Copyright is a law that protects your control over the creative work you make so people must get your permission before they copy, share, or perform your work. Creative Commons is a kind of copyright that makes it easier for people to copy, share, and build on your creative work, so long as they give you credit for it.

DID YOU KNOW ...
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Why is it important to give credit when using other people’s creative work?

Family Activity
Compare copyright messages in at least two of the following: books, movies, TV shows, and video games. What is the same? What is different? Why do you think it might be different across different types of products?

Tech It Up!
Check out YouTube videos featured as examples of different kinds of fair use (https://www.youtube.com/youtube.com/copyright/fair~use.html).

Common Sense Says ...
Authors often use Creative Commons to specify how their work can be used. Some authors are stricter than others about their work. Remember, when you want to copy, paste, share, or use something, you should follow these steps:

1. Ask: How does the author say I can use the work? Do I have to get the creator’s permission first?
2. Acknowledge: Did I give credit to the work I used?
3. Add value: Did I rework the material to make new meaning and add something original?