

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 Green Gables Detectives 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.

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 major cities have up-to-date information available on an Internet website.

An excellent audio-visual resource to accompany The Green Gables Detectives is the video "**Eric Wilson's Canada: A Mystery Writer's Prince Edward Island**" available from Magic Lantern Communications, Oakville, Ontario (1 800-263-1717). Eric Wilson explains how he created his novel from this geographic and historic setting. A scene from the novel is also enacted by two young actors.

Through the internet, students can be introduced to the author, Eric Wilson. His website address is www.ericwilson.com.

Character Summary of Liz Austen

APPEARANCE

ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS
AND WORDS

CHARACTER TRAITS

ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND WORDS	CHARACTER TRAITS



Chapter 11

1. Who was with Aaron “searching” for Liz and Makiko?

2. a) Liz was suspicious of one particular person. Whom did she suspect?

b) List the evidence against that person.

3. Why did Aaron open the car door?

4. Who was the murderer?

5. List all of the disguises used by the murderer.

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.