

# 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.

*Murder on the Canadian* 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.

Teachers can trace the route of VIA Rail's *Canadian* on a laminated map of Canada and later mark the locations or settings of other novels used for classroom study. VIA Rail may also provide supplementary resource materials upon request. Check your telephone directory for their closest office.

An excellent audio-visual resource to accompany *Murder on The Canadian* is the video "**Canada**" from the series "**World's Greatest Train Ride Videos**" available from Publishers Choice Video.

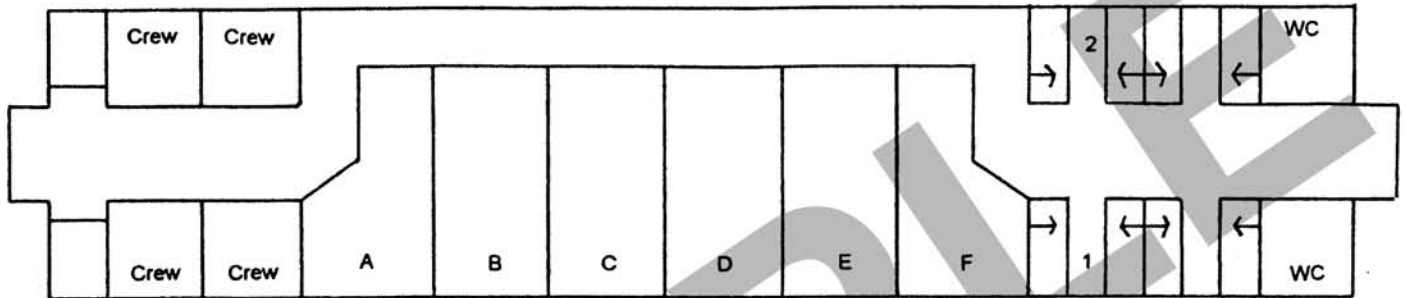
Through the internet, students can be introduced to the author, Eric Wilson. His website address is [www.ericwilson.com](http://www.ericwilson.com).

# Murder on The Canadian

Eric Wilson

## Setting

As you read the story identify the occupants of the various bedrooms and sections in the sleeping car.



### The Sherwood Manor Sleeping Car



Washroom



Berths

Berth Section 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Berth Section 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Bedroom A \_\_\_\_\_

Bedroom B \_\_\_\_\_

Bedroom C \_\_\_\_\_

Bedroom D \_\_\_\_\_

Bedroom E \_\_\_\_\_

Bedroom F \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 4**



**1. What activities took place in the dome car?**

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**2. What was the commotion in the bar?**

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**3. Some of the other passengers seemed to know things about Richard and Catherine Saks. Who were these passengers?**

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**4. What did Richard Saks have in his hand when he came out of his bedroom?**

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**Chapter 9**



**1. Name 2 of Mrs. Ruggles' previous jobs.**

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**2. What was the motive for the murder?**

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**3. What was the murder weapon?**

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**4. How did Tom manage to hit the killer with a rock in the dark tunnel?**

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