

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.

Cold Midnight in Vieux Québec 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.

The Québec *Carnaval* is a unique festival of interest to all Canadians. Prior to the study of this novel, the teacher could send for *Carnaval* information which would provide excellent display material. An excellent audio-visual resource to accompany Cold Midnight in Vieux Québec is the video "**Quebec Carnival: A Magical Celebration**". This 5 minute promotional video has no narration and is accompanied only by a French theme song.

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

Chapter 3



- a) After Tom and Hubert carried Gaston from his burning house, Tom noticed someone watching from behind a tree. Why do you think this person was there?

b) What information did Tom learn by following this person?

- Why didn't Tom answer the questions of Alexis Alexander?

- What other important event was taking place during the Québec Winter Carnival?

Chapter 11



- Who took Michelle and where did they take her?

- Describe how Z and Henri chased Tom.

- What do you think happened to Tom?

Final Projects

1. Characterization

Use the items you have recorded on your character summary to write a one paragraph character sketch of Tom Austen. Your paragraph should include the following:

- a brief description of the character's appearance
- five (5) character traits, supported with information from the story
- a topic and concluding sentence.

2. Letter

Imagine you are Tom Austen. Write a letter to your sister, Liz, who wants to know the details of your latest case. Be sure to relate the facts in the order in which they occurred. This assignment should use the friendly letter format.

3. Map Activity

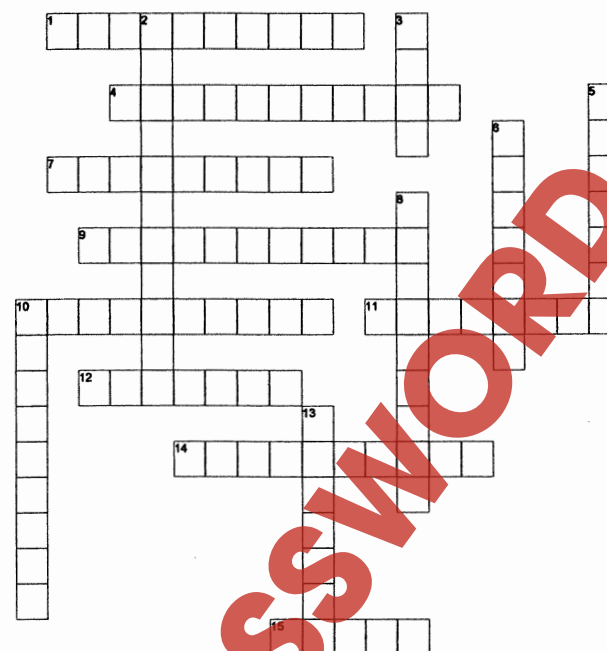
On your classroom map of Canada, mark and label the main setting of this novel.

4. Illustration

On the front cover, illustrate your favourite scene from the story.

5. Vocabulary

Complete the following crossword.



ACROSS

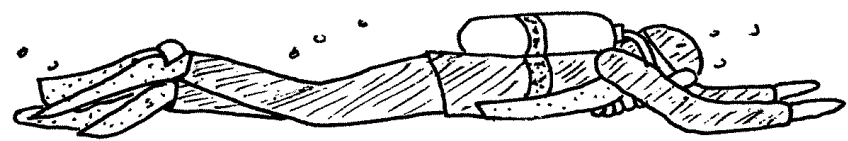
- Major industry, maker of sleds, snowblowers, etc. (p.87)
- Historic, old part of city (p.18)
- Carnival day, a dress-up ball on Shrove Tuesday (2 words)(p.24)
- Hillside cable car (p.31)
- Natural or chemical substance used to speed plant growth (p.6)
- Snowman mascot of the Carnaval (p.22)
- "Peter" in Austrian (p.37)
- Sports competition (p.3)
- Chemical weapon (p.62)

DOWN

- Fun activity diving into snow wearing a bathing suit (3 words)(p.73)
- A highly trained cook (p.8)
- Horse-drawn carriage (p.52)
- Appointed political position (p.27)
- Arena (2 words)(p. 59)
- Famous luxury hotel, Château _____ (p.21)
- Surrounded piece of territory, the factory (p.8)

NOTE: Page numbers are from the 1996 edition of the novel.

Chapter 6



1. What happened to Chris during his dive?

2. Describe Neil Raj's reaction to the Skull knocking him out of his chair.

3. What 3 things did Liz say she looks for when trying to solve a crime? Explain how each is related to this case.

Chapter 6

What happened to Chris during his dive?

Someone slashed his air hose while he was under the water.

Describe Neil Raj's reaction to the Skull knocking him out of his chair?

Neil kept his cool, ignoring the Skull at first, then he asked Tom to go on the slides, thereby walking away from the problem. Neil believed that fights do not solve problems.

What 3 things did Liz say she looks for when trying to solve a crime? Explain how each is related to this case.

1. Means - the suspect would have to have something with which to cut the hose.
2. Motive - the suspect would have to have a reason for wanting to harm Christopher.
3. Opportunity - the suspect would have to have access to the indoor sea.



Chapter 7

Mr. McAndrews held a prominent place at the mall. State the evidence to support this statement.

The young attendant in the naval uniform on the submarine saluted Mr. McAndrews. Each morning before the mall opened, Mr. McAndrews went on a solo submarine ride.

Lisa stated that she believed the attack on the air hose was meant for her. Who do you think might have slashed the hose and why?

Accept any plausible answers with support. For example - Carol rode the submarines and she was jealous of Lisa.

ANSWER KEY