

# Memoirs of a Hamster

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Pets, Tricksters, Journaling

**Book Brief:** Seymour is an energetic hamster who thinks he has it all until Pearl the cat tells him about a sunroom filled with goodies. He soon finds out that some things are too good to be true.

**Author:**

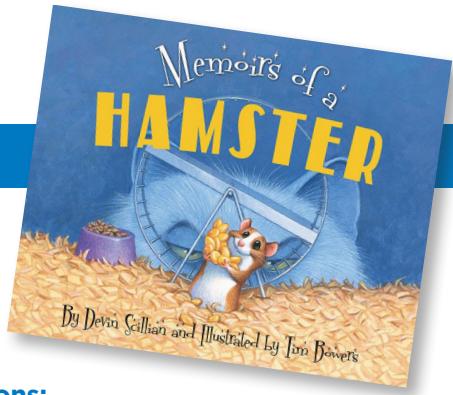
Devin Scillian

**Illustrator:**

Tim Bowers

**Content Connections:**

Language Arts, Social Studies, Science



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** “What do you think the problem of this story is going to be based on this picture?”

**The Pictures:** The thrill of this story is the humor and suspense. Use only the title page picture to begin a discussion with students about their familiarity with hamsters.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students what the word *memoir* makes them think of. Explain that a memoir is a written account of someone’s personal life experiences in the past. In this case, Seymour the hamster is writing the memoir. Contrast memoir with diary.

**Vocabulary:** hydrated, marathon, shimmied

**Purpose for Reading:** “The author provides clues about hamsters through Seymour’s memoir. Focus on the inferences you can make about the lifestyle of a real hamster using those clues.”

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Where do you think Seymour was prior to night one?
- ◆ Who is the narrator of the story?
- ◆ Does Pearl remind you of a cat from another story? Explain.
- ◆ Who do you think Hoover is?
- ◆ Do you think Buck knew about Pearl’s plan?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** “What inferences were you able to make about real hamsters based on the author’s clues?”

**Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions:** “What character traits would you use to describe Seymour, Pearl, and Buck? Do they have any similar traits? Pearl was a trickster. Can you think of other tricksters you have read about? Who are they and what were they trying to get? Do you notice any common goals?”

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.