Act 2

Characters: Mom, Ashlyn

Ashlyn: Many of the red highlighted and flagged images you see on your paper are either patented, trademarked, or more importantly, copyrighted.

Mom: Oh, I know those words. Patents are permits given to inventors that don’t let others copy their inventions, and trademarks are brand names or designs that distinguish a brand of products. But what is a copyright?

Ashlyn: Copyrights are permits given to authors of creative work that give them legal ownership to reproduce, distribute, and adapt the work created.

Mom: So, some of the images I used were copyrighted, meaning I don’t have the permission to use them?

Ashlyn: Correct, and if you do it is considered plagiarism, taking credit for somebody else’s work. To be fair, most people, including you, do not understand intellectual property issues and simply choose to ignore them. That’s why this new update is important.

Mom: They would kick me out for that! What can I do to fix it?

Ashlyn: Use similar images, but different images, that aren’t copyrighted.

Mom: How do I know if an image is not copyrighted? Do those even exist?

Ashlyn: Yes, they do. They are in what is called public domain. Public domain materials are copyright-free, so anyone can use them without needing permission. Reading the fine print, and using images licensed under creative commons also helps.

Mom: Perfect! I’ll be sure to fix all my material so none of it is copyrighted. Thanks Ashlyn!

Ashlyn: No problem! To find public domain images, there are thousands of online databases you can search for using a search engine like Google. You can use all of these images, and its always good practice to cite the author and any related publication information.