

Lie • Lay • Lain • Laid

By Carole L. Cooney

Definitions

Lie: to rest or recline

Lay: to rest or recline *in the past*

Lain: “past perfect”

Rose lies on the bed.

Rose lay on the bed yesterday.

Rose has lain on the bed for a month.

Lay: to put or set down

Laid: to put or set down in the past

Laid: “past perfect”

Rose lay the book on the bed.

Rose laid the book on the bed, yesterday.

Rose had laid the book on the bed.

Settings: The King’s palace; The Oak Forest

Characters:

Narrator

King

Prince Sylvester

Gnome

Narrator: Once upon a time there was a beautiful kingdom called Betil. The King had a lovely daughter, Rosalie, who was dreadfully ill. No doctor in the land could cure her. One day the King asked Prince Sylvester, her love, to search every land for someone who could restore Rosalie’s health.

King: Sylvester, you must find someone who can heal my daughter. She lies in bed and can do nothing but sleep. I wonder if someone laid a spell upon her.

Sylvester: Your Majesty, you know my love for Princess Rosalie. I shall search far and wide, and send everyone who feels they can make Princess Rosalie well.

Narrator: And so, the Prince rode away to many distant lands. He asked strangers to name powerful doctors, but no name was given. One day, as he lay resting in the shade of a large oak tree, Prince Sylvester heard tinkling music and a voice singing. He looked around and saw in a large bush of red roses, a little gnome lying on a rose leaf, playing a small harp and singing.

Sylvester: (blinking his eyes) Who is this I see? Are my eyes playing tricks on me? Sir! Are you real?

Gnome: I’m as real as you are. (singing) Too, Roo, La-La-La-Lee, Too, Roo ...

Sylvester: Excuse me, Sir, but do you have a name?

Gnome: Most certainly! I’m called Happiness. Happi, for short. Indeed! a most wonderful name!

Sylvester: And do you bring happiness to those who seek it?

Gnome: Indeed, I do. I noticed as you lay there, that you are troubled. What is it you need, lad.

Sylvester: My King's daughter, Princess Rosalie, is very ill. She has lain in bed for many days and cannot rise. All she can do is sleep.

Gnome: Oh, Syreena is at it again! It sounds like a spell to me. Are you willing to do whatever it takes to make Rosalie well?

Sylvester: Yes! I'll do anything for my love. Tell me what to do and it shall be done.

Gnome: There are two feats that must be done. First, lay down your sword on the bottom of the Pool of Danger. To do this you must dive deeply into its icy waters and having laid your sword on the murky floor, lay a huge stone upon it so it does not move! Second, lie by the shore of the Pool of Danger and wait for Syreena to appear. Here is my harp. (singing)

“Play it well.

Sing from your heart.

Watch Syreena,

Who you'll outsmart.

Yes, play it well to break the spell.”

Narrator: In a flash, Happi disappeared. Sylvester rose from where he lay, and ran toward the Pool of Danger with the harp in one hand and his sword in the other. In the distance, he heard loud shrieks and cries that sent chills down his spine. As the glistening waters of the Pool appeared through the trees, he stopped.

What happened next?

Using as many definitions of Lie, Lay, Lain, and Laid as you can, end the play.