



## Over and Under the Pond

*Kate Messner, Christopher Silas Neal (Illustrator)*

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In this gorgeous companion to the acclaimed *Over and Under the Snow* and *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt*, Kate Messner and Christopher Silas Neal bring to life a secret underwater world. In this book, readers will discover the plants and animals that make up the rich, interconnected ecosystem of a mountain pond. Over the pond, the water is a mirror, reflecting the sky. But under the pond is a hidden world of minnows darting, beavers diving, tadpoles growing. These and many other secrets are waiting to be discovered...over and under the pond.

## Over and Under the Pond Details

Date : Published March 7th 2017 by Chronicle Books LLC

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Author : Kate Messner , Christopher Silas Neal (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Over and Under the Pond for online ebook

### **Maxwell Rae says**

Very informative read. I liked how there is an encyclopaedia in the back explaining all the animals mentioned.

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### **SamZ says**

So fun, and I loved the appendix with more info on all of the different animals!

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### **KC says**

Another great book in this series. All about pond life. Above and below!

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### **Jana says**

This nonfiction picture book is a great follow-up to Over and Under the Snow and Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt. Simple, engaging text and beautifully rendered mixed media illustrations make this a fun row across a summertime pond with a mother and her child. As the two glide over the water, the youngster wants to know what's going on underneath the boat. The child, and readers, are treated to explanations of the busy world of swimming minnows, painted turtles, otters, and many other fascinating creatures. The author includes more detailed information about each animal at the end of the book and a nice list of books and websites, making this resource a great starting point for further research.

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### **Kristine Hansen says**

A close look at the pond habitat, told through peaceful illustration. Don't ignore all the interesting facts at the end of the book! I really enjoyed this one, as did my children. This should be coupled with a trip to a pond or lake if possible. :)

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### **Kirsten says**

I absolutely loved this picture book, which informs young listeners about what goes on both above the surface of the pond and below the water. The language is simple but rich, with lots of evocative sound effects. The illustrations accurately depict the animals and make great use of perspective -- my favorite page is one that shows us a view of the pond and the woodpeckers that live in the trees towering above it, shown from an aerial view. I also appreciated that the boy and his mother who are exploring the pond are black; it is

very rare to see representation of African-Americans in nature in children's books or really anywhere.

I highly recommend this for all library and home collections.

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### **Kenya Wright says**

This was nominated for best children's books in 2017 Goodreads, so I wanted to check it out. I loved the illustrations. The diversity. The education of animals in the water and on land.

But even deeper, there was this sense that the author wanted the children to realize that life is happening above and under you. I thought that was cool.

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### **Erin Buhr says**

I have eagerly anticipating this, the third book in the over/under books by Kate Messner and illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal and it did not disappoint. In this one, a mom and her son are canoeing on a pond together. The little boy wonders what is under the pond and his mom tells him there is "a whole hidden world" under there. Messner and Neal paint that world with soft, lyrical strokes. As the mother and son paddle along watching the world above the pond, animals dart and dive and claw under the pond below them. This is a story filled with gentle action, fascinating animals, and warm moments between mother and son. It brought me back to canoeing on lakes in Northern Wisconsin as a child. I love that additional information and resources about the animals mentioned are included in the back because I frequently found myself wishing for more details. Most of all I love that this book is as delightful as the first two. It is yet another brilliant, relate-able look at nature, animals, and the world around and below us.

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### **Jenny says**

I love this just as much as I did Over and Under the Snow. This book examines what you'll find over (or on the surface of) the pond as well as what you'll find under the pond. While the text is relatively short, it introduces a variety of animals and a few plants found in this wetland habitat. And the illustrations are simply wonderful!! At the end, additional information about ponds is provided, as well as further information about each animal and a list of sources for further information.

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### **David Schaafsma says**

Each year my family reads all the Goodreads-award-nominated picture books, and we have been doing this for years. Everyone rates each book and adds a comment and it may (or may not) affect my overall rating. This is book #19 of 2017, and is one of my and our favorites of the year.

Tara: 3.5 stars. I like outdoors books. There were several paintings that depict the over and under the pond perspectives I liked a lot.

Harry (12): 3 stars. I got to see just how many animals are under the surface of the pond that I never see.

Hank (11). 4.1 stars. I like how we the readers get to see all the changes that take place in the animals's lives.

Jenn (adult family friend): 5 stars. Gorgeous artwork, incredible aerial views, unusual tall book size that enhances the sense of depth and the over and under element, great use of sound devices--onomatopeia, alliteration, assonance. Includes an excellent indexed catalogue of all the animals in the book.

Dave: 4.5 stars. Beautiful over and under simultaneous descriptions, including some "over" animals and birds (such as herons and otters) that sometimes go under the surface of the water. The book is a smart book about the importance of ecosystem, and the importance of our valuing what we don't see sometimes.

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### **Marie says**

A gorgeously illustrated and beautifully written book about the animals over and under the pond upon which a mother and son canoe. There is much action of the animals observed by the pair that creates a quiet excitement for what they might see next. The pond ecosystem is explored in its entirety within this fun children's book. At the end, a picture of each animal mentioned or illustrated is set next to a longer description of the animal. My children had a great time reading these informational pieces and then searching back through the book to find where each were illustrated. This is a highly recommended book for nature lovers to explore the pond ecosystem. It is a beautiful and informational read!

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### **Amy says**

If any organization should have this as part of their collection, it IS our library (Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library in Ohio), which has its entire Children's Department, from the base of the stairwell and going up the stairs and all throughout the second floor, designed and decorated to be like you are over and under a pond.

For years, we have had a turtle named Spike (the kids named HER) and she is the star of the show! She also has animal friends -- all of whom you would find in nature that help Spike promote our Children's Dept.

This book goes hand in hand with this department. The beautiful illustrations showcase the animals described by the author in this book. At the end of the book is a small section that provides a small paragraph of information about each animal in this book.

Spectacular!

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### **Cindy Dobrez says**

I live on a "bayou" in Michigan with a similar ecosystem out in front of my house to the pond presented here and I see many of these "over" sights while I kayak. Others I see when I dive under while swimming, and some I have to imagine when I feel the nibbles on my toes while I am floating. It is great to have such a beautiful view of these scenes presented in Messner and Neal's collaboration in their Over and Under series. This one is a treasure, like the others. Young children will be fascinated and teachers can use this book in

ecosystem units. I'm eager to go explore my "pond" more closely, but for the next few months, I'll have to stick to Over and Under the Snow!

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### **Kelsey Badgett says**

Over and Under the Pond is an informational text on the ecosystem of pond life. This book is informational while also having a story and being story-like to students. A mother and son go out on a pond when the son starts asking questions and the mom starts telling him about the pond life. Many different animals and plants are addressed, even ones that you would not think of with a pond. The mom talks about something that is out of the water in the pond ecosystem and then something that is under the water. There is a pattern of the text in this book. This book is an interesting way to teach students about an ecosystem, but also have them reading a cute story. I would use this book with 3rd grade just because I feel like 4th and 5th would think this was too simple or little kid like, where 3rd graders could enjoy it and get information.

One way this book could be used in a class is by integrating into science and having students get information on ponds out of the book. Students could track the information, make a presentation, etc. to where they would be required to read the book and filter the information that they are learning about ponds. Another way this book could be used in a class is as a "everyone" book in a read aloud. The teacher could read it aloud, then offer to let students reread it to themselves since it is not a very complex book that students would struggle through. This would be a good book for struggling readers to pick up and read.

This was a WOW book for me because I always assume informational text is going to be something that is factual nonfiction and just teach me something, but this one was not. This was a story with information integrated into it that was enjoyable. Reminding students that informational text does not have to be boring or just lists of information is important.

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### **Alex (not a dude) Baugh says**

Just in time for spring and especially for Earth Day, Kate Messner gives her young readers Over and Under the Pond, a beautiful companion to her previous books Over and Under the Snow and Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt.

As a curious young boy and his mother paddle around a pond in their rowboat, he asks his mother what's under the water's surface. His mother tells him there's a secret world underneath their boat, a world of minnows, crayfish, turtles, bullfrogs, and tadpoles slowly growing into frogs, learning how to hop on newly developed legs.

There's even a beaver diving down into the depths of the pond for some yummy roots to eat,

And there is just a much going on out the water and around the edge of the pond - a goldfinch getting ready for its first flight, a moose munching on water lilies, ospreys flying overhead, and raccoons scrounging up some supper.

The pond is teeming with life above and below, all there for anyone who takes the time to quietly observe it. Its abundance of plants and animals form an important ecosystem. As Messner explains in her Author's Note, sometimes this ecosystem is threatened by pollution or the loss of habitat. It's important to maintain these ponds so that the cycle of life can continue.

Besides her Author's Note, Messner includes additional information about all the creatures that depend on the pond, from the smallest caddisfly larvae to that big old moose and the role each one plays in nature. There is a lot to be learned in this book and an ideal reference for anyone who might want to make their own explorations.

Christopher Silas Neal's mixed-media illustrations are the perfect compliment to Messner's lyrical text. A palette of muted, gently blended watery blues, springy greens and browns all add to the feeling of the interconnectedness of nature. Neal has chosen to present the pond and the area surrounding it from various points of view: my favorite is the bird's eye view looking down, or maybe it's the fish eye view looking up, or maybe it's just all of them.

Over and Under the Pond is an ideal book for young readers curious about the world they live in, for lover's of nature, protector's of the environment and everyone else. It is a book kids can return to again and again.

This book is recommended for readers age 4+

This book was sent to me by the publisher, Chronicle Books

This review was originally posted at Randomly Reading

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