Beginning Chapter Books: Multicultural

**Tia Lola series (Hispanic American)**
By **Alvarez, Julia**

Tia Lola has been invited to teach Spanish at her niece and nephew's school. Before long, Tia Lola is organizing a Spanish treasure hunt and a "carnaval" fiesta at the school. Will Miguel be willing to join in the fun?

**Ruby series (African American)**
By **Barnes, Derrick**

Smart and sassy, eight-year-old Ruby is tired of living in the shadows of her three older brothers. When she has a chance to break out, things don't go according to plan. But with nerve and verve, Ruby will make sure everyone knows her name. Follow her adventures in this delightful series. Illustrations.

**Julian series (African American)**
By **Cameron, Ann**

Julian, that quick fibber and wishful thinker, is great at telling stories. He can make people -- especially his younger brother, Huey -- believe just about anything. Like the one about the catalog cats that come in the mail. Or the fig leaves that make you grow tall if you eat them off the tree. Read all the books in this fun series.

**Donavan's Word Jar (African American)**
By **Degross, Monalisa**

Donavan Allen collects words by writing what he likes on a slip of paper and putting it in his word jar. But one day Donavan discovers that his word jar is nearly full. How can he make room for new words? Illustrations.

**Sassy series (African American)**
By **Draper, Sharon M.**

It's not easy being nine, especially when you're Sassy Simone Sanford. Especially when you were named for sticking out your tongue on the day you were born. Especially when everyone in the family calls you Little Sister. And if that's not bad enough, imagine being the youngest in the family. Well, nothing stops Sassy. All she has to do is reach into her Sassy Sack to find the right lip gloss, hair clip, or rubber band, and life's problems get solved. Read the whole series!

**Song Lee series (Korean American)**
By **Kline, Suzy**

Song Lee is as nice as Harry is horrible! She may seem shy, but beneath her sweet smile is a brave, spunky girl with a great sense of humor. Enjoy this series of books from the Suzy Kline.
**The Year of the Dog** *(Chinese American)*

By *Lin, Grace*

This funny and profound debut novel by prolific illustrator Lin tells the story of young Pacy who, as she celebrates the Chinese New Year with her family, discovers this is the year she is supposed to “find herself.” Enjoy Lin's other book *The Year of the Rat*. Illustrations.

**Soccer Sam** *(Mexican American)*

By *Marzollo, Jean*

Illus. in full color. In a perceptive tale of friendship and sports, Sam’s visiting Mexican cousin overcomes the language barrier by teaching soccer to his new friends.

**Chana! series** *(Puerto Rican American)*

By *Ramirez, Michael Rose* and *Fuchs, Bernie*

When her family relocates from their familiar New York City high-rise apartment, Chana Millan struggles to adapt to her new California suburb home, where Puerto Rican-Americans are in the minority. Enjoy the whole *Chana* series.

**A Mare for Young Wolf** *(Native American)*

By *Shefelman, Janice*

When Young Wolf is finally old enough to have his own horse, he chooses a mare, which is unheard of among Comanche warriors. Despite taunts from village bullies, boy and mare prove to be an exceptional team. Full color. (A Step 3 Book) 48 pages.

**Keena Ford series** *(African American)*

By *Thomson, Melissa*

Follow the trials and tribulations of second-grader Keena Ford in this laugh out loud series.

**Ellray Jakes series** *(African American)*

By *Warner, Sally*

Eight-year-old EllRay Jakes is sick of getting picked on. But every time he tries to defend himself against class bully Jared Matthews, EllRay is the one who winds up in trouble. This humorous and true-to-life story kicks off the EllRay Jakes series. Illustrations.
**The Secret Grove** *(Arab-Israeli)*  
**By Cohen, Barbara*  
Two young boys, one Israeli, the other Jordanian, meet in an orange grove separating their border villages and make a secret pact.

**Molly’s Pilgrim** *(Japanese)*  
**By Bunting, Eve*  
A Japanese boy and his grandfather fish successfully with their cormorants because they have treated the birds with kindness.

**Anna Hibiscus series** *(African)*  
**By Atinuke*  
Anna Hibiscus, who lives in Africa with her whole family, loves to splash in the sea and have parties for her aunts, but Anna would love to see snow.