

# Searching for Home: The Lives of Lucy Maud Montgomery

## Activity 6.0 - Rights & Royalties

### Student Instructions

#### Introduction

It is a little known fact that in 1918 Lucy Maud Montgomery launched a lawsuit against her first publisher, the L. C. Page Company, over the withholding of royalties, the unauthorized selling of reprint rights, and their proposed publication of *Further Chronicles of Avonlea* without her permission. Montgomery's relationship with the L.C. Page Company deteriorated over time and spiralled into a series of court cases which Montgomery eventually won. In the context of this case, this module will examine the importance of copyright, discuss procedures, and address the legal consequences of infringement. The main focus of the activity is the legal battle between the L.C. Page Company and Lucy Maud Montgomery over the royalties and rights to her novels published by the L.C. Page Company. This exercise will give you a basic understanding of copyright.

#### Materials

- Student Handouts
- Computer (with Internet Access)
- Scrap Paper
- Pencil or pen

#### Activity: Step by Step

1. Take some time to review the legal proceedings between Lucy Maud Montgomery and the L.C. Page Company. Use the **Case Synopsis** provided in the resource section as a starting point for your research.
2. To better understand the concept of **Copyright** and the possible infractions of Page and Montgomery, review the **Copyright Basics** handout and visit <http://www.cb-cda.gc.ca/info/act-e.html#rid-33372>
3. Read the following case outline to complete the next steps.  
*In the 1919 case of the L.C. Page Company vs. Lucy Maud Montgomery, who is legally entitled to the \$40,000 the L.C. Page Company received for selling the rights to the Hollywood film version of Lucy Maud Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables? Were the rights theirs to sell? Lucy Maud Montgomery created the character of Anne and wrote the novel, but earlier that year the L.C. Page Company had been legally assigned the publishing rights to the novel. The film was also a deal initiated and negotiated by the L.C. Page Company.*
4. You will be assigned to one of the following tasks: defending L.C. Page Company; pleading Lucy Maud Montgomery's case, or forming part of the jury. In your groups, collect and organize your research in order to brainstorm arguments that can be used. The jury may be isolated at this point in time.
5. Three speakers will be chosen from each group and will present the case in the following order:  
*First Plaintiff Speaker - Constructive Speech 3 minutes*  
*First Defendant Speaker - Constructive Speech 3 minutes*  
*Second Plaintiff Speaker - Constructive Speech 3 minutes*  
*Second Defendant Speaker - Constructive Speech 3 minutes*  
*Third Plaintiff Speaker - Summary/Rebuttal 1.5 minutes*  
*Third Defendant Speaker - Summary/Rebuttal 1.5 minutes*
6. A resolution will then be reached by the jury. Each jury member will be asked to deliver his/her own verdict on the case. A majority will decide the winner of this case.

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#### Resources

Case Synopsis Handout

Copyright Basics Handout

[www.lmmrc.ca](http://www.lmmrc.ca)

- Lucy Maud Montgomery Research Centre - Biography and chronology

<http://lmm.confederationcentre.com/>

- L.M. Montgomery's Personal Scrapbooks and Book Covers

[www.ourontario.ca](http://www.ourontario.ca)

- Photograph and image database

[http://archives.cbc.ca/arts\\_entertainment/literature/topics/1630/](http://archives.cbc.ca/arts_entertainment/literature/topics/1630/)

- CBC Digital Archives - Biographical videos and learning modules

[www.lmmontgomery.ca/](http://www.lmmontgomery.ca/)

- L.M. Montgomery Institute University of PEI

<http://www.cipo.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/cipointernet-internetopic.nsf/en/wr00037e.html>

- Canadian Government Copyright information

<http://www.accesscopyright.ca/>

- The Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency

<http://www.cb-cda.gc.ca/info/act-e.html#rid-33372>

- Copyright Board Canada

#### Notes