

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.

Escape From Big Muddy provides rich material for the study of setting, characterization and plot development. It can be used independently or in combination with the other Eric Wilson novels. The varying levels of difficulty within the series provide opportunity to accommodate individual student ability, experience and interests. Escape From Big Muddy is one of the more challenging books in the series.

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 major cities have up-to-date information available on an Internet website. The RCMP has many sites on the Internet to supplement their history presented in the novel.

Escape From Big Muddy has 2 separate issues that could be explored: smoking as a health issue and the Metis people's self-identity. An art extension project could be to make dream catchers. The supplies are readily available in local craft shops.

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

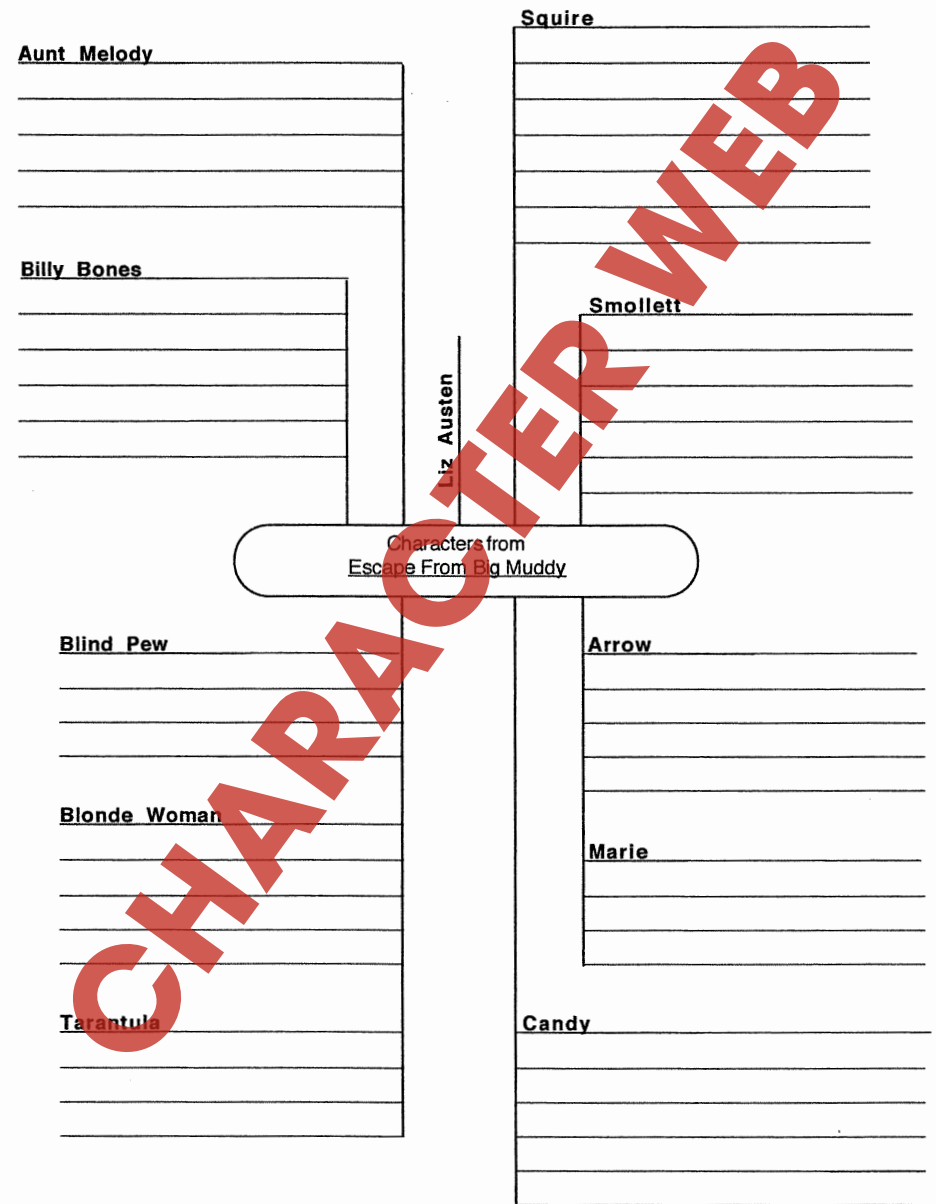
Escape From Big Muddy
Eric Wilson

Using latitude and longitude, name the places at the following coordinates:



1. 49.9°N, 102.0°W _____
2. 50.5°N, 104.6°W _____
3. 50.0°N, 105.0°W _____
4. 50.5°N, 105.5°W _____
5. 49.9°N, 106.5°W _____
6. 49.3°N, 106.3°W _____
7. 49.4°N, 105.5°W _____
8. 49.2°N, 104.8°W _____

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



Chapter Questions

Answer in full sentences.

Chapter 1



1. a) Where were Liz and Aunt Melody going and why?

- b) How were they travelling?

2. Flashback is a technique which authors use to change the time period in the story. This novel begins in the future when Liz is 60 years old. She flashes back to her youth by relating a story to her #1 fan, Alice Leung.
 Complete the following story using the flashback technique.
 Grandma was relaxing in her rocking chair after dinner.
 "Grandma, tell me what school was like when you were my age," I asked.
 Grandma began . . .

Character Summary of Liz Austen

APPEARANCE

ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND WORDS

CHARACTER TRAITS

Chapter 11



1. Why did Liz and Marie not mention to Aunt Melody their encounter in the museum?

2. What clue told Liz and Marie that someone had visited the school recently?

3. What did Liz and Marie accomplish at the school?

4. Arrow went to the school to be sure that Tarantula was securely handcuffed. Who accompanied him?

5. What unexpected turn of events occurred?

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Why did Liz and Marie not mention to Aunt Melody their encounter in the museum?

Aunt Melody had already suggested that the expedition had become dangerous and they should return home. Liz did not want to alert her to any more danger.

What clue told Liz and Marie that someone had visited the school recently?

There were fresh tire tracks in the dirt behind the school shed.

What did Liz and Marie accomplish at the school?

They rescued Sister Rita and Teresa (Marie's mother) then handcuffed Tarantula to a cot.

Arrow went to the school to be sure that Tarantula was securely handcuffed. Who accompanied him?

Squire, Candy, Liz and Smollett accompanied Arrow to the school.

What unexpected turn of events occurred?

While Liz returned to the bus to get the handcuff key, Tarantula was seen riding away on his motorcycle.

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Why was Squire forced to leave the expedition?

Squire and Smollett climbed a steep slope to a cave and had a meeting. They quarrelled and shoved one another, resulting in Squire losing his balance and falling down the slope. His leg was broken and he was taken to Coronach by a passing motorist to receive medical attention.

ANSWER KEY

