

Loreen Leedy



Author-Illustrator

www.LoreenLeedy.com

Date: March 18, 2005

To: U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Re: "Orphan Works"

To Whom it May Concern,

As someone who makes their living by my copyrights, I am against weakening the current laws by allowing someone to claim that a particular copyright owner is hard or impossible to locate and therefore they can take any degree of ownership rights to that person's work. That would create a land rush of people using other's copyrighted work with the weak excuse of "Gee, I couldn't locate the owner." If it is so easy to undermine copyright, it greatly decreases the incentive to create work since the creator can't benefit from it financially. That would be a huge detriment to our society. It often takes a tremendous amount of time to create copyrightable work, and if there was no financial incentive, the work would not get done. In my case, it takes me from 6 months to over a year to write and illustrate a book.

If someone can't locate the copyright holder of a given work, then let them commission some new work. If it is worth it to use the work in the first place, then they can pay for it. Or let them find a volunteer to do new work. They do not have the right to take mine.

Sincerely,

Loreen Leedy