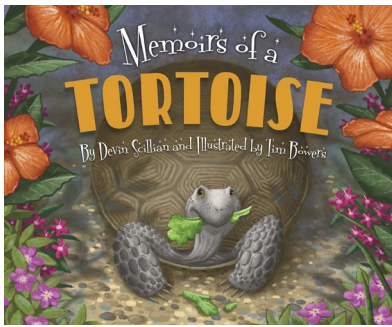




2021 – 2022  
Children's Book Award Finalist  
Elementary Grade Levels K-2



**Memoirs of a Tortoise**  
*Sleeping Bear Press*



**Devin Scillian**  
*Author*



**Tim Bowers**  
*Illustrator*

### Summary

"Oliver the tortoise has had his human, Ike, for a very, very long time now. In fact, they're the same age--80 years old--and practically twins. They both enjoy the slowness of the garden, cool water from the hose on a hot day, and a nice slice of honeydew melon. But when Ike stops visiting the garden, Oliver wonders why his pet has left him so soon. So, he makes the long journey to see his mother ten gardens away--she will certainly have the answer." (amazon.com)

### Genre

Fiction

### Book Conversation

After reading the story aloud, you may use the following questions to prompt a book conversation with students.

- What clues did the author give that helped you know that Ike and Oliver loved each other?
- Have you ever lost a pet or someone close to you like a pet? How did you feel?
- Oliver went to talk to his Mom when he needed advice. What advice would you have given to Oliver if he came to you for advice?
- How did Oliver's feelings change throughout the story?

***Florida Statute 1003.42.2 requires that K-12 public school instructional staff teach specific character education, cultural, and historical topics. This book may assist teachers in partial fulfillment of that requirement.***

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html)



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**Extension Activities**

1. Give the students a piece of paper. Have them fold it “hotdog” style twice to make 3 columns. Label the columns beginning, middle, and end. Have the student list character traits that Oliver displayed as his feelings changed throughout the story.
2. Toward the end of the book in the month of March, the text says, “But I don’t think my garden will ever be the same.” Use this as a writing prompt and have students reflect on the meaning of this and explain why Oliver thinks this.
3. Have students create a diagram of a garden and include what animals, plants, and bugs they might see there.
4. Have students use the Frayer model to define the word Memoir.
5. Have students create their own memoir of a specific experience they have had.

**Websites**

Meet the author: <https://www.devinscillian.com>

Meet the Illustrator: <https://timbowers.com>

Watch a read aloud of the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVgzqeZXBjk>

**Diversity and Multicultural Features**

N/A