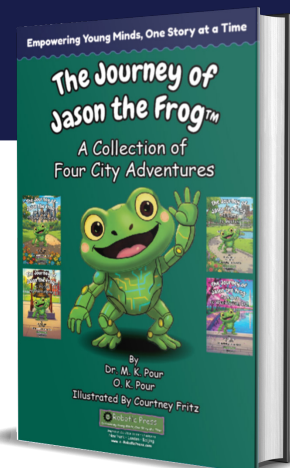
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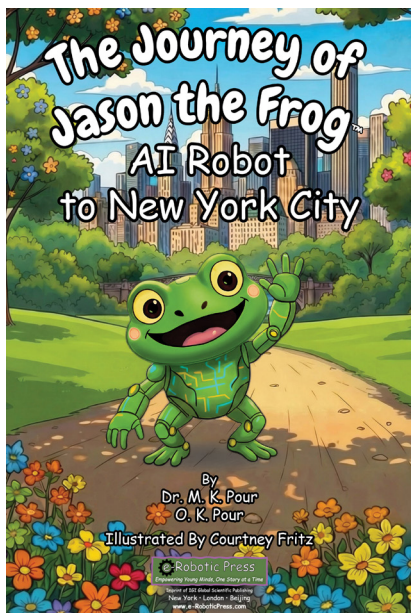
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Praise for *The Journey of Jason the Frog™*



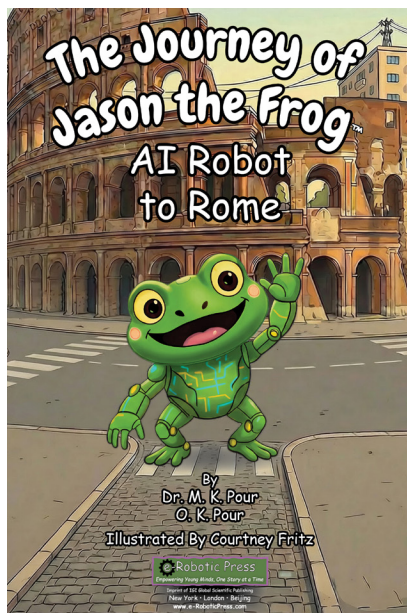
ISBN: 9781971794006

“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



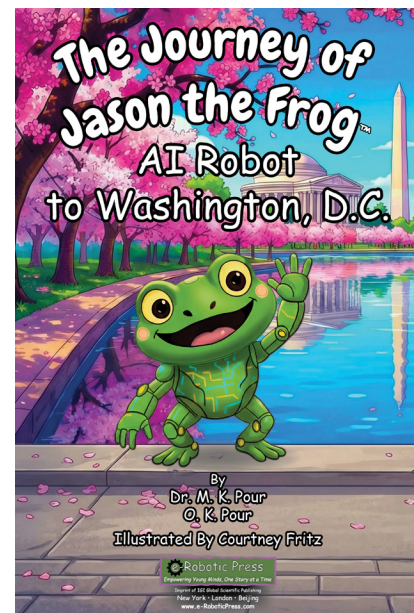
ISBN: 9781971794112

“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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