



## Activities and Engaging Readers Guide

**Book Title: Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner**

**Source: National Education Association**

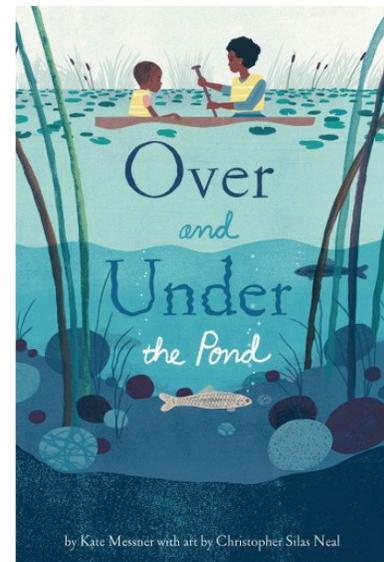
### **Over and Under the Pond** by Kate Messner art by Christopher Silas Neal

#### **Engaging Readers:**

Warm summer days are ideal for combining reading and outdoor exploration. Take readers *Over and Under the Pond* and *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* with books by Kate Messner before heading out on your own ecosystem adventure. Provide kids with a notebook to serve as their nature journal where they can sketch and note their outdoor observations, their feelings about nature, and any research they are inspired to undertake about specific plants or animals.

#### **Community Connection:**

Connect with your community to create a supportive environment for summer reading. Work with the public library to provide resources to students and parents but also speak out as an educator with the important message about the value of reading through the summer. Provide summer reading tips to local media or arrange to address meetings of local service clubs or places of worship to share ideas about how the community can get involved in keeping kids reading during the summer.



#### **Ready Resources:**

Help parents offer some summer learning fun and interact meaningfully while helping to strengthen kids' reading skills with **Start with a Book**. Building on what young children already like, Start with a Book provides



recommended reading and hands-on activities that lead to reading engagement. Start with a Book is also a great resource for summer learning program staff and librarians working to hook kids on reading, exploring and learning all summer long.

[www.startwithabook.org](http://www.startwithabook.org)