Copyright and Fair Use: A Balancing Act

A WORLD WITH NO COPYRIGHT

The Public

- could copy and distribute works at will
- could create and sell derivative works (sequels, movies, etc.) of anything
- wouldn't have to pay for anything

The Creator

- wouldn't be able to earn money from her work
- wouldn't be able to control how other people use her ideas
- would have little incentive to be creative



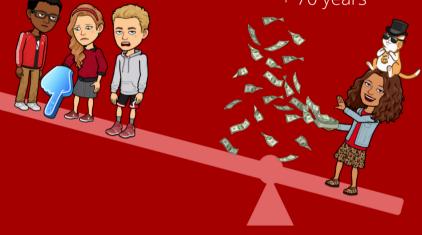
COPYRIGHT LAWS

The Public

- can sell/ distribute a copy they paid for, but must have a separate copy for each individual using the work
- can't make or distribute copies
- can't create and sell derivative works

The Creator

- has to right to make and distribute copies
- has the right to create and sell derivative works
- retains copyright for their lifetime+ 70 years



FAIR USE

The Public

- can use small portions of a work for education or commentary
- can use the creator's ideas for parody
- can build on ideas and engage in scholarly conversation
- cannot make or distribute copies of the entire work or even the main part of a work
- cannot infringe on the creator's ability to market the original work

The Creator

- retains all rights to copy, distribute, and create derivative works
- can sue individuals who go beyond the bounds of fair use





MORE OPTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC

- public domain works
 - government documents
 - works for which the copyright has expired
- Creative Commons works
 - works the creator has decided to allow others to use and reuse

