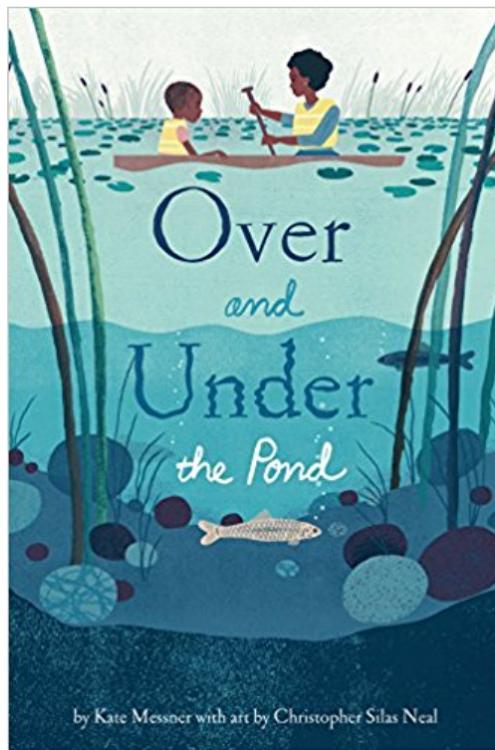


**Review of *Over and Under the Pond*
By Kate Messner & Illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal**

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Alexandra L. Berglund
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Student Review: Bart O'Reilly, 2nd Grade



Messner, K. (2017). *Over and under the pond*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books

ISBN: 978-1452145426

Adult Review: Alexandra L. Berglund

A young boy and his mother set off on an adventure in the pond that borders their home. While gliding along in the small boat, the boy looks down and asks, “What’s down there?” (p. 3). During their exploration together, his mother answers his question and provides further insight into the world all around them. Wildlife that live above, on the shore of, and within the pond appear throughout the text. Readers are immediately immersed into the animals’ habitats through the vivid illustrations included alongside interesting facts about each creature. *Over and Under the Pond* provides a glimpse into the wetland environment, as it soars high above and dives deep below the water’s surface.

Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner is the perfect picturebook for any animal lover, as so many different creatures are featured. With its inside look into a pond’s fascinating ecosystem, this text would be an excellent addition to any science unit concerning aquatic life or the wetlands. Relative to these educational possibilities, two additional sections are included at the close of the text. The Author’s Note highlights the importance of protecting the environment from pollution, and the About the Animals portion provides

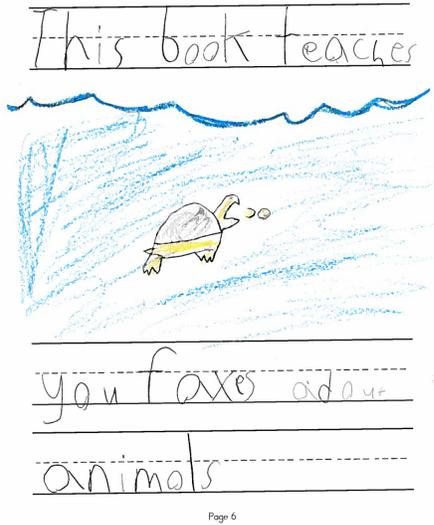
“For younger readers, the author’s repeated use of the words “over” and “under” accompanied by illustrations that highlight these directions makes this picturebook a valuable mentor text for a lesson on positional words.”

further details on the animals included. With this back matter, readers can come to have a newfound love and respect for nature.

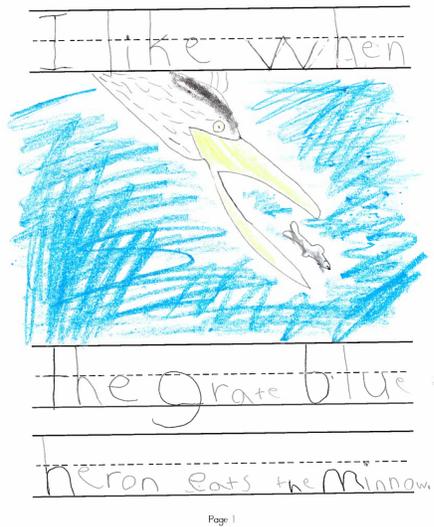
For younger readers, the author’s repeated use of the words “over” and “under” accompanied by illustrations that highlight these directions makes this picturebook a valuable mentor text for a lesson on positional words. The text and illustrations also include a stunning description and view of the sky changing from day, to dusk, and to night. With this display, readers can navigate the difficult concepts of passing time and Earth’s rotation on its axis.

While enchanting and informative, the illustrations contain a vast amount of detail. It is very easy to miss some of the thoughtful inclusions made by the illustrator, Christopher Silas Neal. A second or third read of this text would assist in the process of noticing all of the animals and every aspect of their environment included on each page.

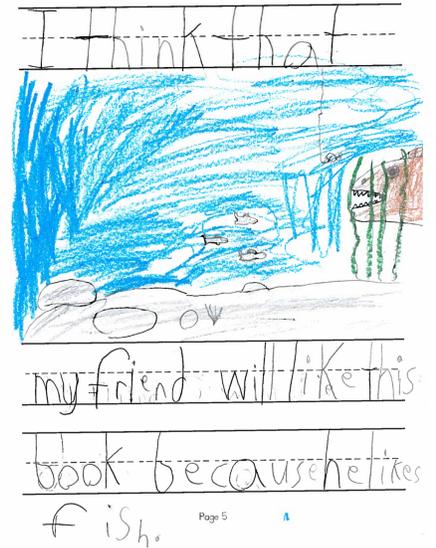
Student Review: Bart O'Reilly



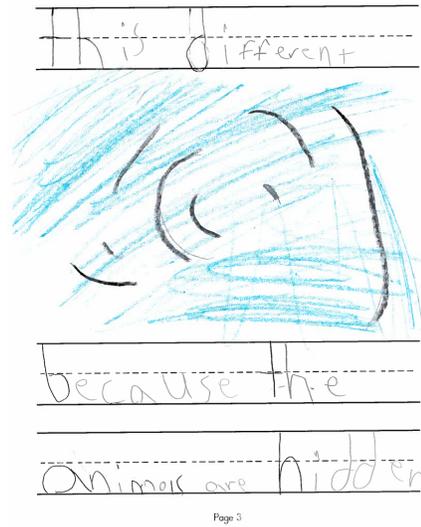
This book teaches you facts [facts] about [about] animals.



I like when the great [great] blue heron eats the minnow.



I think that my friend will like this book because he likes fish.



This [is] different because the animals [animals] are hidden.