Online or video story time and copyright fair use

---------- Forwarded message ----------
Date: Mon, Mar 16, 2020 at 12:37 PM
Subject: Online or video story time and fair use.
I received your message about online story time. I’m the copyright specialist for ALA, and while I cannot provide you with legal advice, here is my professional opinion.

Because of exigent circumstances (the closing of library etc due to the virus), your use of online technology to deliver story time is a clear fair use, meaning that it is not an infringement to conduct these public performances.

Here is a good explanation of why this is true: https://kylecourtney.com/2020/03/11/covid-19-copyright-library-superpowers-part-i/

Some book publishers are making public statements that it’s okay for libraries to conduct online story time considering what is going on in the world. This is a very nice gesture but I want you to also understand, that even without publisher approval, this use is a fair use. The social benefits far outweigh any revenue that rights holders would otherwise collect.

Good luck!

Carrie Russell
Director Public Policy and Advocacy
ALA Washington Office
cruell@alawash.org

A Crisis - as in School Closures Due to Coronavirus—Justifies Fair Use, Say Librarians
14 March 2020

Public Statement of Library Copyright Specialists: Fair Use & Emergency Remote Teaching & Research 13 March 2020
https://docs.google.com/document/d/10baTITJbFRh7D6dHVVvfjGP2zqaMvm0EHHZYf2cBRk/edit#heading=h.yrwelxtxcfr

Tackling Copyright Concerns When Taking Storytime Online 9 April 2019
https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=tackling-copyright-concerns-when-taking-storytime-online

Publishers Adapt Policies To Help Educators 18 March 2020

Online Story Time & Coronavirus: It’s Fair Use, Folks
By Sarah Ostman, ALA Public Programs Office, 24 March 2020
https://programminglibrarian.org/articles/online-story-time-coronavirus-it’s-fair-use-folks