

# copyright

- invisible protection

## Here are a few things that ALCS would like young people to know about copyright:

- **Copyright** is a rule that **protects** something; if you came up with an idea, and then created something from the idea (for example you wrote a book) then the copyright belongs to you. Like an **invisible shield of protection**.
- Copyright can enable you to **make money from selling your work**. Would you think it right or wrong to copy a story from your friend's book and then sell it? How would you feel if they did it to you?
- You can **give (licence or assign) copyright** to someone else, e.g. a publisher, if you want to. Then they can make money from selling your creation if they want to.
- You can show that copyright exists in something by writing the **symbol** ©  
e.g. © **John Smith, 2016**
- but, if you created it, then the copyright is yours, whether you've written the symbol or not. Like we said before, it's **invisible protection**, it doesn't need a symbol.
- Copyright continues to protect a work for **70 years** after a writer has died. It carries on protecting the work that's been created.
- Copyright applies to all **written work, music, images** and more. The text books you read were written by an author, just as the songs you listen to were written by a songwriter. Just because you haven't heard of them doesn't mean that you shouldn't **think about their copyright**; they might not write anything ever again if you don't.