

# 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.

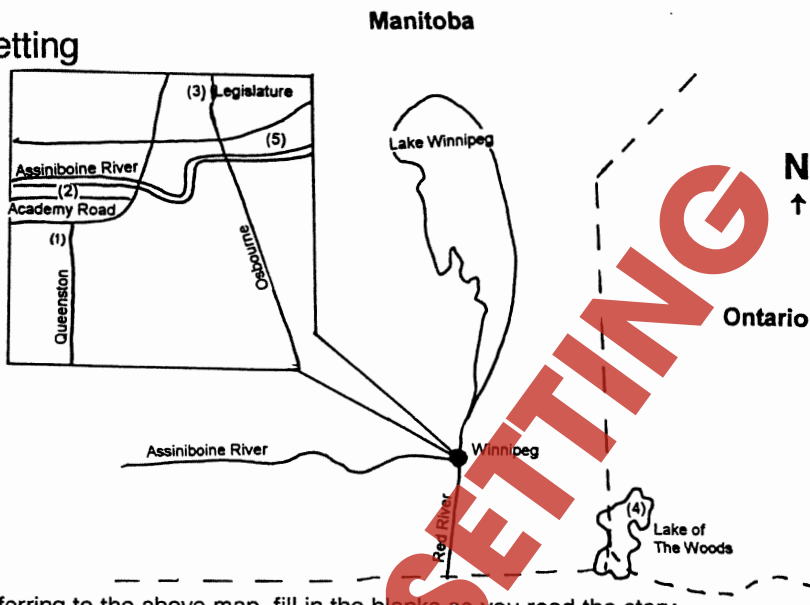
The Case of the Golden Boy provides rich material for the study of setting, characterization and plot development. It can be used independently or as an introduction to the other novels in the series, thereby providing a national setting within which the regional stories come together to make a whole. The varying levels of difficulty in the novels provide opportunity to accommodate individual student ability, experience and interests. The Case of the Golden Boy is one of the shorter, easier-to-read novels 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 cities have up-to-date information available on an Internet website. An interesting, related research topic would be the flood of 1997, which covered a large portion of Manitoba.

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

## The Case of the Golden Boy Eric Wilson

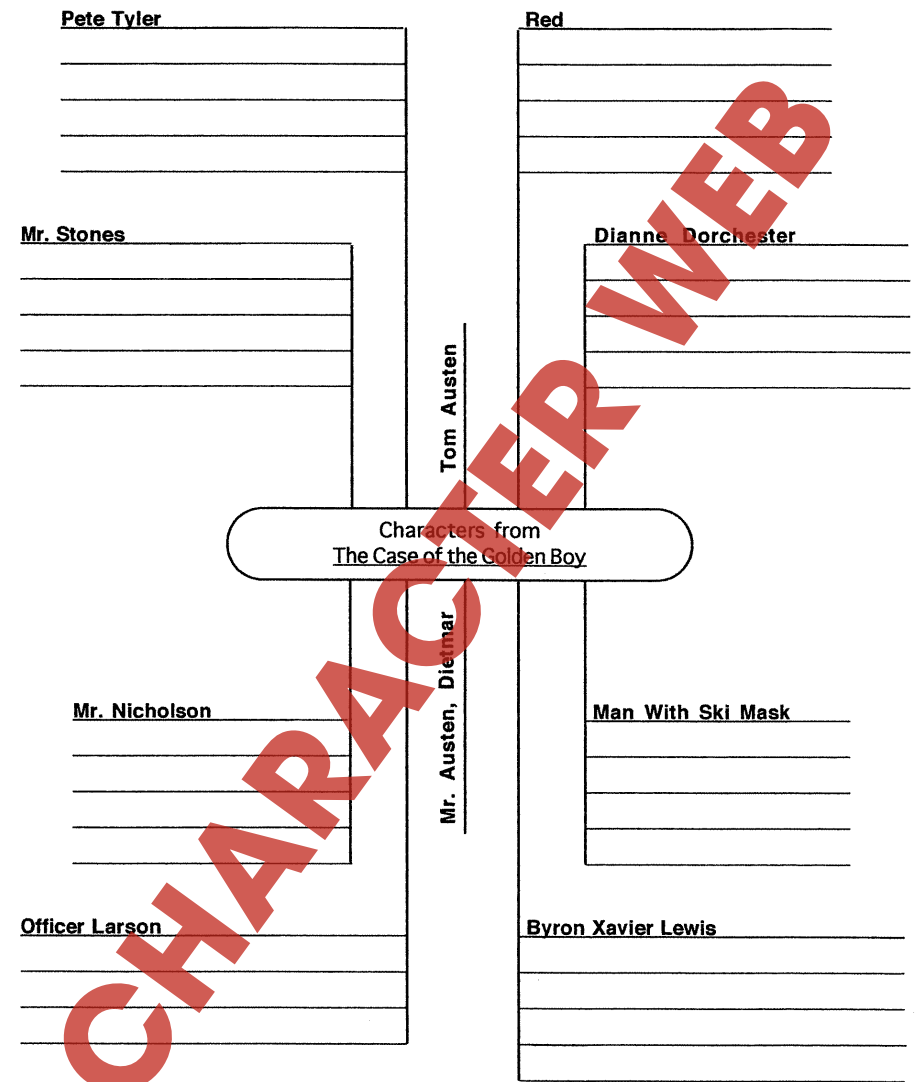
### Setting



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

- At \_\_\_\_\_ School, Tom and his friends were taught by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Dianne lived with her parents at their \_\_\_\_\_ Estate.
- Tom tried to disguise himself when he went to observe the meeting at the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Tom was held captive by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on a small island on \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ brought food each day to \_\_\_\_\_ while she was held captive in an \_\_\_\_\_.

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



### Character Summary of Tom Austen

#### APPEARANCE

#### ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND WORDS

#### CHARACTER TRAITS

ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND WORDS	CHARACTER TRAITS

### Chapter Questions

Answer in full sentences.

#### Chapters 1 & 2



- State the evidence that gave Tom the idea to explore the mystery house.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why did Tom want to return to the mystery house?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What was the consequence of Tom's exploration of the mystery house?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- No one had ever seen Pete Tyler, the school custodian, smile. He disliked having his picture taken, since it brought back bad memories. Why do you think he acted this way?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter 3



1. Why did Tom throw himself at Dianne?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was the second person to warn Tom to stay away from the deserted house?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When did Tom see Red for the second time?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Tom overheard Red's conversation with a second man. What do you think Red has been planning for a long time?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think Dianne accepted a ride home in the brown van?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters 7 & 8



1. At the train station, Tom was unable to find an available pay phone to alert the police. What action did Tom take as a result?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. While on the train Tom, tried several ways to escape from Red and alert others to his danger. Describe his attempts.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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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 Tom 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.

#### 2. Letter

A Montreal woman wrote a letter to Tom praising him for his good work in solving the case. Pretend that you are this woman and write the letter to Tom as you believe she wrote it.

#### 3. Map Activity

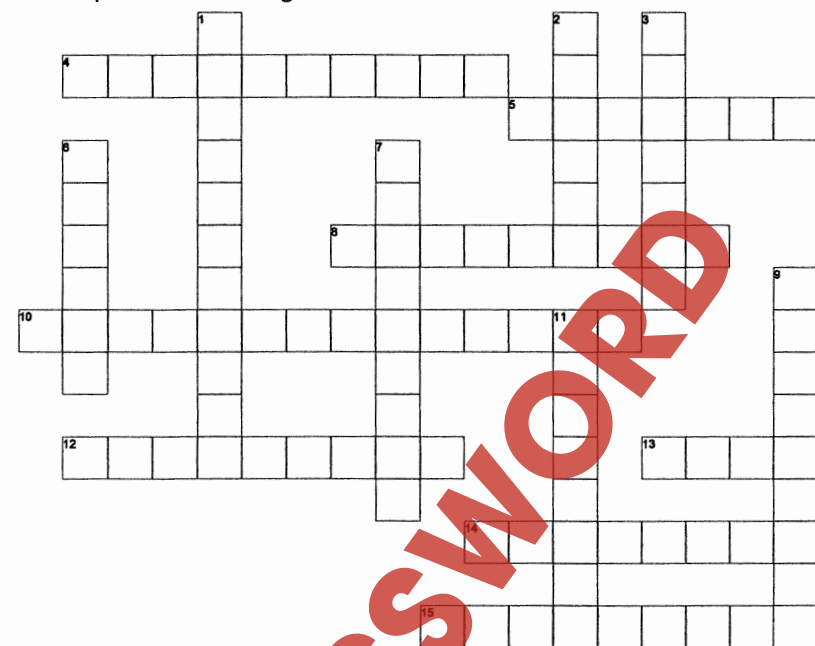
On your classroom map of Canada, mark and label the main setting of this novel.

#### 4. Illustration

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

#### 5. Vocabulary

Complete the following crossword.



#### ACROSS

4. A plan to cheat (p.82)
5. A large fire (p.77)
8. When someone threatens to harm someone to get their desired outcome (p.82)
10. Wilderness holiday spot in Ontario (4 words)(p.93)
12. School attended by Tom (p.9)
13. Someone people look up to or admire (p.86)
14. Lamp fuel (p.73)
15. A cheater (p.26)

#### DOWN

1. A river flowing through Winnipeg (p.81)
2. Money paid to a kidnapper (p.26)
3. To drown someone (p.63)(2 words)
6. Steal a person by force (p.19)
7. Statue on top of the Manitoba Legislature (2 words)(p.29)
9. A person held captive (p.70)
10. Countless of \_\_\_\_\_, one of the first steam engines (p.49)

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





**Chapter 6**

1. a) Who applied for a job guarding the Dorchester house?

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b) Why was he unsuccessful?

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2. a) Why was Tom suspicious of Byron Xavier Lewis?

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b) What did Byron Xavier Lewis hope to learn by interviewing Tom?

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**ter 6**

a) Who applied for a job guarding the Dorchester house?

Pete Tyler, the school custodian, applied for a job as a security guard at the Dorchester house.

b) Why was he unsuccessful?

He was unsuccessful because Mr. Dorchester found out that he had a criminal record.

a) Why was Tom suspicious of Byron Xavier Lewis?

Tom did not believe that Byron Xavier Lewis was a real newspaper reporter because he did not have a notebook or pen with which to take notes during the interview. After getting a paper and pen, he still did not make any notes while questioning Tom.

b) What did Byron Xavier Lewis hope to learn by interviewing Tom?

He wanted to know if Tom recognized the second kidnapper, the man in the ski mask.

a) Tom and Dietmar trailed Byron Xavier Lewis to a warehouse where he met Red. What did they overhear?

Tom and Dietmar heard B. X. and Red discussing their plan to leave town to go to their hideout in Ontario. B. X. planned to drive while Red took the 2014.

b) What did Red and B. X. plan to do with Dianne?

They felt it was too dangerous to move her at this time and so the man in the ski mask would have to continue to feed her.

**How were Tom and Dietmar discovered?**

Tom and Dietmar were discovered when Dietmar sneezed.

**ANSWER KEY**