

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.

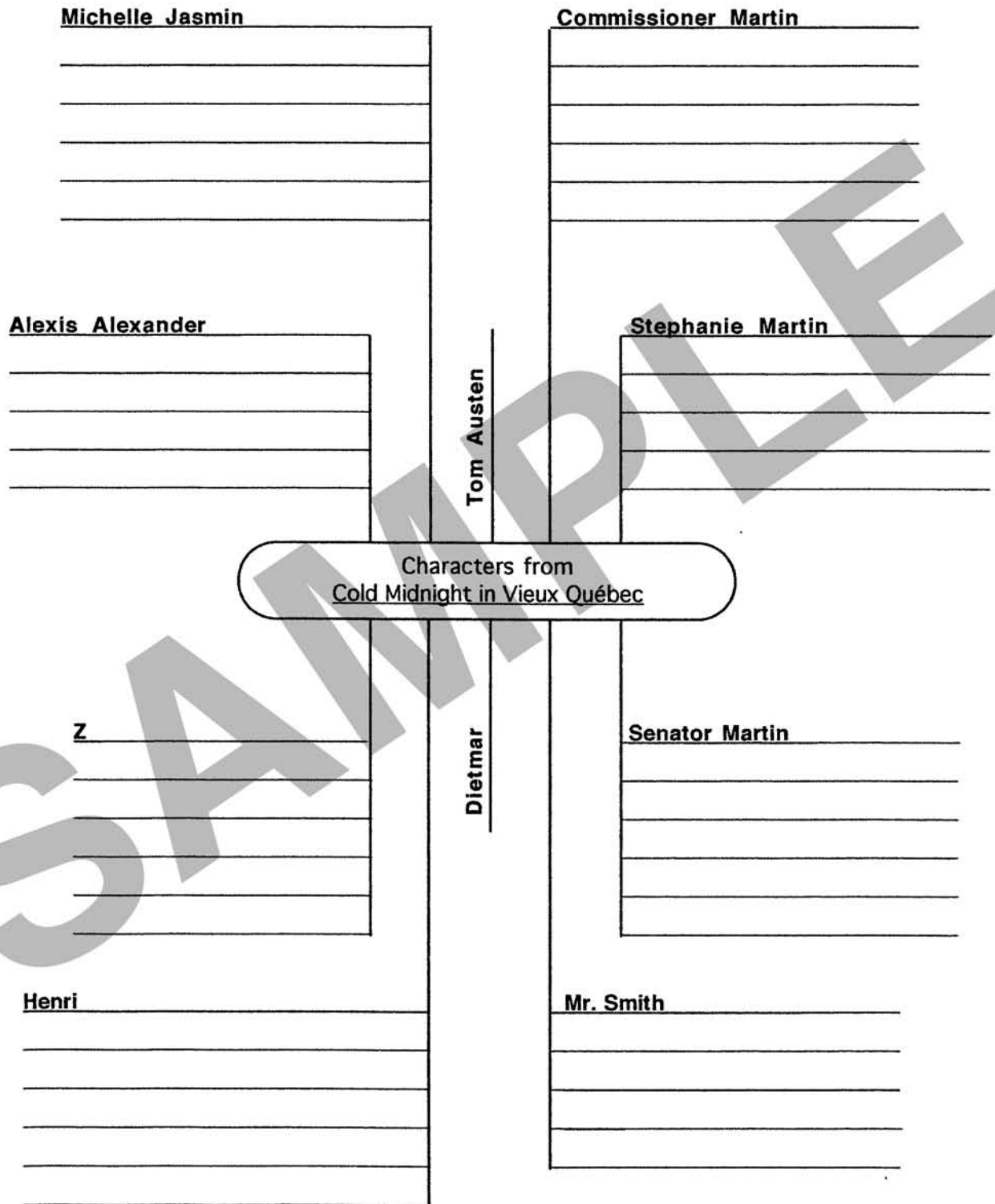
Cold Midnight in Vieux Québec provides rich material for the study of setting, characterization and plot development. It can be used independently or as an introduction to the other novels in the series, thereby providing a national setting within which the regional stories come together to make a whole. 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.

The Québec *Carnaval* is a unique festival of interest to all Canadians. Prior to the study of this novel, the teacher could send for *Carnaval* information which would provide excellent display material. An excellent audio-visual resource to accompany Cold Midnight in Vieux Québec is the video "**Quebec Carnival: A Magical Celebration**". This 5 minute promotional video has no narration and is accompanied only by a French theme song.

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 4



1. a) Who had Marie-Claire's notebook? What was in it?

b) Why do you think the notebook might be useful?

2. Who do you think Marie-Claire had asked for an interview? Give a reason for your answer.

3. a) How did Tom meet Commissioner Martin?

b) What did Tom tell her?

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

Imagine you are Tom Austen. Write a letter to your sister, Liz, who wants to know the details of your latest case. Be sure to relate the facts in the order in which they occurred. This assignment should use the friendly letter format.

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.