

# 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.

Vampires of Ottawa 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. Vampires of Ottawa is a high interest novel that will motivate students to seek out information about the nation's capital city.

With the vast amount of information available about Ottawa, students can supplement the novel study package with meaningful research which will strengthen the impact of their work. In addition to readily available travel information, they will take great delight in finding information on the Internet that directly links to the places or events in the novels. Members of Parliament or lawyers from the local community who have appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada would be possible guest speakers knowledgeable about Ottawa.

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

## Vampires of Ottawa

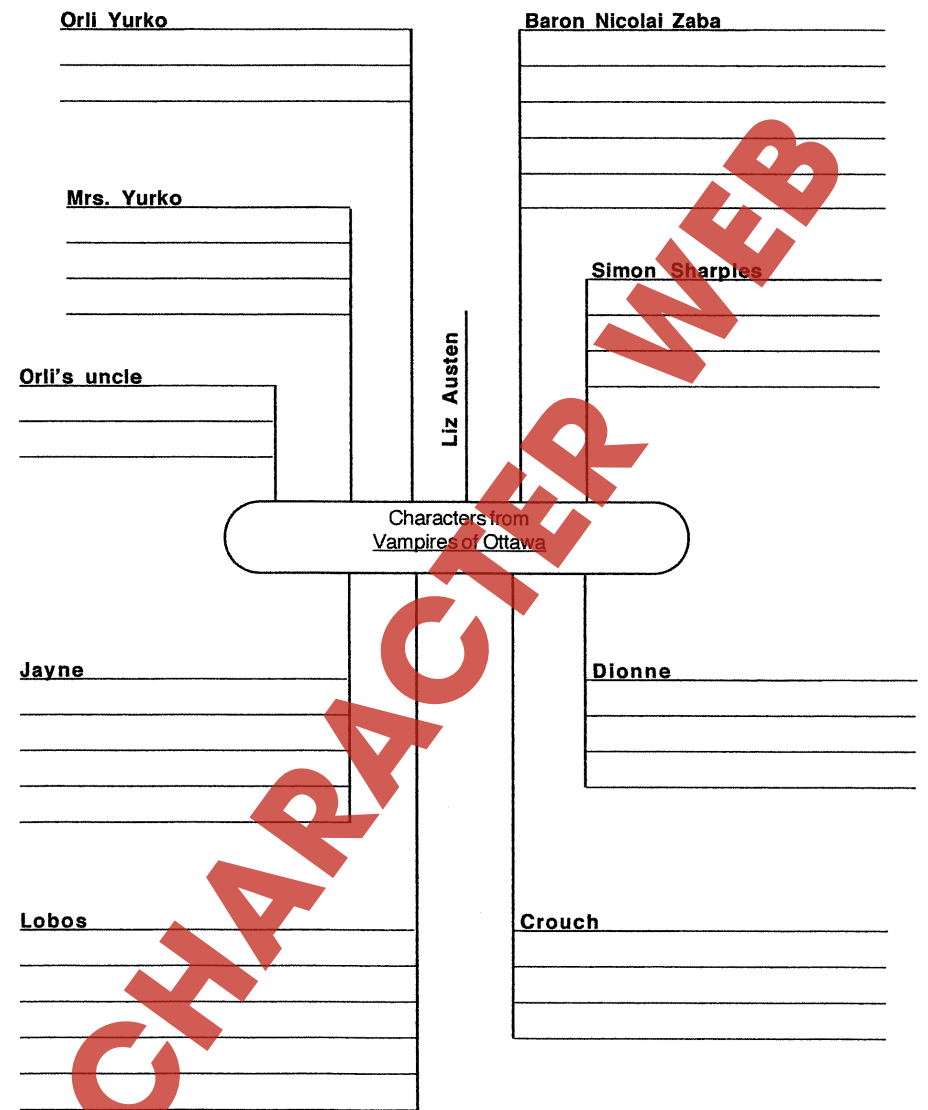
Eric Wilson  
Setting



Using the above map, complete the questions.

1. The Governor-General's residence is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The youth hostel, (Auberge Internationale d'Ottawa) is on \_\_\_\_\_ Street.
3. Canada's federal government is located in the \_\_\_\_\_ Buildings.
4. The Prime Minister lives at #24 \_\_\_\_\_ Drive.
5. Canada's capital city is \_\_\_\_\_, Ontario located across the river from \_\_\_\_\_, Québec.
6. Branching off of the Ottawa River is the \_\_\_\_\_ Canal.

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



### Character Summary of Liz Austen

APPEARANCE

ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND WORDS

CHARACTER TRAITS


### Chapter Questions

Answer in full sentences.



#### Chapters 1 and 2

1. Why was Liz Austen in a cell in the Nicholas Street Youth Hostel in Ottawa?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was Liz interested in Orli's birthplace?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Orli trick Liz and the other guests during the night?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What do you think might happen the next day on the river?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Chapter 4**

1. In the novel, the Governor General of Canada was a female. Name Canada's only female Governor General.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the responsibilities of Canada's Governor General?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Liz spoke about vampires, she believed they exist. Do you? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Chapter 7**

1. Many at Blackwater Estate appeared to be "on edge". Give one reason that each of the following could be upset.

**Baron** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mrs. Yurko** \_\_\_\_\_

**Jayne** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lobos** \_\_\_\_\_

**Orli** \_\_\_\_\_

2. List the signs of gloom in Liz's room.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Liz do before going to bed to assure her safety?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What happened to Liz during the night ?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe this creature.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**2. Letter**

Write a letter to a friend recommending that he/she read this novel by Eric Wilson. Be sure to tell your friend about your favourite part of the book. Also include your thoughts about some of the specific elements of good story writing that you have observed in this novel, such as setting, characterization, plot development, etc.

**3. Map Activity**

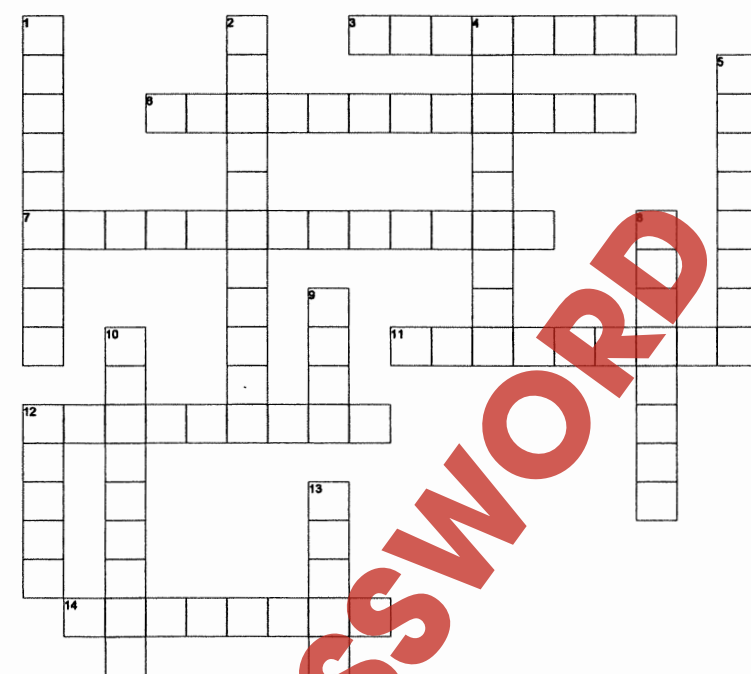
On your classroom map of Canada, mark and label the main setting of this novel.

**4. Illustration**

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

**5. Vocabulary**

Complete the following crossword:



**ACROSS**

- 3. Pastry dessert (rabbit ears in Romania)(p.56)
- 6. Home of Count Dracula (p.3)
- 7. Jail for people unable to pay money owed (p.5)(2 words)
- 11. Luxury automobile (p.31)
- 12. Desire to learn information (p.34)
- 14. Capital city of Manitoba (p.2)

**DOWN**

- 1. Another word for elephant (p.119)
- 2. Crisp pastries covered with cinnamon and sugar (p.15)(2 words)
- 4. Legendary African vampire who sucks blood from the thumbs of sleeping victims (p.28)
- 5. Stone carving of ugly creature near roof of a building (p.13)
- 8. Alone (p.4)
- 9. Where money is made (p.18)
- 10. Blood disease giving victims a vampire-like appearance (p.15)
- 12. Cellar under a chapel used as a burial place (p.80)
- 13. Male personal servant (p.45)

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



**Chapter 5**

1. Jayne appeared tense and nervous. List her actions and speech that support this.

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2. Why do you think Dionne and Jayne were concerned with vampires? Support your belief.

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**ANSWER KEY**

**Chapter 5**

Jayne appeared tense and nervous. List her actions and speech that support this.

She was very curt with Liz regarding the subject of vampires. Jayne's face squirmed at the mention of Dracula. Jayne was biting her fingernails. She did not answer Liz's questions about the Baron, telling her it was none of her business and warning her not to be so curious. Simon also stated that Jayne is moody.

Why do you think Dionne and Jayne were concerned with vampires? Support your belief.

Accept any reasonable answers with support.

**Chapter 6**

Why was Liz invited to Blackwater Estate and by whom ?

The Baron of Zaba invited Liz as a thank-you for helping with the rescue of Dionne. It was Lobos' idea.

Eric Wilson used "word images" to set the mood concerning Blackwater Estate. List at least five images he used to make Liz apprehensive about her arrival at Blackwater Estate.

- Liz felt uneasy about being at Blackwater Estate because of these images:
- a. the iron gate opened automatically
  - b. the bad weather
  - c. the building's history of being a lunatic asylum
  - d. the thick woods
  - e. ivy on the walls, black with age
  - f. the small, circular, uneven windows
  - g. brass door knocker of a little man with an evil grin
  - h. a cemetery behind the dilapidated house
  - i. a chapel which was locked
  - j. bad omen - raven resting on the weather vane
  - k. dark hallways panelled with old wood