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"The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator."

I think that the public needs to know more about copyright, what it does to protect authors, song writers and others. When intellectual property is stolen or appropriated without compensating the creator, people who create stories, music, etc., are less likely to want to create or they are not going to be able to do that sort of thing full time. That means fewer songs, fewer books, fewer creative things like art.

I think that teachers should educate children about this, perhaps starting with grade 4. Children have to understand that they can quote someone else's work in a report, but they have to do it correctly, with quotation marks and acknowledgment of the author. It would also be nice if this could be touched on in Sunday schools. After all, taking someone else's intellectual property is stealing, and that is considered wrong in most religions.

I write stories. I haven't been that successful in publishing them, but I don't like to see authors being cheated out of their royalties. My grandfather wrote songs, and he was a member of ASCAP which protects the rights of songwriters. I have grown up knowing about this issue of copyrights, and I realize the importance of it. I think everyone should understand this since we live in a society where there are books to read and music to listen to we need to protect the people who create them and make sure that they are fairly compensated for their efforts.

*---Beth Jane Freeman---  
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