## QUEEN AGGRAVAIN

The Queen is in control of the castle and everyone in it. She tries to manipulate Dauntless by being overly sweet at times, yet she is always looking out for herself first. Cast an excellent singer and performer who is able to command attention.

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**BEGIN**

**DAUNTLESS**
I'd better take her up to her room.

**QUEEN**
Dauntless, wait...

**DAUNTLESS**
What should I wait for, Mama? She passed the test!

**QUEEN**
I said wait!! Now you listen to your mother. Throughout this heartbreaking business I have never nagged, never interfered, and never expected one solitary word of sympathy...

**DAUNTLESS**
Shhh, Mama – she's sleeping.

**QUEEN**
*(louder)*
But I will not stand by...

**DAUNTLESS**
*(covering WINNIFRED's ears)*
Mama, quiet!

**QUEEN**
I mean, look at her! I've never trusted anyone who had those shifty eyes...

**DAUNTLESS**
I told you to SHUT UP!

**END**

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**MINSTREL**
On this particular day they were testing Princess number 12.

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**BEGIN**

**PRINCESS #12**
*(answering a question confidently)*
King Ethelred.

**WIZARD**
Absolutely correct!

*EVERYONE except the QUEEN and WIZARD applauds enthusiastically.*

**DAUNTLESS**
She's smart, Mama. She's the best one yet. Can I marry her now, huh? Can I, Mama?

**QUEEN**
No, sweetheart. There's still one more question.

*She snaps her fingers at the WIZARD.*

**LUCILLE**
This question isn't going to be fair.

**LARKEN**
It's the marriage law that isn't fair. "Throughout the land no one may wed 'til Dauntless to the altar's led." Until Prince Dauntless gets married, none of us can.

**WIZARD**
You have now reached the seventh plateau, and here is your final question. It is divided into three parts and concerns a famous man often referred to as the "Knight of the Red Cross." One: What is his name? Two: What beast did he slay? And three: What was the middle name of the daughter-in-law of the best friend of the blacksmith who forged the sword that killed the beast?

*The KNIGHTS and LADIES sigh and look hopelessly to one another.*

**PRINCESS #12**
One: St. George. Two: The dragon. And three...

**WIZARD**
Ten seconds.

**PRINCESS #12**
Oh-h-h...

**LARKEN**
Oh, pass the test. Please, please pass.

**WIZARD**
I'm terribly sorry...

**PRINCESS #12**
Oh-h-h...

**WIZARD**
... Your time is up.

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**QUEEN**
Too bad, my dear, too bad. Remember, blood will tell, and yours didn't tell us quite enough. Goodbye, good luck, and get out.
*PRINCESS #12 exits in tears as the QUEEN rises.*
Sweetheart... Dauntless! Stop pouting and don't dilly-dally.
*(crossing)*
It's nearly time for your cocoa.

*She exits in a flourish, followed by the KING and WIZARD.*

**END**

**BEGIN**

**QUEEN**

As if I didn't have enough trouble trying to protect my only son from every catch-penny princess that comes along.

*The WIZARD places the stool downstage center and the QUEEN sits.*

I'm in no mood to sit for hours and wrack my brain over a test for that girl, but that's the way Dauntless wants it.

**WIZARD**

Well, her papers seem to be in order.

**QUEEN**

The worst of it is that foolish boy actually seems to like the girl. So we must think of a test that looks fair and seems fair and sounds fair and isn't fair. But exactly what?

**WIZARD**

Table manners?

**QUEEN**

No, that's not good enough. Hmmm...

*She stands with an inspired thought!*

Sensitivity! We'll test her for sensitivity!

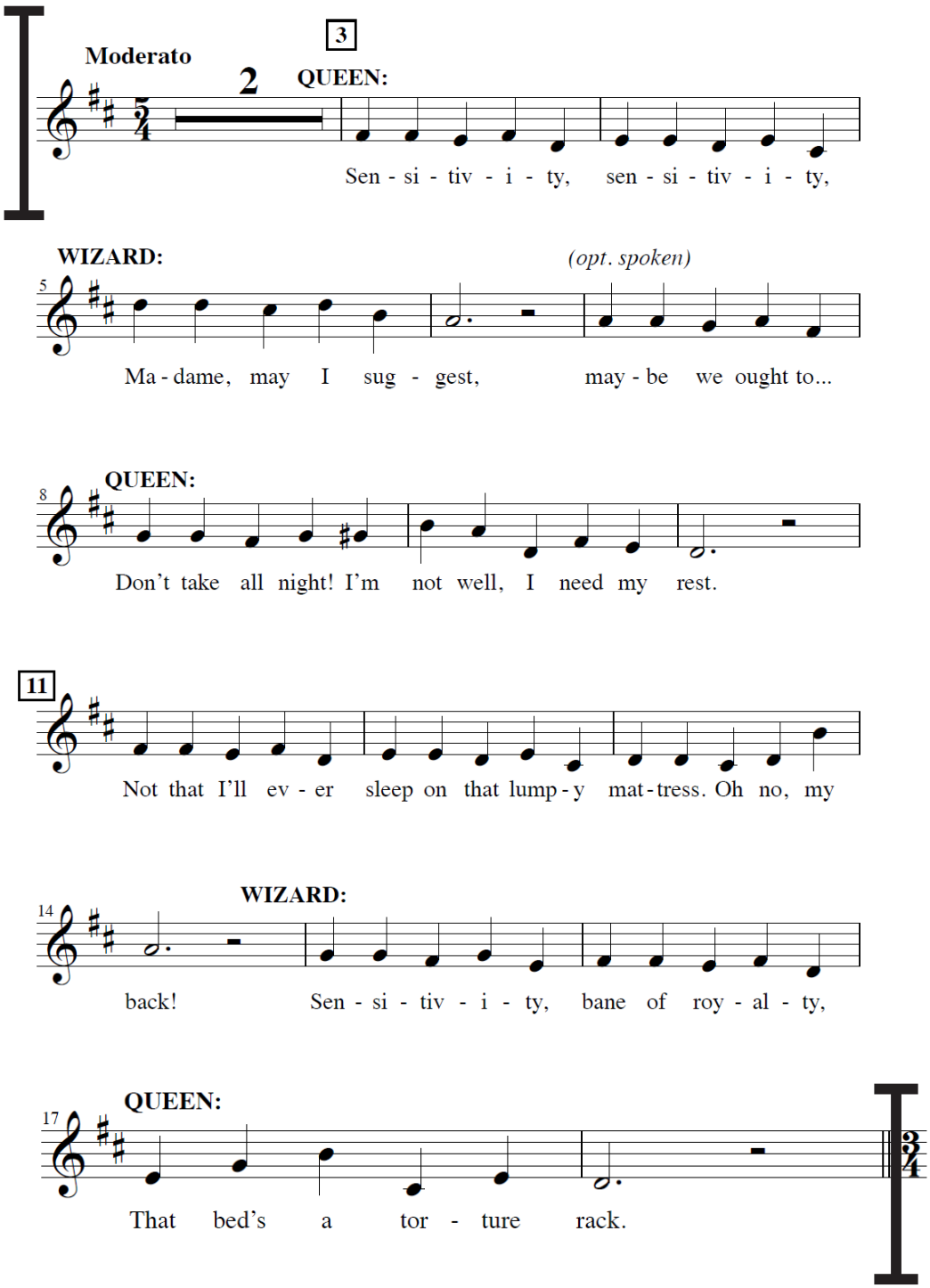
**END**

**TRACK 6: SENSITIVITY**

**Be prepared to sing all parts.**

# Sensitivity

**No. 6**

**(QUEEN, WIZARD)**

CUE:
**QUEEN:** No, that's not good enough. Hmmm...
*(She stands with an inspired thought!)* Sensitivity!
We'll test her for **sensitivity**!