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English 2XL  
Section 4  
PV Theater CM #1

### Once Upon a Mattress

*Once Upon a Mattress* is a musical about a young prince trying to find the perfect bride. His mother is very controlling and makes each princess that comes to him take a test to see if she is fit to be his wife. The story revolves around one princess in particular, who is strange and interesting in a good way. She is outgoing and quirky, and the prince absolutely loves her. Her test is different, as the prince's mother makes sure it is a test that cannot be passed. She has a pea put under 10 mattresses, and she sleeps on top. If she cannot sleep, then she is a true princess. The princess cannot sleep, and she is free to marry the prince, but it is later revealed that the real reason she couldn't sleep was that weapons and sharp objects were also put under the mattresses later.

This musical is fun and contains a bit of comedy, but in all seriousness, it does contain a wonderfully poetic message: love never rests, and love always finds a way to work. True love will always work out in the end, just as it does in the play. No matter what obstacles two lovers face between them, love will get over them. This is represented metaphorically when the princess has to swim across the moat with alligators in order to reach the castle and see the prince. Nobody in their right mind would swim in a moat with alligators, but this woman did because destiny made her.

This play was poetic for many reasons. The play was fun yet serious, funny yet emotional, and comedic while maintaining a serious message about true love. The play might seem cliché from its summary, but trust me when I say that this play actually does contain a very real message with very poetic qualities embedded in it.