



2017

# Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt

Ariel Woodbury

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# Book Review

**Title:** Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt

**Author:** Kate Messner

**Illustrator:** Christopher Silas Neal

**Reviewer:** Ariel Woodbury

**Publisher:** Chronicle Books

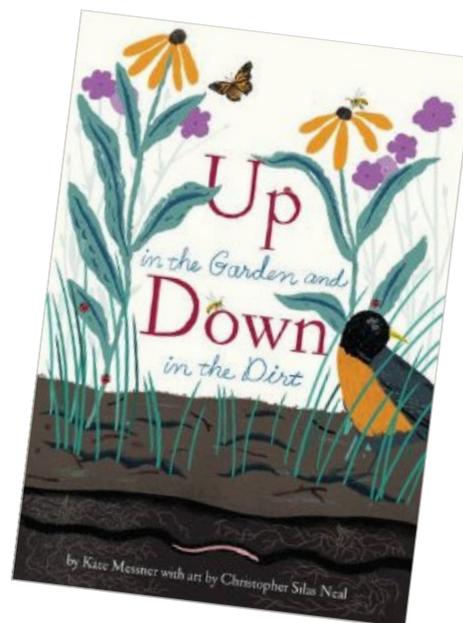
**Publication Year:** 2015

**ISBN:** 9781452119366

**Number of Pages:** 52

**Interest Level:** Preschool

**Rating:** Dependable



## Review

Winter is ending and a young girl and her Nana start dreaming up plans for their garden. The spring sun melts the snow, but the soil is still too cold and wet to start planting so they wait while the bugs wake up and start working down in the dirt. As the seasons change, they fertilize the soil, plant seeds, and water the garden while the bugs and animals chew up old leaves, pollinate, and dig tunnels through the dirt.

This book teaches a lot about the role of different bugs and animals in a garden. They break down last years leaves and many lay dormant in the ground through the winter. The book also discusses what various animals and bugs eat (usually each other). While the book is very educational there is little to no story line and may lose the attention or interest of children. The illustrations show little critters crawling in the background and mainly consists of earthy tones. The author also includes extra educational information at the end of the book on many of the animals mentioned in the story.