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# Preface

**P**erhaps you're wondering why you should even pick up this book. What do educators really need to know about copyright?

Well, it turns out that we're in the middle of a great civic and cultural awakening about the topic of copyright and fair use, one that's increasing in visibility and importance as a result of the Internet and communications technology. Educators have a vital role to play in this process.

The doctrine of fair use is central to the enterprise of education—and this book shows why educational leaders and classroom teachers must join scholars, librarians, and others to understand their responsibilities and to advocate for their rights under copyright law.

I was motivated to write this book when I found myself sitting in the audience at a major educational technology conference, in a room filled with 150 people, listening to a presenter who was scaring teachers to death with distorted and inaccurate misinformation about copyright. People left the room more unsure and more fearful than when they arrived. This book provides a genuine alternative to the doom-and-gloom message you might be familiar with, the one that tells you, "Just *don't* do it."

I promise: This book will forever change the way you think about copyright.

After reading this book, you'll have a confident understanding in the role that copyright and fair use play in promoting the development of students' literacy and learning. You and your students will be able to be truly *responsible* in using copyrighted materials and be able to take advantage of your *rights* under the doctrine of fair use. Most importantly, you'll have the knowledge you need to share these ideas with friends, family, colleagues, and others who care about the future of 21st-century literacy and learning.