

In the fall of 1948, two students at the University of Chicago decided to escape the rigors of study in their stuffy dorm and attend a dance they had seen posted on the bulletin board. They had waited too long to find dates, but knew there would be many pretty girls at the party.

While driving along the highway, they noticed a young girl slowly walking on the shoulder of the road. The boys stopped and invited the enchanting stranger to ride with them. She told them she was on her way to a dance and got into the car. The boys introduced themselves and said they were also on their way to the dance. She smiled and said her name was the same as the lavender dress she was wearing. Although her beauty was alluring, there seemed to be something strange about their pretty passenger.



At the party, Lavender was an excellent dancer. All the boys surrendered to her beguiling charm and personality that evening. She captured the hearts of everyone except the other girls, who were virtually ignored by their dates. When the dance hall closed, the two boys offered to take Lavender home. She smiled and slid onto the rear seat of the convertible.

During the drive, the autumn air became chilly and one of the boys gave her his coat. They were surprised when they arrived at her house. Lavender lived in a crumbling shack, standing precariously on a dirt road off the highway. They said good night and were soon on their way back to the campus.

During lunch the next day, the two students remembered that Lavender still had the coat.

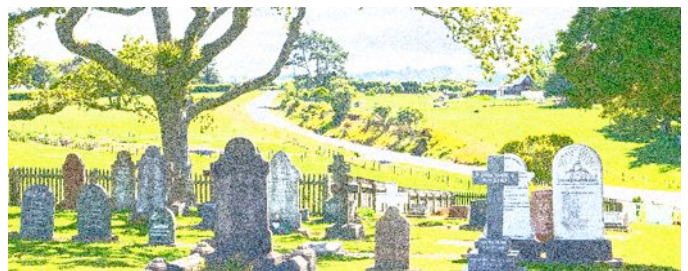
After class, they drove to the old shack on the outskirts of Chicago. They could not understand why such a wonderful girl had to live in such a grubby part of the city.

An elderly woman answered their knock. "Hello," said the older boy. "Is Lavender home?" "Nobody named Lavender lives here," said the woman, who eyed the boys suspiciously. "What do you want?" "She must live here," insisted the other boy. "We brought her home last night after a dance."

When he described her, the woman's face beamed with delight. "Oh, you must be talking about Lily. That's what she looked like. But Lily isn't here anymore." The old woman grinned shrewdly. "She lives in the cemetery down the road."

The two boys suddenly thought they were the victims of a practical joke and decided to let Lavender keep the jacket. She obviously did not own a coat or she would have worn it last night. Lavender could use some warm clothes if this hovel was really her home. They smiled, said good-bye to the old woman, and drove away in silence.

Out of curiosity, they went to the abandoned cemetery to check out the crazy story. Surely, the old woman was just having fun with them. As a matter of fact, she was probably still chuckling at their innocence.



At the cemetery, they began walking along the headstones and were mildly surprised to find a marker engraved with the name "Lily."

But they were really shocked when they found their missing coat folded neatly on the grave.

LAVENDER COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	right	wrong
1. A dorm is a place where students live.	X	
2. A date can be a young girl.		
3. The two students went to the dance because their girls had told them about it.		
4. The two students went to the dance hall by car.		
5. When one of the boys introduced himself to Lavender, he could have said e.g.: „Hello, my name’s Tom. Nice to meet you.“		
6. Lavender was ugly, shy and a bad dancer.		
7. All the girls at the party liked Lavender a lot.		
8. All the boys at the party liked Lavender a lot.		
9. A convertible is a girl.		
10. Lavender lived in a very nice house.		
11. The same two students took Lavender back to her home.		
12. One of the students gave Lavender his coat.		
13. The student wanted his coat back.		
14. It seems that the girl’s name was not Lavender but Lily.		
15. The elderly woman gave the coat to the boys.		
16. The elderly woman was Lavender’s sister.		
17. The elderly woman was joking, she didn’t tell them the truth.		
18. The boys saw Lavender when she was picking flowers. The flowers were some lilies.		
19. The coat didn’t belong to Lavender. It was Lily’s.		
20. The elderly woman told the boys that the colour of the coat was lily, not lavender.		
21. The story happened in summer.		
22. At the end of the story, the two boys had a good laugh.		
23. At the end of the story, the two students were shocked.		
24. The story happened in the U.S.A.		
25. At the end of the story Lavender and the two students were very happy.		