

Introduction

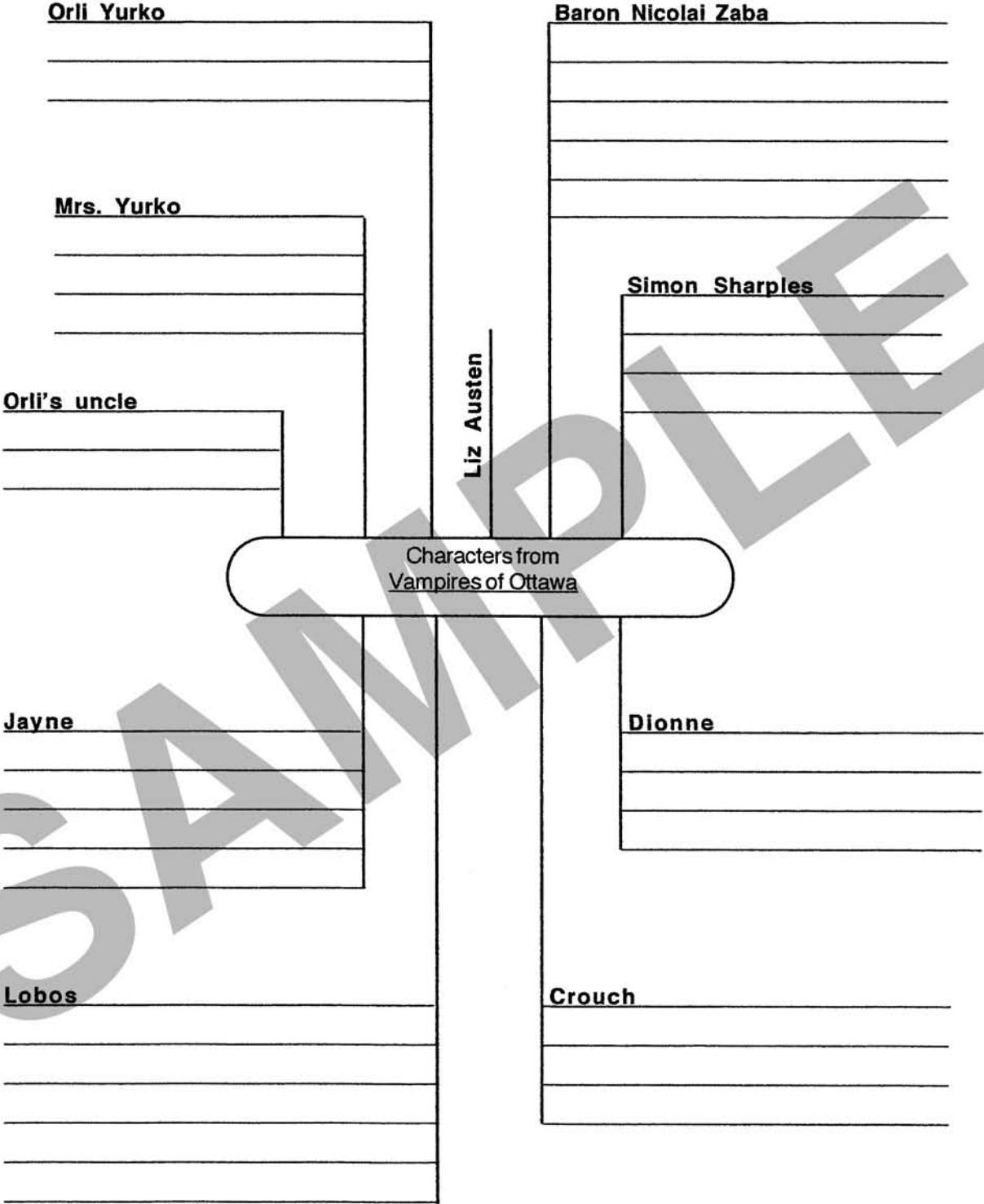
Eric Wilson novels excite the imagination of young readers in grades 4-6. Appealing to children's inherent keen interest in mystery, Eric Wilson has skilfully woven accurate Canadian geographic and historic information into his writing. He also touches on current Canadian social and political issues 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.

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



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?**

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.