Family Adventures from A to Z Using ChatGPT by Suzanne Feit

What if I told you that one of the more interesting books about ChatGPT isn't really about ChatGPT? It's about a family. It's about grandparents and grandchildren. It's about a son with a disability. It's about cooking, traveling, playing games, telling stories, solving problems and occasionally arguing with a chatbot because it didn't understand what you meant.

And, yes, it's about artificial intelligence.

But that's almost beside the point. The book is *Family Adventures from A to Z Using ChatGPT*, by Suzanne Feit. And here's what makes it unusual: **Suzanne doesn't really teach you how to use AI. She shows you what can happen when you invite AI into ordinary life.**

Suzanne has spent decades working with technology, education, and assistive technology. So, when she discovered ChatGPT, she didn't approach it like somebody discovering the latest tech toy, she approached it like an educator. She started asking: **What can this actually do for people?**

And then she started experimenting.

The result is a book organized around the alphabet, from A to Z, with more than 90 activities, ideas, challenges, and adventures.

Now, at first, "A to Z" sounds almost too cute. But there's a reason it works. Because the alphabet gives Suzanne an excuse to keep asking: **What else could we do?** And the answers get increasingly creative.

This isn't just another "100 things ChatGPT can do" book. You know the genre. Write an email! Plan a vacation! Summarize this document! Make a shopping list!

Useful? Sure. Exciting? Not exactly.

Suzanne takes a different route. She asks, what happens when you take those same capabilities and put them into the middle of family life. What happens when a family asks ChatGPT to create a scavenger hunt? Or a mystery? Or a family trivia game? Or a cooking challenge? Or an escape room?

Suddenly, ChatGPT isn't doing something *for* you. It's helping you create something **with other people.** And that's a subtle but important distinction.

But the best part of the book may be what happens after you close the laptop. This is where the book surprised me. You might expect a book about ChatGPT to encourage more screen time. This one keeps sending you away from the screen. Go outside. Take photographs. Build an obstacle course. Go geocaching. Cook something. Create a talent show. Make something out of an old pair of jeans. Play a game. Tell a story.

The technology becomes the spark, not the destination. That's actually a pretty clever trick. Because the goal isn't to have a wonderful conversation with ChatGPT. The goal is to have a wonderful conversation with **each other.**

Now consider planning the family vacation. Here's a simple example. You could ask ChatGPT: *"Plan a family vacation."* And you'd probably get something generic.

Suzanne's approach is different. Tell it who's going. Tell it their ages. Tell it what they like. Tell it what they don't like. Tell it about physical limitations. Tell it what you've already done. Tell it what you're willing to spend. Then look at the answer. Change it. Push it. Ask another question. And another.

In other words, Suzanne quietly teaches one of the most important

lessons about AI: **The first answer isn't the finished product.** The conversation is the process. And that's true whether you're planning a vacation with your family or trying to solve a business problem on Monday morning.

Then the book gets personal. One of the most meaningful threads running through Suzanne's work is accessibility. Her son David has Down syndrome and is a visual learner. Suzanne has spent years finding ways to use technology to help him learn, communicate, participate, and become more independent. So when ChatGPT arrived, she naturally asked a different question than many of us might ask. Not:*"What can AI do?"* But: **"What can AI do to help this person?"**

She uses it to help think through exercise, meals, activities, and technology for David's living environment.

And that leads to a bigger idea. Perhaps one of AI's most interesting possibilities isn't replacing people. Perhaps it's helping us think of **more ways for people to participate.** That's an idea worth sitting with.

But the story that may best explain the heart of this book has nothing to do with a family game. Suzanne's cousin had a manuscript written by her late husband. It was written in Hungarian. It had never been published. The family was scattered across countries and generations. Suzanne put the manuscript into ChatGPT and asked it to translate it into English. And suddenly, a piece of family history that had been locked behind a language barrier could be shared.

Think about what happened there. ChatGPT didn't write the family's history. It didn't replace the author. It didn't create the memory. It simply removed a barrier.

And that may be one of the most compelling ways to think about AI: **Sometimes its greatest value isn't creating something new. It's making something that already matters accessible to more**

people.

There is a serious lesson hiding inside all this fun. Don't mistake the cheerful tone of this book for a lack of caution. Suzanne is very clear about something: **ChatGPT can be wrong.** She doesn't present it as an oracle. And when she discusses using ChatGPT for learning and schoolwork, she makes the boundaries clear. AI can help you learn. It can explain something differently. It can give you ideas. It can help you practice. But it shouldn't replace teachers, parents, tutors or your own thinking.

That's important because the book isn't saying: *"Trust AI."* It's saying: **"Learn how to work with it."**

And that's where the book gets surprisingly sophisticated. There's a lesson in this book that goes far beyond families. It's about prompting. But Suzanne doesn't spend pages talking about "prompt engineering." She just demonstrates it. Ask a vague question. Get a vague answer. Add context. The answer gets better. Add constraints. It gets better again. Tell it who the audience is. Tell it what you're trying to accomplish. Tell it what didn't work. Ask it to try again. That's not magic. That's communication.

And if you've ever written a bad email brief, given unclear instructions to an employee, or asked somebody to "just make it better" without explaining what better means, you already understand the problem. **AI doesn't eliminate the need for clear thinking. It exposes it.**

And then there's that A to Z structure. I originally wondered whether the alphabet was just a clever way to organize a book. I don't think it is. It gives the book a sense of play. You don't have to sit down and read 250 pages about artificial intelligence. You can say: *"What's under Q?" "What's Z?" "What can we do with this?"* And that makes the book approachable for somebody who might otherwise see the words "ChatGPT" and immediately think: **That's not for me.**

And, that's important. Because AI anxiety is real. People worry that they're too old. Or not technical enough. Or that they'll ask the wrong question. Or that they'll somehow "break" it. Suzanne's answer is refreshingly simple: **Start asking questions.**

And then comes Z. The final chapter is called **"Zest for Zen."** And it's a fitting way to finish.

One of the activities has you go outside and photograph something you don't recognize, a leaf, a bird, a rock, and ask ChatGPT what it is.

Think about the journey. You start with artificial intelligence. You end up outside looking at a leaf. That's not exactly the trajectory most AI books take. And I think that's the point. The technology is supposed to make life bigger, not smaller.

What I think the book gets right. There are things I would have liked to see more of. The book tends to show the prompt and the response, but less often takes the reader through the next level: *"That answer wasn't very good. Now let's improve it."*

That's where many experienced AI users eventually end up. And some of the specific technology details will inevitably age. That's the problem with writing about a technology that changes every few months. But those are relatively small criticisms. Because the larger idea holds up.

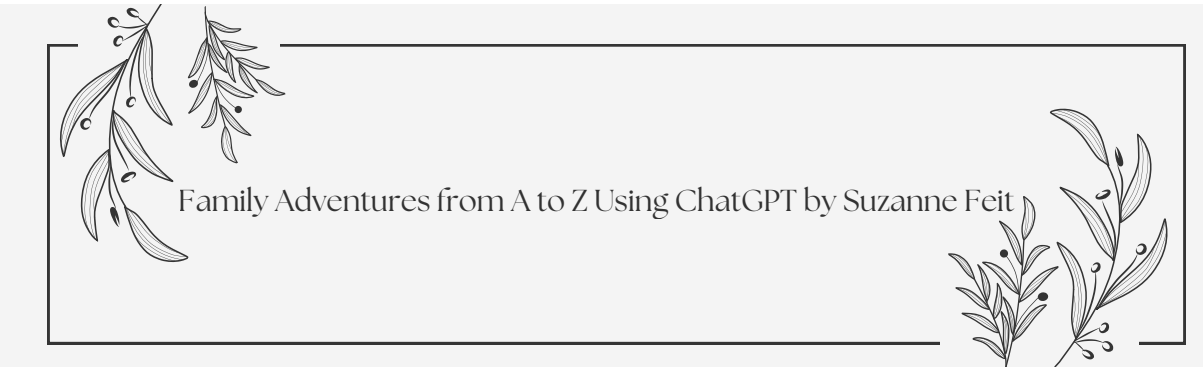
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So, here's my test for any book about AI: When you finish reading it, do you want to know more about AI? Maybe. But more importantly: **Do you want to try something?**

With this book, I did. I wanted to grab a few people, open ChatGPT, and see what we could come up with. And I think that's Suzanne Feit's real accomplishment. She has taken something that can feel intimidating, technical, and impersonal, and made it feel like an invitation. Not: *“Here's what artificial intelligence is going to do to your life."* But: **"Here's something you can try with the people you care about."** That's a much more interesting conversation.

Family Adventures from A to Z Using ChatGPT is written by Suzanne Feit. You can find the book and more ideas at **chatandsuzanne.com**. And Suzanne has a question she likes to ask people: **"So, how are YOU using ChatGPT?"** After reading this book, you may find yourself asking the same question. And that might be the best reason to pick it up.



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