

## **PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: January**

**Book Title:** *As Fast as Words Could Fly* by Pamela M. Tuck

**Grade Level:** 2nd / 3rd

### **Book Description:**

A thirteen-year-old African American boy in 1960s Greenville, North Carolina, uses his typing skills to make a statement as part of the Civil Rights movement. Based on true events.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- The book begins with the sentence “Trouble was brewing in Greenville, North Carolina.” To what kind of trouble is the sentence referring?
- How do you think Mason and his brothers felt when their father told them that they would be attending Belvoir High, a formerly all-white school? How would you feel, and why?
- Why do you think Patrick and Daniel ignored Mason and his brothers on the bus? Have you ever experienced something similar to what Mason experienced? What happened? How did you react?
- How did the students, teachers, and administrators treat Mason when he arrived at Belvoir High? Did this surprise you? Why?
- Mason faced several situations in which he was treated unkindly by a large group of people and made to feel unwelcome. Can you think of any situations in which someone might experience something similar today? What do you think you would have done if you had been in Mason’s situation? What about if you had been part of the large group?
- What words would you use to describe Mason? What words would you use to describe his father?