

Introduction

Eric Wilson novels excite the imagination of young readers in grades 4-6. Appealing to children's inherent keen interest in mystery, Eric Wilson has skilfully woven accurate Canadian geographic and historic information into his writing. He also touches on current Canadian social and political issues in many of his novels. As such, these novels lend themselves to the integrated study of the mystery genre with Canadian geography topics in social studies and investigation units in science.

The Kootenay Kidnapper provides rich material for the study of setting, characterization and plot development. It can be used independently or as an introduction to the other novels in the series, thereby providing a national setting within which the regional stories come together to make a whole. The varying levels of difficulty in the novels provide opportunity to accommodate individual student ability, experience and interests.

Students can supplement the package with meaningful research which will strengthen the impact of their work. They will take great delight in finding information on the Internet that directly links to the places or events in the novels. Every province, territory, and most cities have up-to-date information available on an Internet website.

This novel could be easily integrated into the social studies program. Students could further explore the history of the mining era and its impact on the settlement of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. The development of the transcontinental railway could also be explored.

Through the internet, students can be introduced to the author, Eric Wilson. His website address is www.ericwilson.com.

As you read the story, add information about the characters identified in the character web.

Security Guard

Theolonius T. Judd

Tattoo

Simon

Tom Austen

**Characters from
The Kootenay Kidnapper**

Shirleen

Dietmar Oban

Kendall Steele

Brandi

Burton Donco

Character Summary of Tom Austen

APPEARANCE

ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS
AND WORDS

CHARACTER TRAITS

SAMPLE

Chapter 5



1. a) Explain the term “ghost town”.

b) List three interesting details of life during this time period.

2. How did Tattoo and Brandi treat one another?

3. The local people believed there was a fortune in silver bars at the bottom of Slocan Lake.

a) How did the silver bars come to be at the bottom of the lake?

b) Why had they not been recovered?
