

# 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 skillfully 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 Lost Treasure of Casa Loma 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.

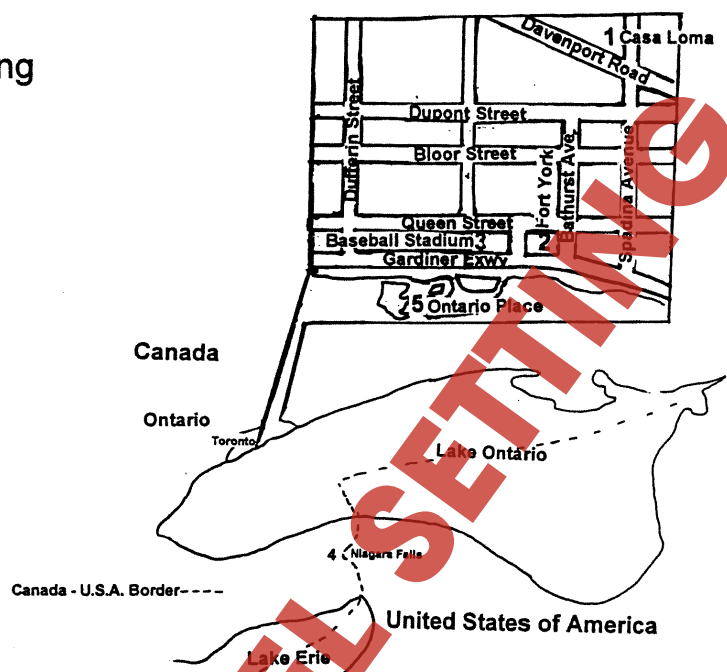
Students can supplement the package with meaningful research which will strengthen the impact of their work. They will take great delight in finding information on the Internet that directly links to the places or events in the novels. Every province, territory, and most cities have up-to-date information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

Casa Loma, located in downtown Toronto, Ontario, has a very rich history to investigate. The castle was built by Sir Henry Pellatt in the early 1900s. Upon completion of the novel, students can enjoy a virtual tour of the castle on the Internet site [www.casaloma.org](http://www.casaloma.org). This tour will give the students some clues, so should not be used prior to reading. Part of the story also takes place at Niagara Falls. Some of Niagara Falls' attractions are available for viewing at the site [www.tourismniagara.com/nfcvcb](http://www.tourismniagara.com/nfcvcb).

Through the Internet, students can be introduced to the author, Eric Wilson. His website address is [www.ericwilson.com](http://www.ericwilson.com).

**The Lost Treasure of Casa Loma**  
Eric Wilson

**Setting**



Referring to the above map, fill in the blanks as you read the story.

1. Tom and Liz accompanied their Uncle Henry to Sir Nigel's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Tia and Irene took Tom and Liz to historic \_\_\_\_\_, to learn more about the history of the area.
3. Tom and Liz watched the \_\_\_\_\_ play a baseball game.
4. The Rainbow Bridge crosses to the American side of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Tom and Liz enjoyed a victory celebration at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

**Character Web**

Characters from *The Lost Treasure of Casa Loma*

<b>Vince Winter</b>	<b>Smythe</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<b>Uncle Henry Austen</b>	<b>Tia Nightingale</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
<b>Sir Nigel</b>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<b>Hatfield</b>	<b>Blacksmith</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
<b>Irene</b>	<b>Dexter Valentine</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Chapter Questions**

**Chapters 1 & 2**



1. Explain how Tom and Liz came to be at Casa Loma.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Two men had disappeared from Casa Loma.
  - a) Who were they?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What were the similarities in these two events?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Character Summary of Tom Austen**

**APPEARANCE**

**ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND WORDS**

**CHARACTER TRAITS**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Chapters 5 & 6**



1. Tom discovered that there were three people involved in his kidnapping. Who were these three people?

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2. a) How did Tom try to mislead his captors?

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b) Why did Tom suspect his trick may not have been successful?

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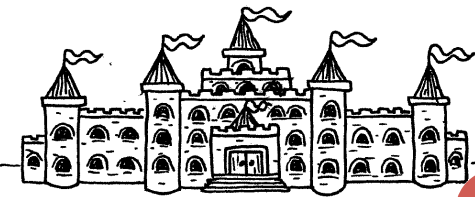


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**Final Projects**



1. **Characterization**

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

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

Use this page for your rough draft.

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2. **Map Activity**

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



5. **Vocabulary**

Complete the following crossword.



**ACROSS**

- 4. Niagara tour boat (4 words) p.66
- 6. British headquarters in the War of 1812 (2 words) p. 17
- 11. Used to see action close-up, p. 62
- 12. Sir Nigel's shower had \_\_\_\_\_ taps p.25
- 13. Man servant, p.7

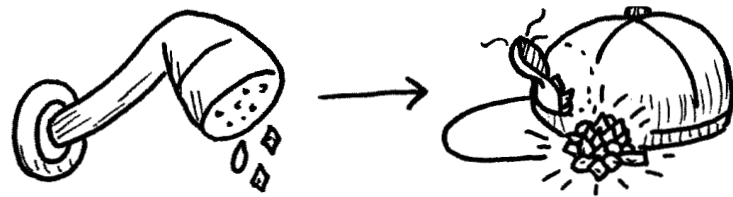
**DOWN**

- 1. Links Canada and USA at Niagara River (2 words) p.76
- 2. Blacksmith's fire, p.57
- 3. Hallway leading to Sir Nigel's study (2 words) p. 50
- 5. Casa Loma has \_\_\_\_\_ bathrooms, p.49
- 7. The group enjoyed an IMAX film at \_\_\_\_\_ Place, p. 97
- 8. Toronto baseball team (2 words) p.9.
- 9. Spanish for "house on the hill" (2 words) p.21
- 10. Horse names were printed in \_\_\_\_\_ at the Casa Loma stables, p.24

NOTE: Page numbers are from the 1992 edition of this novel.



Chapter 11



1. a) What important clue did Tom miss at the cabin?

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Where had he seen them before?

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

2. There is a well known expression that states: There is no honour among thieves. Vince and Tia showed this to be true by double-crossing each other; each tried to cut the other person out of the deal. List the ways in which they did this.

Vince:
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Tia:
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 11

a) What important clue did Tom miss at the cabin?

Tom missed the clue that the two long tracks outside the cabin had been made by a wheelchair.

b) Where had he seen them before?

Tom had seen these tracks before in the muddy parking lot at Fort York as he followed Tia on the tour.

There is a well known expression that states: There is no honour among thieves. Vince and Tia showed this to be true by double-crossing each other; each tried to cut the other person out of the deal. List the ways in which they did this.

Vince

- a) Vince had let the air out of the tires on Tia's station wagon, to stop her from being able to escape.
b) He telephoned the Mounties to inform them that the diamond thief was in the USA at Riverside Park.
Vince hid the real diamonds in the crest of the children's baseball caps, but he had told Tia that the diamonds would be in the crests of the children's jackets. He had placed fake diamonds in the crest of the jackets.

Tia

- a) Tia pulled the gun on Vince and took the 'diamonds' from the jackets to keep for herself.
b) Tia ensured that the fuel tank on the boat was nearly empty, thus endangering Vince.

a) How were Tom and Liz rescued?

A rescue helicopter lowered a rescue basket and Tom and Liz climbed aboard.

b) How was Vince rescued?

Vince was too afraid to let go of the log, so the female rescue team member was lowered down in the rescue basket. She strapped a harness around Vince and they were pulled up together to the rescue helicopter.

ANSWER KEY