

Making Jacqueline Woodson's Revision Process in the *Maison and Margaret* Trilogy Accessible to Writers, Readers, and Teachers through *First Pages: The Revision Process in Children's Books*, an On-line Resource from the Kerlan Collection-CLRC

By Jean M. Stevenson

Frank Smith (1982, 1983) calls for initiating children into the "literacy club or the club of readers and writers" in which teachers welcome the authors of books children are reading to become unknowing collaborators in the creative process by exploring the working papers authors have donated to the Kerlan Collection-CLRC that are part of *First Pages: The Revision Process in Children's Books*, an on-line resource. What better way for children to become members of the literacy club than to invite them to read and discuss award-winning author, Jacqueline Woodson's first novel, *Last Summer with Maizon* (1991) and the other novels in the trilogy and examine the working papers Woodson has donated to the Kerlan Collection-CLRC? The trilogy includes *Last Summer with Maizon* (1991), *Maizon at Blue Hill* (1992), and *Between Madison and Palmetto* (1993).

The books tell the ongoing story of the close friendship between two middle-school-age black girls (Maizon Singh and Margaret Tory) from Brooklyn as they explore their identities and confront complex issues including death, racism, the search for independence, and self-expression. *Last Summer with Maizon* (1991) and *Between Madison and Palmetto* (1993) are set in Brooklyn. *Maizon at Blue Hill* (1992) is set at an exclusive private girls' school in Connecticut.

Beginning with students' questions about Woodson's creative process, they can explore what writers do, what decisions writers make, what revision looks like, and the role the editor plays. Students can investigate how Woodson developed characters, sustained tension, and handled transitions between the three novels.