Hello,

I'm writing to you concerning the Orphan Works Act.

I'm 27, a fledgling artist only just starting to make a living. I've been working as an illustrator since 2011 after graduating from Savannah College of Art and Design. I'm the illustrator for the educational children's book series "KeeKee's Big Adventures". We're on our 4th book. I also do freelance illustration and graphic design.

Copyright law is how I'm able to make a living. People who steal or infringe on my work are stealing money from me. It's under the grace of certain companies that I'm allowed to make designs based on their works. That is their choice, if I were ever asked to stop I would cease immediately. Artists and creators need to be able to make this choice of how our work is used for ourselves.

Publication does NOT devalue my work, it spreads it and spreads my voice and maintains my reputation as an artist. Work I do for clients becomes a valuable addition to my brand and portfolio. It allows me to control how my art is used so its message and purpose is untainted.

It's entirely too easy to steal people's work and ideas online as it is. If this is permitted the entire stock of my work could be stolen and reuploaded to be sold by anyone online overnight and I would be powerless to have them taken down. What motive can artists possibly have to continue to make and share new work if it could just be taken by anyone and resold for profit? No one has the right to take and sell people's ideas by default.

Sincerely,

Casey