The code snippet you've provided is a function that's likely being used as a custom validator in a Mongoose schema definition in a Node.js application.

```javascript

required: function() {

return this.isPublished;

}

```

In Mongoose, you can specify that a field is `required`, meaning that a value must be provided for that field when creating or updating a document. Usually, `required` is set to `true` or `false`, but you can also provide a function that returns a boolean value. This function will be called at the time of validation, and if it returns `true`, the field will be required; if it returns `false`, the field will not be required.

In this case, the function is returning the value of `this.isPublished`. The `this` keyword refers to the document being validated. So, this function is saying that the field is required if the `isPublished` property of the document is truthy (i.e., `true`, a non-empty string, a number other than zero, an array with at least one element, or any other value that JavaScript considers truthy).

This can be useful if the requirement for a field depends on the values of other fields. For example, you might have a `publishDate` field that's only required if `isPublished` is `true`.