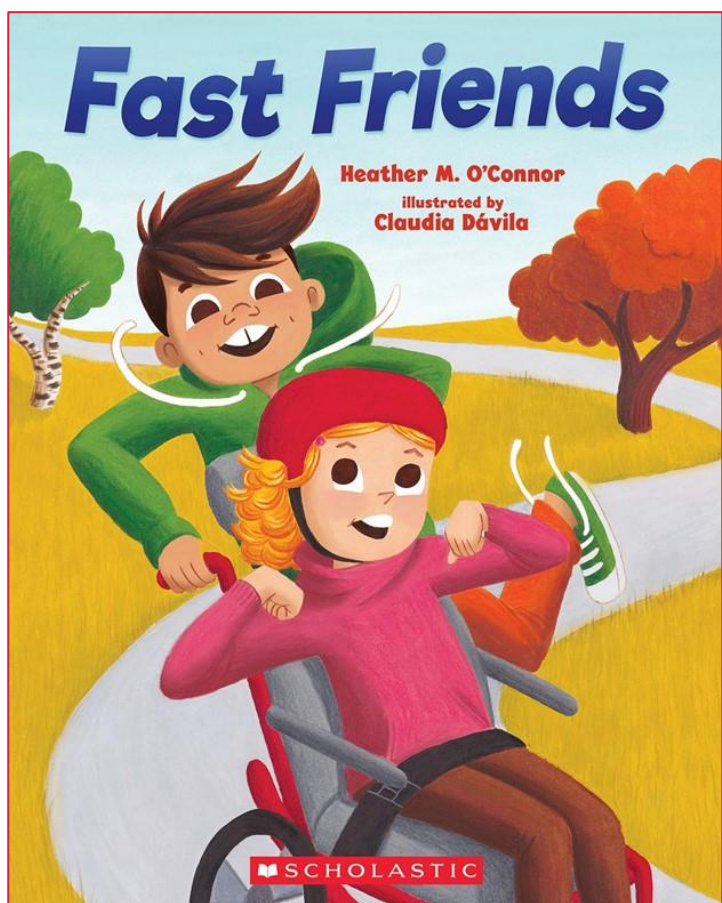


## Winner of the 2021 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award



Tyson does everything fast — so fast he often disrupts the class. His teacher is always saying, “Too fast, Tyson!” And often he ends up playing all alone.

Suze, the new girl, is nonverbal with special needs. Sometimes her classmates don't know what those needs are.

But Tyson understands. Taking the time to interpret her cues, Tyson forms a special friendship with Suze, and teaches his classmates what it means to listen and understand others.

*“With a play on words and a story of friendship beyond differences, Heather M. O'Connor helps children see the importance of focusing on our commonalities which connect us rather than that which might separate us.”*

— CanLit for Little Canadians

*“Fast Friends is engaging, and its contents will provide superb talking points about special education and difference with audiences of school-aged children as well as the adults in their lives. This book will serve as an excellent addition to classrooms, school libraries, and programs on relevant topics.”*

— CM: Canadian Review of Materials



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Illustrated by Claudia Dávila

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**HEATHER M. O'CONNOR** is an award-winning children's author based in Peterborough, Ontario. *Fast Friends* won the 2021 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award. It was also distributed to Grade One students across Canada as the 2022 TD Grade One Book Giveaway. *Friends Find a Way*, a sequel to *Fast Friends*, came out in 2023. Heather has also coauthored a picture book about the Ojibwe Horse called *Runs with the Stars*.

I offer live and virtual school and library visits for *Fast Friends* on inclusion, diversity, and body language. Ideal for JK to Grade 3.

Contact me:

905-391-5913

[heathermoconnor.com](https://www.heathermoconnor.com)

[heather@heathermoconnor.com](mailto:heather@heathermoconnor.com)

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