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This is not legal advice but general information. Copyright is complex.

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There are three basic requirements for a work to be copyrightable: it must be original, fixed in a physical form, and an expression, not an idea. *Ideas* and *concepts* cannot be copyrighted, only the specific expression of those ideas, e.g. the word order. This means you can write a love story with the same theme and events as *Romeo & Juliet* (say, *West Side Story*). But you can't use the same characters, dialogue, or descriptions.

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