

# Memoirs of a Hamster

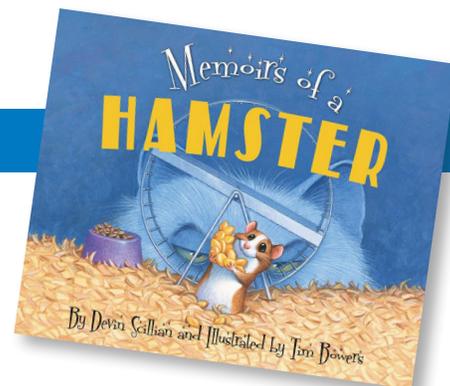
## A RIF GUIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS

**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



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask children what they notice about the cover illustration. What do they think might happen in this story? Tell them the story is written from the perspective of Seymour, the hamster on the cover.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### WHAT SEYMOUR SEES (AGES 5-12)

Materials: white paper, black crayons

Did you know that hamsters have poor eyesight and are color blind? It is believed that they only see black and white. Create a picture using only a black crayon on white paper. Experiment with the amount of pressure used to make the black lighter or darker. What is your favorite color? Would you miss colors if they no longer existed? Explain.

### HAMSTER FREEZE (AGES 5-12)

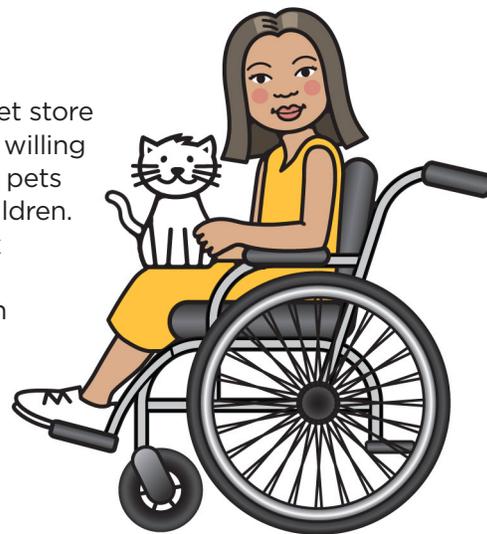
Hamsters are energetic and love to run. Explain that while the music is on everyone should be running. When the music is off, everyone should freeze.



For added fun, listen to the original “Hampster Dance” song at [www.originalhamster.ytmd.com](http://www.originalhamster.ytmd.com).

### PET SHOW (AGES 5-12)

Ask your local pet store if they would be willing to bring in a few pets to share with children. Ask them to talk about the types of care that each pet would need to be happy and healthy in someone’s home.



### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Let the children explore the ins and outs of adopting a pet at [www.petfinder.com/videos/](http://www.petfinder.com/videos/).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*Fibblestax* (2011)

*Memoirs of a Goldfish* (2010)

*One Nation: America by the Numbers* (2011)



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