

A NEW MUSICAL

NUMBERS



NERDS



The {Almost} All-Girl Math Challenge

NUMBERS NERDS

Or

THE (ALMOST) ALL-GIRL MATH CHALLENGE

Book by Laura Stratford, Lyrics by Alex Higgin-Houser,  
Music by David Kornfeld with additional music by Dylan  
MarcAurele, Story by Larry Little

Commissioned by CPA Theatricals

Contact: Larry Little, Producer  
773-391-1113  
larry@cpatheatricals.org

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## CHARACTERS:

MELISSA: 17, a junior. The Math Team captain. Obsessed with Einstein and wants to be a mathematician. Feels that she doesn't fit in with the other girls, and is made fun of for her unruly hair.

MARY KATE: 17, a junior. A contrarian. Very Catholic, yet feminist, and proud to have been taught by nuns.

AMBER: 17, a junior. A member of the popular clique. Brutally honest but with a secret vulnerability. Enjoys doing math but fears judgment.

BARBIE: 18, a senior. Affluent and entitled, with very permissive lawyer parents. A math savant who has a hard time distinguishing fantasy from reality.

LEROY: 17, a junior. Raised in Laos by missionary parents and just moved to the USA. New in school and the only boy on the Math Team. Very excited and has no verbal filter.

McGERY: Late 30s-early 50s woman. Plays all adults, especially McGery, the drama teacher who is fired and takes on the janitor position as well as advising all clubs.

SETTING: The present

SCENES 1-7: The halls of Waukesha High School

SCENES 8-13: The lobby of the Nonagon Hotel; the auditorium of the National Math Sum-It; a hotel room

## SONG LIST:

1. This Is Gonna Be My Year
2. New York
3. Melissa's First Theorem
4. Activities Resume
5. I Look Like An Engineer
6. Outliers
7. Public Speaking 101
8. Give 'Em A Show
9. The Pressure Is On
10. The Pressure Is On (Remix)
11. In Defense of Math
12. The Final Round (Instrumental)
13. Melissa's Next Theorem
14. Finale Ultimo

Act 1

Scene 1

*The Midwest Regional Math Sum-It. Four female Math Team members from Waukesha, Wisconsin prepare to go on stage: MELISSA, MARY KATE, AMBER, and BARBIE. MARY KATE wears a repurposed Catholic schoolgirl outfit with the skirt rolled into a mini. The ANNOUNCER, voiced by LEROY, will announce that the competition is about to begin. But for now, the stage is in shadow.*

ALL

AAH-AH-AH-AH-AHHH  
AH-AH-AH-AH-AHHHHHH  
AH-AH-AH-AH-AHHHHHHH...

ANNOUNCER

The final round of the Midwest Regional Math Sum-It will begin in one minute. Waukesha, Oshkosh, get your players ready. Wisconsin is dominating the Midwest finals!

MELISSA

Okay team. Mary Kate, Barbie, Amber: We're gonna win this, and then we're off to Nationals. No sweat. Hands in!

(MELISSA puts her hand into the middle of them. BARBIE does as well, but not MARY KATE or AMBER.)

AMBER

Lame.

MELISSA

This is important. Believe me, it's going to feel so amazing under the lights when the answers all fall into place.

MARY KATE

Unless they don't. This is an elimination round. Each of us alone, on the spot. (Sarcastic:) No pressure.

MELISSA

How hard can it be? (Beat) Do what you gotta do, and get ready.

(MELISSA focuses herself.)

**1.A. Song: THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR**

MELISSA

THIS IS THE PAGE  
IN MY BIOGRAPHY  
SCHOLARS WILL SAY  
I GOT STARTED

THEY SAY GENIUS SETS IN  
AT SIXTEEN  
MELISSA'S ON THE RISE:  
PREPARE TO BE OUTSMARTED

HERE COMES YOUR CAPTAIN  
LET'S KICK IT INTO GEAR  
'CAUSE THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR

ALL

AH-AH-AH-AH-AH

MARY KATE

BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELTS  
AND BRACE YOURSELVES  
FOR THE ALL-GIRL TEAM'S  
ABOUT TO BEAT 'YA

TO MY SIBLINGS IN THE STANDS: Hi!

EAT MY DUST  
AND THE HUMBLE PIE  
I'M ABOUT TO FEED 'YA

(Spoken:) Move over, Regionals!  
HEY NATION, I'M HERE  
THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR

ALL  
THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR

MELISSA  
THE START OF MY MATH CAREER

ALL  
THE PRESSURE IS ON BUT I HAVE NO FEAR  
I KNOW THAT THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR

BARBIE  
SPARKLES AND COLORS  
PINK AND BLUE  
ARE SWIRLING AROUND  
BEFORE MY EYES

HOPE MY MOM AND DAD  
CAN SEE ME HERE  
WHEN THESE COLORS TURN TO NUMBERS  
AND WE WIN THE PRIZE

GOT MY LISA FRANK CALCULATOR  
I'M CHOCK-FULL OF CHEER  
'CAUSE THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR!

AMBER  
UGH...  
STEP ASIDE LOSERS  
AMBER'S HERE  
TOO COOL FOR THIS  
BUT WHATEVER

WHEN WE GO HOME

TO A HERO'S WELCOME  
 IT'LL ALL BE WORTH IT,  
 THIS NERDY, LAME ENDEAVOR

IT'S MY CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE  
 I'M BETTER THAN MY PEERS!  
 THIS IS GONNA BE MY--

ALL  
 THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR  
 MARY KATE  
 TO STAND OUT

AMBER  
 TO RISE

BARBIE  
 TO PREMIERE

ALL  
 THE PRESSURE IS ON IN OUR NEW FRONTIER  
 I KNOW THAT  
 THIS IS GONNA BE MY  
 THIS IS GONNA BE MY  
 THIS IS GONNA BE MY

ANNOUNCER  
 Mathletes, take your mark. Starting with *your team captain*,  
 each team will answer one question at a time, with a limit  
 of one minute. The first team to answer incorrectly or time  
 out will be eliminated. The other team will be going to  
 Nationals.

ALL  
 AH-AH-AH-AH-AHHHH  
 THE PRESSURE IS ON!

MELISSA  
 WE'RE HERE. IT'S REAL.

AMBER

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS

MARY-KATE

I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE PREPARED.

BARBIE

I CAN'T SEE MY PARENTS...

AMBER

DON'T MESS UP, LOSERS

MELISSA

WHY AM I SUDDENLY SCARED?

ALL

5, 4, 3, 2, 1, THE PRESSURE IS ON!

ANNOUNCER

We will begin with the team captain from Waukesha.

ALL

AH-AH-AH-AH-AHHHH  
THE PRESSURE IS ON  
PRESSURE IS  
PRESSURE IS  
PRESSURE IS--  
ON!

(End of song, applause break. Music  
picks back up underneath.)

ANNOUNCER

Melissa, here's your question: You're on a mission to a planet two light years away. You launch and your spaceship starts in earth orbit. You accelerate at a rate of  $1.7 \text{ km/s}^2$ . At half the distance between Earth and the planet you decelerate at the same rate. You arrive, plant a flag, and return home in the same manner. To an Earth observer, how much time elapses?



(MELISSA stares blankly.)

**1.B. Song: THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR (B)**

ALL

MELI-I-I-I-SAAA

MELI-I-I-I-SAAA

MELI-I-I-I-SAAA

MELISSA

(staring at audience)

So many people--what if I get it wrong?

(Buzzer.)

ANNOUNCER

Time's up! And with no answer, Waukesha Wisconsin has been eliminated from the regional competition. And the winner is...Oshkosh!

(The team sputters in disbelief.)

MARY KATE

I...wha...but...

BARBIE

What just happened?

AMBER

Nice going, *captain*.

MELISSA

I...I...I couldn't...

(BARBIE, MARY KATE, and AMBER put their heads together to discuss.)

**1.C. Song: THIS IS GONNA BE MY YEAR (C)**

THIS WAS GOING TO BE MY YEAR

NOW MY ACCOLADES TURN INTO JEERS

AS THE FUTURE I FORESAW DISAPPEARS  
IT'S NEVER GONNA BE MY YEAR

AMBER

(spoken, to MELISSA)

We voted. You're off the team!

(End Scene 1.)

Perussal

## Scene 2

*The hallways of the high school. Early afternoon. MARY KATE, AMBER, and BARBIE enter, pursued by MELISSA. An announcement voiced by MCGERY plays.*

## V/O ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention students. Attention. I am pleased to announce that the boys' locker room has been completed. Please use the new gymnasium facilities as the temporary trailer is now being...sterilized. Have a good completely secular day!

MELISSA

Hey, guys! At least let me do my Trig homework with you!

BARBIE

(looking at the others)

That sounds okay...

MARY KATE

Melissa. I'm sorry it has to be this way. But no matter how good you are, if you can't take the pressure of competition, you're just not Math Team material.

MELISSA

I'll work on my stage fright. Just give me a chance.

AMBER

Sorry, no.

MELISSA

You're not the team captain, I am!

AMBER

You were.

(Beat. MELISSA leaves, dejected.)

BARBIE

Do we have to kick Melissa out entirely? The season's over anyway.

MARY KATE

We need to start gearing up for next year and she's a weak link.

BARBIE

So that's it? We're over? I don't have a "next year," I'm graduating.

AMBER

About all that...listen, I really can't afford to be seen as a loser.

BARBIE

Math's not for losers!

AMBER

No, I mean literally. Like, we're a losing team. Hence, "losers."

MARY KATE

What, you think the other Four Blondes will kick you out of the clique?

AMBER

It's not just that. I've got an image to maintain, okay? I don't think I can be on the team anymore. At least not this year. Not until we have some time to redeem ourselves in the school's eyes.

BARBIE

You're leaving?

MARY KATE

But you love the Math Team!

AMBER

(softening for a moment)

Think of me when you use the quadratic formula?

MARY KATE

Who cares what anyone thinks? We need you.

AMBER

I'm sorry. I've got to go grab my stuff. Tiffani's giving me a ride home.

(AMBER leaves.)

BARBIE

You're not going to leave me too, are you?

MARY KATE

Of course not. You're my best friend. We still on for game night?

BARBIE

Yep! My order of pastel poker chips came in.

MARY KATE

Three rounds of Texas Hold'Em, max. I need to get my History book. I'll see you later!

(MARY KATE exits. MS. MCGERY enters in coveralls with a push-broom.)

MCGERY

(Singing from "Gypsy:")

I had a dream...

(She notices BARBIE.)

You're one of the Math Team girls, right?

BARBIE

Um. Ms. McGery?

MCGERY

In the flesh.

BARBIE

What's up with the janitor's outfit? Is the Theater Department doing "Stomp?"

MCGERY

Didn't you hear? Budget cuts. There is no more Theater Department.

BARBIE

But you're the drama teacher.

MCGERY

Not anymore. The nuns would have kept me, but now that we're a charter school, the administration has different priorities. Anyway, a job's a job, even if you go from trodding the boards to sweeping them.

BARBIE

It's November, why haven't I seen you before?

MCGERY

These coveralls are like an Invisibility Cloak. Congratulations on second place. Don't forget the Activities Fair tomorrow if you need an extracurricular for the winter. Oh--and be a dear and clear out your team's email inbox. The principal wants to make sure the school's not paying for the clubs to store a bunch of spam.

(MCGERY continues sweeping until she is offstage. BARBIE checks her phone.)

BARBIE

Ooh, new email! For the Math Team? Is there a sale on calculators?

(BARBIE begins to read. A musical revelation sound.)

Holy Pegasus!

(BARBIE looks up to the heavens.)

You are not going to believe this.

## 2. Song: NEW YORK

AFTER ALL THE HEARTACHE, NOW IT'S HAPPENING  
HOW CAN IT...I DON'T CARE  
AFTER ALL THE HOPING AND THE WISHING ON STARS  
THE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYER

AFTER ALL THIS TIME I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REAL  
I CAN'T CONCEAL MY GRIN  
AND AFTER ALL THE STRUGGLE AND THE SWEAT AND TEARS  
I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO WIN

THIS EMAIL, A LIFEBOAT  
DELIVERANCE, OUR FUTURE  
IT'S SHINING LIKE THE OLYMPIAN FLAME  
THERE'S A WORLD OUT THERE  
AND WE'RE GONNA SEE IT  
LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!

(Spoken:) We're going to Nationals!

NEW YORK!  
CENTER OF THE WORLD  
NEW YORK  
THE CHALLENGES WE'LL HURDLE  
NEW YORK  
IT WON'T BE EASY BUT WE'RE CLOSER  
THAN WE'VE EVER BEEN BEFORE  
TO NEW YORK!  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

BARBIE

So what was up with the Oshkosh team?

(BARBIE turns back to her phone.)

Whoa!

(She sees AMBER entering.)

Amber! Come here!

(AMBER walks over.)

Amber! Amber Amber Amber I have the most amazing fantastic unbelievable news!

AMBER

Can you keep your voice down? Tiffani will be here in like five minutes.

BARBIE

We got an email!

AMBER

Oh. Okay.

BARBIE

Isn't it incredible?

AMBER

What is it, a calculator sale?

BARBIE

No, it's way better.

WHEN WE CAME IN SECOND AT REGIONALS  
 I THOUGHT THAT WE WERE BEATEN  
 BUT THE TEAM FROM OSHKOSH WAS DISQUALIFIED  
 IT TURNS OUT THEY WERE CHEATING

AMBER

You mean—

BARBIE

Yes!

AMBER

FIRST MELISSA RUINED IT FOR ALL OF US  
 WHEN SHE PANICKED IN THE FINAL ROUND

BARBIE

BUT NOW A MULLIGAN, A SECOND CHANCE  
 LET THE HORN OF GONDOR SOUND!

AMBER

IT'S YOU, AND ME, AND MK, AS TEAMMATES  
 OUR VICTORY WILL BE SWEET

BARBIE  
 (spoken)

So you'll come back?

AMBER

WE'LL FLY STRAIGHT AND TRUE  
 AND CRUSH OUR OPPONENTS

BARBIE & AMBER

WHAT A GREAT DAY TO BE A MATHLETE  
 NEW YORK  
 THE EMPIRE STATE  
 NEW YORK

AMBER

High fashion!

BARBIE

I can't wait!

NEW YORK  
 NEXT TO ALL THOSE WEIRD-O HIPSTERS



FIN'LLY I WON'T FEEL LIKE SUCH A DORK  
IN NEW YORK  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

(MARY KATE walks in and BARBIE pounces  
on her.)

BARBIE

Mary Kate! Guess what!

MARY KATE

Calculator sale?

BARBIE

*We don't need new calculators!* Anyway. It's better! The  
Oshkosh team got disqualified! We're going to Nationals in  
March!

MARY KATE

Wait, what?! What happened? (Excited) Did God rain down on  
them with a finger of fire?

AMBER

What?

BARBIE

They cheated.

(MELISSA enters.)

MELISSA

Who cheated?

AMBER

Official Math Team business.

(MELISSA pulls out her phone and  
reads.)

MELISSA

No way. We made it to Nationals?!

(Beat. They stare at her.)

What? I'm still on the email list.

BARBIE

This is exciting, right?

AMBER  
(to MELISSA)

Yeah, we made it. No thanks to you.

MELISSA

Seriously--

AMBER  
Seriously. This doesn't concern you.

MELISSA

...Fine.

(MELISSA exits.)

MARY KATE

That was harsh.

AMBER  
It's the truth. Not our fault she can't cut it.

BARBIE

Can we please get back to the singing?

ALL

NEW YORK! I CAN HEAR THE JAZZY SOUNDS!  
NEW YORK! WHERE TRAINS GO UNDERGROUND!  
NEW YORK! WHERE THE PIZZA IS SO BIG  
THAT YOU HAVE TO USE A FORK AND...

ON MARCH FOURTH, WE'LL MARCH FORTH  
ALL DRESSED UP AND READY  
THE FUTURE WILL BE IN OUR HANDS  
THERE'S A GREAT BIG WORLD  
AND WE'RE GONNA CHANGE IT!  
AND NO ONE CAN STOP OUR PLANS!

NEW YORK!  
(NEW YORK)  
SOMEHOW, SOME WAY  
(SOMEHOW, SOME WAY)  
NEW YORK!  
(NEW YORK)  
WE'RE GONNA HAVE OUR DAY  
(WE'RE GONNA HAVE OUR DAY)  
NEW YORK!

WE WERE STUCK WITH SECOND PLACE,  
SUDDENLY VICTORY'S IN STORE!  
IN POUGHKEEPSIE  
(POUGHKEEPSIE)  
POUGHKEEPSIE  
(POUGHKEEPSIE)  
POUGHKEEPSIE  
(POUGHKEEPSIE)  
NEW--

BARBIE  
(realizing)

But guys...

MARY KATE  
(looking at the three of them)

We're a player short!

(End of Scene 2.)

## Scene 3

*Transition to MELISSA, who walks onstage as the other characters change scenery. AMBER enters.*

MELISSA  
(steeling herself)

Amber.

AMBER  
(glances at her, dismissive)

Hey.

(AMBER starts to walk by.)

MELISSA  
(quickly, to get her attention)  
You guys don't have enough players for Nationals.

(AMBER stops walking.)

I know the competition rules by heart. Minimum team size is four. Max seven.

AMBER  
We'll find someone.

MELISSA  
Why bother? I'm right here. And my math skills are the strongest on the team.

AMBER  
Yeah? Well your speaking skills are the weakest.

(She starts to walk off.)

MELISSA  
Calculating and public performance aren't correlated abilities!

AMBER  
They're both important on a *competitive math team*.

MELISSA

I'm going to be a real mathematician one day. A great one.

AMBER  
(sarcastic)

A genius?

MELISSA  
Maybe. You need me.

AMBER  
I've told you like, twenty times. Unless you can prove you're over your stage fright, we don't.

MELISSA  
You're just afraid of how the other Four Blondes will react.

AMBER  
We're not in sixth grade anymore. No one is calling me a loser. I won't give them the chance.

MELISSA  
But it's fine that they still call me one?

(Beat. No answer from AMBER.)

I'm not totally inept. I get why you ditched me in middle school.

AMBER  
I didn't--

MELISSA  
But why do you hang out with the people who used to make fun of you?

AMBER  
They're not that bad when you get to know them.

MELISSA  
Right, once you change everything about yourself.

(AMBER turns to leave.)

Please, Amber. I need this shot at Nationals. I have to prove what I can do. And I miss hanging out with you guys.

AMBER

We're not friends anymore, Melissa. We're just a bunch of girls who happen to be okay at math. We can come together to try to win something, but without that...I'm just a popular girl who happens to like algebra, and you...(Beat) You're just a nerd with ridiculous hair.

(AMBER exits. Beat.)

MELISSA

I'm okay. I'm fine. I don't need her. Or them. I have everything I need. I just have to get over this block. (Beat) All right, Melissa. This is just a problem to solve like any other. Think. WWED? What Would Einstein do?

### 3. Song: MELISSA'S FIRST THEOREM

MELISSA

A NERD IN ULM  
IN THE KINGDOM OF WURTEMBERG  
DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS  
HIS HAIR WAS, WELL, BAD  
HIS DAD SAID, "SON, IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE FAM'LY BUSINESS,"  
BUT ALBERT SAID, "THAT'S NOT MY PATH"

BUT HE COULDN'T GET INTO THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
JUST LIKE ME HE DIDN'T PASS GERMAN  
SO HE PACKED HIS BAGS  
SETTING OFF TO SWITZERLAND  
SAID, "SIR, I'M HERE TO STUDY MATH."

Math!

FROM THERE ON OUT IT'S HISTORY  
WELL, RELATIVELY SPEAKING  
AN "E" AN "M" A "C," A SQUARE  
WHO CARES ABOUT SOME CRAZY HAIR  
THE WORLD FELL IN LOVE WITH EINSTEIN  
THE WORLD FELL IN LOVE WITH EINSTEIN

Or...ooh! Pythagorus!

GROWING UP IN GREECE  
CARVING ROCKS WITH HIS GRANDPA  
DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS  
I ASSUME HIS HAIR WAS AWFUL  
AND A SERIES OF EVENTS OCCURRED

UPON WHICH NOBODY AGREES  
BUT SUDDENLY, OH MY GOD TRIANGLES!

BUT AFTER THAT EVERYTHING STOPS MAKING ANY SENSE  
INSTEAD OF JUST THE TRIANGLES  
HE STARTS HIS OWN RELIGION  
INSTEAD OF PRAYER THEY SOLVED FOR X  
AND MAYBE HAD A LOT OF SEX?  
THE WORLD FELL IN LOVE WITH PYTHAGORUS  
AND IT'S GONNA FALL IN LOVE WITH ME  
WITH ME

COULD I BE THE NEXT ONE, ALBERT?  
COULD I BE JUST LIKE YOU?  
COULD I BEAT THE ODDS, AND LEAVE THEM AWED  
GREEK GODS, COULD IT BE TRUE?

I'M GONNA BE THE GIRL WHO LEAVES EINSTEIN IN THE DUST  
MAKES MINCEMEAT OF COPERNICUS  
LEAVES FIBONACCI NON-PLUSSED  
I WANNA DERIVE ALL THE BRILLIANCE FROM MY MIND  
I WANNA SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF EV'RY EQUALS SIGN  
SO WHAT ABOUT TODAY  
I MIGHT BE FRIZZY AND FRIEND-FREE  
BUT THE WORLD WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME  
THE WORLD WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME

(MELISSA exits. End of Scene 3.)

## Scene 4

*The hallway during the Activities Fair. MARY KATE, BARBIE, and AMBER have a table set up to entice people to join the Math Team. AMBER is in a hat and sunglasses, trying to hide behind the other girls, facing the wall.*

BARBIE

Join the Math Team! Free cookies!

MARY KATE

We don't have any cookies.

BARBIE

They don't know that.

MARY KATE

(rapid-fire, to BARBIE, a game they play)

Square root of 3,136?

BARBIE

(automatically)

Fifty-six.

MARY KATE

Amber. Would you stop hiding.

AMBER

I'm not hiding, I'm just...covering this half of the room.

BARBIE

That's the wall.

AMBER

And we're the only ones targeting it!

MARY KATE

Are you really that ashamed of being on the Math Team?

AMBER



I'm not ashamed, I just don't think that what I do with my free time is anyone's business.

BARBIE

The Blondes don't know you rejoined the team, do they.

MARY KATE

Not a chance.

AMBER

Once we win Nationals it'll all be fine!

MARY KATE

None of the popular people are here anyway. Their after-school calendar is already full. "Mani-pedi at four, judge people at the mall til seven, make someone do my homework til ten..."

AMBER

I'm not like that!

MARY KATE

You're secretly a huge nerd.

AMBER

There's nothing wrong with wanting to do well. Speaking of which, my mom would flip if I didn't do my homework *myself* as soon as I got home.

BARBIE

At least your mom cares. My parents just set out a credit card and some takeout menus every morning.

AMBER

I wish *I* had a credit card.

BARBIE

It's nice and all, but honestly, I'd rather just see them more. I get kind of lonely. But at least I have you guys! That's my favorite thing about the Math Team. You're like...my squires on my quest to get into Columbia!

AMBER

First: I'm not anyone's "squire," that's like a servant. Second: I would have pegged you for Yale. More castle-y.

BARBIE

At Columbia, you can take classes at Barnard. In case I miss the all-girls Math Team vibe!

MARY KATE

Can we focus here? We just need one member, then we can go home. Or Amber can go hang out with the other three Blondes.

BARBIE

Just say "Tiffani, Stephanie, and Jennifer," they're only the Four Blondes when they're all together.

MARY KATE

Whatever. Your clique needs a better name.

AMBER

Fine. Then let's get this over with. Listen up, people! You're gonna join the Math Team so I can get out of here!

**4. Song: ACTIVITIES RESUME**

BARBIE

BUDGETS ARE LOW...

AMBER

TENSIONS ARE HIGH...

ALL

COLLEGE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

MARY KATE

WE ALL WANNA GO

AMBER

BUT WHEN WE APPLY

ALL

BELIEVE US

BARBIE

WE ARE YOUR FORWARN...ERS...

MARY KATE

YOU GOTTA FILL FILL FILL YOUR ACTIVITIES RESUME

AMBER & BARBIE

IF YOU CAN'T CAN'T CAN'T, YOU'LL ALL BE TURNED AWAY

MARY KATE

BUT IF YOUR CLUB GETS CUT, WE'RE HERE TO SAVE THE DAY

ALL

SO LISTEN UP AND TAKE IT DOWN, WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY

BARBIE

YOU COULD BE ON THE MATH TEAM

MARY KATE

IT ISN'T SO BAD

AMBER

IF YOU'RE NOT A TOTAL MORON, IT'S TIME SIGN ON

MARY KATE

WE'RE NOT AS WEIRD AS WE SEEM

BARBIE

BUT TO BECOME UNDERGRADS

ALL THREE

MAKE THIS TRIANGLE A TETRAHEDRON

SO WE CAN FILL FILL FILL OUR ACTIVITIES RESUME

IF WE CAN'T CAN'T CAN'T, WE'LL ALL BE TURNED AWAY

YOUR S.A.TS WON'T MATTER IF YOU HELP US WIN THE DAY

GRAB YOUR T-I-EIGHTY-THREE AND JOIN THE FRAY

MARY KATE

Amber! Scare tactics!

AMBER

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE NEWSPAPER GOES OUT OF PRINT

OR IF YEARBOOK MISSES ITS QUOTE (RIGHT GUYS?)

OR IF THE SHOW MUST NOT GO ON

OR IF STUDENT GOVERNMENT LOSES THE VOTE?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CHESS CLUB GOES TO PIECES,

OR THE SWIM TEAM CAN'T STAY AFLOAT?

OR IF PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB GETS SHUTTERED,

OR IF PHYSICS CLUB REACHES ITS ASYMPTOTE?

(WHICH-IS-A-TERM-THAT-MEANS-THE-FUNCTION-HAS-REACHED-A-LIMIT-AND-CAN'T-GO-ON)

MARY KATE and BARBIE

What?

ALL  
YOU STILL HAVE TO FILL FILL FILL

MARY KATE  
YOUR ACTIVITIES RESUME

ALL  
IF YOU CAN'T CAN'T CAN'T,

AMBER & BARBIE  
KISS YOUR COLLEGE DREAMS AWAY

MARY KATE  
BECOME A MATHLETE NOW

MARY KATE & BARBIE  
WE GUARANTEE IT'LL PAY

ALL  
IN ADMISSION, AND IN SCHOLARSHIPS SOME DAY

AMBER  
BUT FOR TODAY

ALL  
GOTTA FILL

MARY KATE & AMBER  
FILL FILL

BARBIE  
OUR ACTIVITIES RESUME

AMBER  
IF YOU WANNA GO GO GO, YOU'VE GOTTA PAY TO PLAY

MARY KATE  
SO PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE JUST ONE PERSON, GOD I PRAY

AMBER & BARBIE  
IF WE SOMEHOW WIN, YOU'LL MAKE IT BACK IN SPADES

ALL  
OR WE'LL BE STUCK IN WAUKESHA FOR THE REST OF OUR DAYS

(End of song. LEROY approaches the table. He carries a bag of Cheetos. The girls stare.)

LEROY

Um, hello? Is this the Math Club?

MARY KATE

Math Team.

AMBER

(sarcastically)

Depends. Are you looking for the "Numbers Nerds?"

LEROY

Um, I guess. That's not the team name, is it?

BARBIE

Technically.

(AMBER rolls her eyes.)

The first team chose the name. They really liked alliteration.

MARY KATE

It's tradition.

AMBER

(again, sarcastic)

Because "tradition" can't be dumb.

(LEROY steps too close to AMBER, oblivious to social cues.)

LEROY

Tight. You guys need a new team member, right?

AMBER

(stepping back from him)

Right!

BARBIE

(sticks out her hand)

Hi! I'm Barbie!

LEROY

(shakes her hand)

Leroy. I'm new.

MARY KATE

Obviously.

LEROY

(stepping too close to MARY KATE  
this time)

Is it that easy to tell?

(MARY KATE does not step away.)

MARY KATE

...you're a boy. The school just went coed. Ring a bell? By definition you're new.

LEROY

Oh. Okay. Tight.

MARY KATE

What did you think I meant?

LEROY

Um-

(He looks around hoping someone will  
change the subject. The girls are all  
still staring at him. He rambles.)

So I am new, like, new-new, like new-to-the-country new,  
and actually I was homeschooled basically my whole life but  
we just moved here and my mom thinks that I should join a  
club or something to "socialize" and make sure that I'm not  
like behind in my development of interpersonal skills, so I  
asked the principal what club I should join and she told me  
to ask the janitor? Ms. McGery? So I caught her before  
lunch and she mentioned something about Math and I was  
going to ask for more information but she had to run and  
anyway I'm pretty good at math, so I asked around and they  
said you were here and here I am.

(Pause)

BARBIE

I like him.

AMBER

Where were you before?

LEROY

Laos.

AMBER  
(impressed)

Laos?

BARBIE

I've had that before. I needed a special shampoo.

LEROY

My parents are missionaries. But I was born in Salt Lake City, we moved when I was really little, and it's not like I'm completely out of touch, I had this friend who had all of TRL with Carson Daly on VHS and so even if we didn't really have a computer at the mission I totally didn't miss out, like, I know all about American teenagers, fo'sheezy.

MARY KATE

What did you just say?

AMBER

Anyway, we have an aptitude test.

LEROY

Cool!

(BARBIE hands him a test. LEROY starts to write. MELISSA enters.)

MELISSA

Seriously, you guys? The Activities Fair? How desperate are you? You don't need to recruit new members. Just let me back on the team.

MARY KATE

A-hem.

(She points to LEROY, still writing and oblivious.)

MELISSA

Who even is this?

AMBER

Can you not scare away our potential team member? I have places to be.

MELISSA

Guys--

BARBIE

Sorry, Melissa. But he might be our best shot.

MELISSA

No he's not. I am. I'll prove it to you.

(MELISSA exits. LEROY puts his pencil down.)

LEROY

Done!

AMBER

Already?

LEROY

My specialty is really in geometry, not algebra, but it's not like I'm a total "fail" at algebra, at least I don't think I am, like I say I didn't really have anyone to compare with when I was a kid--

(LEROY hands his paper to MARY KATE. She scans it.)

MARY KATE

Wow, it's all correct. You passed.

(She looks at AMBER and BARBIE, who nod.)

Leroy, welcome to the team!

LEROY

Awesome! My parents will be so psyched! (Beat) So are you waiting for the rest of the team to come?

MARY KATE

What do you mean, the rest of the team?

LEROY



Like...all the other...guys?

MARY KATE

Ex-CUSE me?

LEROY

What, did I say something wrong?

MARY KATE

So there's gotta be boys on a math team, is that what you're saying?

LEROY

I am a boy--

AMBER

You think girls aren't good at math?

(She tosses her hair.)

Or just not cute girls?

LEROY

That's not what I meant! I just thought--

**5. Song: I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER**

MARY KATE

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LEROY  
CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES  
AT THE ALL-GIRL MATH TEAM  
YOU'RE SMEARING?

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT  
A LINE OF BUZZ CUT GUYS  
SET TO GET DEGREES IN  
ENGINEERING?

WELL, I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER  
DESPITE HOW YOU'VE BEEN MISINFORMED  
YEAH, I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER  
IN MY CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIRL UNIFORM

(Spoken:)

Back me up here, ladies!

BARBIE

SLOW YOUR ROLL, NOW, LEROY

AMBER

LOOK AROUND YOU:

ALL

IT'S THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, IN THE DAMN UNITED STATES

MARY KATE

IT'S NOT THE SIXTIES

AMBER

OR THE SIXTEEN-FORTIES

ALL

OR ANY OTHER TIME IN HISTORY WHEN THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A DEBATE

CAUSE I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER  
NO CARGO SHORTS OR HORN-RIMMED GLASSES HERE  
YES I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER  
TAKE A PEEK IN MY COMPACT, SEE YOUR STEREOTYPES DISAPPEAR

(Sudden isolation on LEROY.)

LEROY

I GUESS I GUESSED WRONG  
I GUESS I ASSUMED  
ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT MATH WAS A BOYS THING  
NOW I THINK I'M DOOMED

JUST WANTED NEW PEEPS  
WANTED TO BE COOL  
NOW I'VE INADVERTENTLY REINFORCED THE PATRIARCHY  
IN A FORMERLY ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL

MARY KATE

Shut up, ya sexist, no one said you could sing.

ALL

I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER  
HOUSTON THERE'S NO PROBLEM HERE  
SO GO BACK TO YOUR CAVE, YOU CAVEMAN  
OR GIVE UP THE ROCKS AND SPEAR

OH I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER

WE ALL CAN SAY THAT LOOKING IN THE MIRROR  
YOU WALKED IN HERE ALL CAVALIER  
SO TAKE THIS SMACKDOWN AS YOUR SOUVENIR  
CHECK YOUR SPECTACLES, IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR  
THAT I LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER!

LEROY

(checks his wrist)

Whoa, look at the time.

BARBIE

You're not wearing a watch.

LEROY

I was really meaning to check out the Juggling Club. Cause.  
I mean. How do they keep all those balls in the air?

MARY KATE

Wait--

LEROY

Peace out!

(He exits.)

BARBIE

That was weird. (Beat.) Um, guys? Do you think maybe we  
were a little harsh? 'Cause now that I think of it, he  
didn't even say that girls aren't good at math.

MARY KATE

Shoot...you're right. I guess I just got defensive. No one  
blinks when the Sanford All-Boys School wins Nationals  
three years in a row. Meanwhile, did you know that women  
make up just 29% of the STEM workforce?

BARBIE

Wow. I need to memorize more statistics.

AMBER

Great. We scared away our best shot.

BARBIE

We could always consider Melissa--

MARY KATE

I have an idea.

BARBIE

Or not.

MARY KATE

He was homeschooled, right?

AMBER

Judging by the close-talking, yes.

MARY KATE

Which means he doesn't have a lot of experience with girls. I bet I can convince him to join.

BARBIE

Weren't we just talking about feminism?

MARY KATE

We're in the fourth wave, we don't have to burn bras anymore.

AMBER

You've spent what, ten years in a Catholic all-girls school? Sure you know how to flirt?

MARY KATE

So did you, Amber. And the Four Blondes don't hold a monopoly on talking to boys.

BARBIE

I could flirt with him!

(They ignore her.)

AMBER

I'm just saying, I can't count the number of free smoothies I've scored at the mall with a little lip gloss and a smile.

MARY KATE

Yeah, when your mommy lets you go out at all.

AMBER

Ooh, listen to you, little miss "I found some scissors and now I'm edgy."

MARY KATE

I'm not trying to be edgy! Have you forgotten what the nuns have done for us? I'm showing solidarity.

AMBER

Yeah, well, we're not a Catholic school anymore. Remember? The nuns went broke? And cutting up your old uniform isn't a traditional gesture of respect.

MARY KATE

Whatever. You're just jealous of how cute I look.

BARBIE

You really do pull it off, MK.

MARY KATE

Thank you.

AMBER

You know what? Fine. Use your schoolgirl "charms" or whatever. I wouldn't waste my technique on a geek like that anyway. Are you even interested in him?

MARY KATE

We need a new team member. That's all.

(MS. MCGERY enters.)

MCGERY

It's time to pack up your table, ladies.

(MELISSA runs in. The MATH TEAM starts to pack up their table.)

MELISSA

Ms. McGery! I was looking for you!

MCGERY

The Activities Fair is ending, we have to be cleaned up by five for "Octogenarian Speed-Dating" or the school board is out forty bucks.

MELISSA

(to MATH TEAM:)

I'm going to fix this.

(To MCGERY:)

Ms. McGery, you're a theatre person.

MCGERY

A "theatre person?" Was Michelangelo just a "sculpture person?" Was Mozart just a "music person?" Was Van Gogh just "a little deaf on one side?" My dear, I've been directing in this town for fifteen years, forsaking wealth, family, MEN--all to turn a hundred-pound Korean alto into a passable Tevye, or to pull off a production of "Gypsy" cutting all references to burlesque! And then no more nuns, no more department--and what do I have? What am I now?

MELISSA

Um. Okay. Anyway. Would you coach me? When I get put on the spot in front of people, even if I know what to say, I just--freeze.

MCGERY

Ooh! Stage fright! You mean...teach you how to perform?

MELISSA

Right. I could pay you!

MCGERY

My very own Pygmalion--an Eliza Doolittle--a protégée!

MELISSA

Just for math though.

MCGERY

It would be my honor! I'm going to go find the perfect monologue.

(She exits.)

MELISSA

(calling off to her:)

Seriously just for math!(To the Team:) See? We're all set! I'll work with Ms. McGery, figure out my stage fright, and be ready to go to Nationals with you!

BARBIE

That could work!

MARY KATE

It sounds like a gamble. The new guy is much safer.

MELISSA

He's not even here.

MARY KATE

Not yet.

(She fluffs up her hair and straightens her skirt. End of scene. Transition as they clean up their table.)

Perussat

## Scene 5

*The hallway a few days later.  
LEROY crosses holding a bag  
of Cheetos. MARY KATE sees  
and stops him.*

MARY KATE

Hey, Leroy!

LEROY

Oh, um, hi. Uh--whaazaaaaap.

(He does a cheesy phone-call gesture.)

MARY KATE

...what was that?

LEROY

Nothing. Mary Kate, right? Have you tried Cheetos before?  
We didn't have them in Laos. They're hella good!

(He steps too close to her again. She  
does not move back and takes a Cheeto.)

MARY KATE

...Yeah. Listen, I was hoping we could talk. About the  
other day.

LEROY

You mean when you and your friends went full "I Don't Want  
No Scrubs"?

MARY KATE

Yeah. That. We've just had a lot happen with the Team this  
year. We totally overreacted.

LEROY

Maybe just a little.

MARY KATE

Anyway, I wanted to apologize.

LEROY

Apology accepted.

(He starts to pass her by.)



Also! MARY KATE

Also? LEROY

Yeah, also. MARY KATE

Also...what? LEROY

Also you seem...interesting. Like maybe someone I'd like to  
get to know better. MARY KATE

Really? Me? LEROY

Why not you? You're different than the other boys here. MARY KATE

## 6. Song: OUTLIERS

I'M NOT SURE YOU KNOW THIS  
DATA POINTS SELDOM DO  
BUT I'M DETECTING AN ARRAY OF STRANGENESS  
COMING OFF OF YOU MARY KATE

What. LEROY  
(Spoken)

SOMETIMES, IN STATISTICS  
THERE'S A SINGLE POINT  
THAT'S OFF THE GRID AND THRUSTS ALL OF  
YOUR THEORIES OUT OF JOINT: MARY KATE

YOU'RE AN OUTLIER  
YOU'RE SKEWING ALL THE STATS  
SOME WOULD JUST DISCARD YOU  
BUT I DON'T GRAPH LIKE THAT  
YOU'RE AN OUTLIER  
YES, IT'S IMPOLITE

BUT LOOK AT THEM, AND LOOK AT YOU  
I'M RIGHT.

(Spoken)

Tell me I'm wrong.

LEROY

I'm still not sure what we're talking about?

MARY KATE

YOU'RE SO...FAMILIAR  
I'D SAY YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT LIKE ME  
BENT ON BREAKING FREE FROM ALL THIS  
MEDIOCRITY

SO STAND WITH ME  
AND TOGETHER, STAND APART  
COME AND KEEP ME COMPANY  
AT THE EDGES OF THE CHART

I'M LOOKING FOR AN OUTLIER  
THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE  
YOUR EVERY MOVE UPSETS THE BALANCE  
OF THE DATA POOL  
YOU'RE AN OUTLIER  
I'M TELLING YOU IT'S TRUE  
YOU MOVE THE MEAN  
AND SUDDENLY I'M DRAWN  
CLOSER TO YOU.

LEROY

Ooh. So we're like Linda Cardellini and James Franco in  
"Freaks and Geeks?"

MARY KATE  
(doesn't get it)

Are they a couple?

LEROY

Well, no—

MARY KATE

Right. Can we go back to my thing?

LEROY

WHY SETTLE FOR THE MEDIAN?

MARY KATE

WHY REGRESS TO THE MEAN?

BOTH

MAYBE I'M/YOU'RE THE MAXIMUM  
I'M/YOU'RE THE UNFORESEEN

LEROY/MARY KATE

I'M/YOU'RE AN OUTLIER

MARY KATE

THANK GOD YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE

LEROY

ANYONE CAN SEE

BOTH

YOU/I MOVE THE MEAN  
AND BRING THIS ABOVE-AVERAGE GIRL / EXCEPTIONAL GUY  
CLOSER TO YOU/ME  
CLOSER TO YOU

MARY KATE

Leroy?

LEROY

Yes?

MARY KATE

You have a little Cheeto dust...right there...

(She reaches out to brush it away.  
LEROY and MARY KATE lean in to kiss but  
are interrupted by MCGERY, who bursts  
into the hallway.)

MCGERY

You two! Have you seen Melissa? It's time for our first  
coaching session.

MARY KATE

(quickly stepping away from LEROY)  
Um, no, we haven't seen anything! Just two friendly Math  
Team colleagues, talking about equations! Nothing going on  
here!

MCGERY

Maybe she's already in the auditorium.

(Singing from "The Sound of Music":)

Climb ev'ry mountain...

(MCGERY runs off the other side of the stage. An awkward silence.)

LEROY

So...

MARY KATE

Anyway, so, you really should join the Math Team.

LEROY

And I'd get to spend more time with you?

MARY KATE

(starting to backpedal from her flirtation)

I'm on the Math Team, so yup, you'd see me at practice!

LEROY

I think I'd like that.

MARY KATE

Cool! Well, I gotta go, I think I hear my mom honking.

LEROY

I don't hear anything.

MARY KATE

I have really good ears! Anyway, see you at practice on Thursday!

LEROY

See you...

(MARY KATE leaves. LEROY stands dazed. End of Scene 5. Transition. MELISSA enters with BARBIE. She holds a folder. The Regionals math problem is projected behind them.)

MELISSA

I've got a minute before coaching with Ms. McGery. I know you're on my side, Barbie.

BARBIE

I can tell your heart is in the right place. Like a unicorn! They can sense who is pure of heart.

MELISSA

I thought unicorns could only tell if people were virgins.

BARBIE

What?

MELISSA

Anyway! Help me practice?

BARBIE

For competition? Just do what I do. Imagine everyone is naked.

(She stares out at the audience.)

MELISSA

How on Earth does that help?

BARBIE

It's very distracting.

MELISSA

You just mean the audience, right? Not like...your teammates.

BARBIE

Hm?

MELISSA

I don't want to know. I'm working on that last problem from Regionals. When I look at it, I panic all over again. I figure focusing on it is like exposure therapy, and if I can solve it without my mouth going dry, I'll know I've beaten my fear.

(She shows the folder to BARBIE.)

BARBIE

You know, "the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

MELISSA

I like that. Who said it?

BARBIE

Some wizard in a book. So first steps. The acceleration is the square of a velocity, right?

MELISSA

Yeah, that makes sense, but as I get further I remember everyone staring at me.

BARBIE

You can do it! I believe in you.

MELISSA

Thanks.

BARBIE

I've got to go, I volunteered for a medical study about synesthesia. Hopefully I'll catch the girl who tastes days of the week!

(BARBIE exits. End of transition.)

## Scene 6

*The auditorium. MELISSA and MS. MCGERY are practicing for competition.*

MCGERY

Again!

MELISSA  
(reciting)

"My lord, my lord, I have been so affrighted--"

MCGERY

Shoulders back!

MELISSA  
"My lord, as I was--" What was the next part?MCGERY  
"As I was sewing in my closet--"MELISSA  
Right, "Lord Hamlet with his doublet--"MCGERY  
Remember to breathe, you're not breathing.MELISSA  
I'm breathing!MCGERY  
Not from your diaphragm!MELISSA  
I don't know what that is!MCGERY  
Deeper breaths. In. Out.

(She demonstrates.)

MELISSA  
Can we go back to the math problems? I mostly feel the stage fright when I work on this Regionals problem. "You're on a mission to a planet two light years away..."

MCGERY

Melissa. Will solving that problem impress the Math Team?  
Or do they need to see you actively confronting your fear?

MELISSA

I don't think I can do this.

MCGERY

You're making progress! Let's continue.

MELISSA

I really appreciate your trying to help me, Ms. McGery, but every time I think about speaking in front of people I want to pass out.

MCGERY

And why is that?

MELISSA

Because people are...scary?

MCGERY

You must know that most spectators want you to succeed.

MELISSA

But what if I don't? I think I know the answers, but with all those people watching, what if I mess up? The whole country would see! What about my future in mathematics?

MCGERY

With a little preparation, we'll make your career! It will be a success to rival my interpretive-dance production of "The Crucible."

MELISSA

Not if I get on stage and faint.

MCGERY

That won't happen. Because now what do you have?

MELISSA

Panic disorder?

MCGERY

A toolkit. Maestro!

## 7. Song: Performance 101



THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR  
 IN TREADING ON THE BOARDS.  
 BE YOUR AUDIENCE JUST ONE,  
 OR BE THEY HORDES,  
 SIMPLY SCREW YOUR COURAGE TO THE STICKING PLACE  
 AND PLANT A SMILE ON THAT FRECKLY FACE...  
 CLOSE YOUR EYES AND RECALL  
 THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF ALL:  
 USE YOUR DIAPHRAGM.

What?

MELISSA

MCGERY

USE YOUR DIAPHRAGM, GIRL!  
 IF YOU REMEMBER TO BREATHE YOU CAN CONQUER THE WORLD!  
 BREATHE FROM YOUR CORE  
 NOTHING LESS, NOTHING MORE  
 AND YOUR CROWD WILL BE CALLING "ENCORE!"

Okay...I'm breathing...

MELISSA

Very good! Take the stage. The lights are on. Your audience  
 is here.

MCGERY

I think I'm breathing too much!

MELISSA  
 (hyperventilates)

Slower, girl!

MCGERY

I'm never gonna get it.

MELISSA

YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR  
 FROM STEPPING OUT STAGE.

MCGERY

Got it.

MELISSA

MCGERY

BE YOU THE INGENUE  
OR RIPER WITH AGE

MELISSA

Okay...

MCGERY

IF YOU JUST GIVE THESE SIMPLE TRICKS A WHIRL  
THEY'LL HELP YOU NOT TO FAINT OR HURL  
FOLLOW ALONG AS I TEACH  
ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH:

PLANT YOUR FEET.

MELISSA

Huh?

MCGERY

I SAID PLANT 'EM FIRM, KID.  
IF YOU DON'T YOU'LL BE SHIFTING, AND YOU'LL WISH THAT YOU  
DID  
STICK YOUR FEET TO THE FLOOR  
AND THOSE PEOPLE ARE YOURS  
NOW DON'T YOU DARE MOVE: I IMPLORE.

MELISSA

Okay, I'm breathing...I planted my feet...now what do I  
do?!

MCGERY

SPEAK YOUR TRUTH.

MELISSA

What does that mean?

MCGERY

Nobody knows. Until you do!

THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR  
IN SPEAKING TO THE CROWD  
JUST FIND YOUR TRUTH INSIDE  
AND SAY IT LOUD  
BREATHE IN DEEP  
AND PLANT YOUR FEET  
SPEAK YOUR TRUTH  
AND RINSE, REPEAT

OH, AND FIND YOUR LIGHT, PROJECT YOUR VOICE, REMEMBER YOUR  
OBJECTIVE, MAKE A CHOICE

(Spoken:)

You know what? we'll get to that.

SO GET OUT THERE AND TAKE 'EM ALL BY STORM  
MELISSA, YOU'RE READY TO PERFORM!

(End of song.)

MELISSA

Breathe... plant your feet... speak your truth...Breathe...  
plant your feet... speak your truth...

MCGERY

By George, I think she's got it! (Beat) Now, I've arranged  
for you to speak to the student government. It's not a big  
group, but it's an audience nonetheless. They're having  
their meeting right now. Here's your truth: you need them  
to allocate money for a bus to take you and the team to  
Nationals.

MELISSA

Now?!

MCGERY

Go, my child.

(She goes. Spotlight on MELISSA. She  
plants her feet, and takes a deep  
breath. MCGERY gives a thumbs up from  
the wings. As she speaks, inspirational  
music begins to play.)

MELISSA

H...Hello. My name is Melissa. I am on the math team...I  
was on the math team, and I'm hoping to be a part of the  
team again. I got kicked out because I couldn't speak in  
public, but here I am. Speaking to you, right now. So you  
see, the math team is important to me. And to my former and  
hopefully future teammates. Hi guys, I can see you over  
there. Math is of course important for a lot of fields,  
like physics, engineering, architecture, and astronomy. But  
it's also elegant. It stays constant when so much in our  
lives is changing. It gives us a chance to discover, and to

understand the world around us. I'm actually hoping to have a career in math. If I don't screw up too much. So, please, fund our trip, because winning with these girls, and now also a boy apparently, matters not just to me, but to all of us. And to the school. And to America, because if they can see a mostly all-girls team of Numbers Nerds win at Nationals, then they can see that anything is possible. Thank you. Amen.

(Inspirational music ends. Applause.)

MCGERY

Well done! A little on the nose, but we'll look at that when we do notes. Let's see if the reviews are in!

(MCGERY exits. MELISSA steps back, elated. BARBIE runs up to her, with LEROY, MARY KATE, and AMBER not far behind.)

BARBIE

That was amazing! You were incredible up there! I knew you'd take my advice.

MELISSA

Not quite, but thanks!

MARY KATE

I have to admit, I'm impressed.

(LEROY steps very close to MELISSA, who backs up.)

LEROY

Hi, Melissa? I don't think we've met. I'm Leroy. That was a ridiculous speech.

MELISSA

Thank you?

AMBER

It wasn't a complete disaster.

MELISSA

From you, that actually means a lot.

(MCGERY enters.)

MCGERY

There you are. The Math Team, right? New boy, blonde girl, and...the others.

MARY KATE

Ms. McGery, you've known us for three years.

BARBIE

I was the cow in "Gypsy."

MCGERY

Right. Well. After that stirring assembly, the student government has voted to allocate the funds for the team to get a coach bus to the National competition.

LEROY

Tiggity-tight!

MARY KATE

If Melissa got us the money for the bus, and teams can have between four and seven members--

AMBER

Oh no. Don't even start.

BARBIE

And Melissa's beaten her stage fright--

AMBER

Giving a speech is different than competing.

MELISSA

Which was the only reason I was kicked off the team--

AMBER

I can't believe you all. It's nothing personal against Melissa. I just want us to win.

LEROY

I think we'll be a stronger team with another brain in the mix.

AMBER

UGH! Whatever. I know. Okay? Fine. As long as she's not captain again.

MELISSA

I'll take anything!

MARY KATE  
(to AMBER)

So?

AMBER

Ugh. Welcome back to the team. I guess five players are better than four.

BARBIE

Melissa's back!!

(She hugs MELISSA, pulling LEROY into the hug with her. LEROY awkwardly tries to draw MARY KATE in. AMBER puts her hand on their shoulder.)

MARY KATE  
(to BARBIE, trying to catch her off guard)

Square root of 622,561!

BARBIE

789.

LEROY

How do you do that?

BARBIE

I see colors when I think of numbers. It's called synesthesia. It's fun! Like my own form of magic. And square roots have pink sparkles.

MARY KATE

She's basically a superhero.

BARBIE

I prefer "sorceress."

MCGERY

I am so proud of you kids. And of myself. Mostly of myself.

MELISSA

Thank you so much for your help, Ms. McGery. How can I ever repay you?

**8. Song: GIVE 'EM A SHOW**

MCGERY  
(sung)

GIVE 'EM A SHOW  
A MATHEMATICAL SHOW

MELISSA

Ms. McGery.

MARY KATE

Shh, let her have this.

MCGERY

SWEEP THE STAGE AT NATIONALS  
YOU'LL MAKE US PROUD I KNOW

YOU'RE THE MIRANDAS TO MY PROSPERO

LEROY

What about me?

MCGERY

THE GYPSY ROSE TO MY MAMA

LEROY

Um.

MCGERY

THE FAUST TO MY MEPHISTO, LADIES  
THINK OF ALL THE DRAMA!  
IT'S YOUR DECIDING MOMENT  
YOUR FUTURE'S AT A FORK  
FINALLY SOME KIDS OF MINE  
WILL MAKE IT TO NEW YORK  
NEW YORK  
THE CENTER OF THE WORLD

ALL

NEW YORK  
ONE BOY AND FOUR GIRLS  
TAKING NEW YORK

BARBIE

I'LL GET THE SPARKLING GRAPE JUICE

ALL

LET'S PRETEND THAT IT'S CHAMPAGNE AND POP A CORK

TO NEW YORK,  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

MCGERY

And playing the part of chaperone: Ms. Saoirse McGery!

(MCGERY exits.)

MELISSA

PACK YOUR BAGS  
OUR BUS DEPARTS TOMORROW

AMBER

MOM AND DAD  
COULD YOU PLEASE SIGN THIS PERMISSION SLIP

BARBIE

I'LL BE BACK WHEN I'M BACK, DAD

MARY KATE

UGH, PLEASE STOP HUGGING ME

LEROY

BYE, I'M GOING WITH MY FRIENDS  
(Spoken:) Friends!  
AND A GIRL

<p>ALL BUT LEROY TO NEW YORK THE EMPIRE STATE NEW YORK FEELS LIKE FORTUNE, FEELS LIKE FATE NEW YORK</p>	<p>LEROY (overlapping) WE ARE OUTLIERS THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE WE ARE OUTLIERS WE'RE GOING, IT'S SO COOL!</p>
---	---

ALL

WHERE I'LL LOOK LIKE AN ENGINEER  
BEATING EVERY OTHER TEAM THAT'S HERE

MELISSA

WE'RE GONNA BE THE TEAM  
THAT LEAVES THE OTHERS IN THE DUST  
MAKES MINCEMEAT OF THE OTHER REGIONS  
WHY? BECAUSE WE MUST

MARY KATE AND MELISSA

WE'RE GONNA DERIVE



ADD LEROY  
ALL THE BRILLIANCE IN OUR MINDS

ADD AMBER  
WHOOOOA, SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE  
OF EVERY EQUALS SIGN

ADD BARBIE  
WE'RE LEAVING, GET ON BOARD  
PICK YOUR SEAT OUT ON THE BUS  
CAUSE THE WORLD WILL FALL IN LOVE  
WITH US

ALL  
WITH US  
IN NEW YORK!

(End of Scene 6. The show is designed without an intermission but this would be the end of Act 1 were there to be an intermission. Transition: Bus sounds. MELISSA and LEROY on the bus. MELISSA sits next to LEROY on one of two chairs, holding a notebook. The Regionals question is projected.)

MELISSA  
Hey. Couldn't sleep?

LEROY  
Nah. I'm too excited. I can't believe I'm going to New York! On a bus full of girls! This is like Road Rules!

MELISSA  
Yeah, it's pretty crazy.

LEROY  
You?

MELISSA  
I'm trying not to be freaked out by this stupid problem from our Regional competition. I have a whole Pavlovian response. It's stupid. I just need to figure out how to approach it without freezing. It's like, WWND?

LEROY

Huh?

MELISSA

What Would Newton Do?

LEROY

Right. Can I help?

MELISSA

Maybe. Here it is.

(She shows him her notebook.)

LEROY

Hm. Okay, let's see.

MELISSA

So the planets are moving while you're accelerating and decelerating, right? So I need to take into account relative rate.

LEROY

That was gonna be my suggestion! You've definitely got this. You're like a math whiz.

MELISSA

Thanks, I hope so.

LEROY

Has Mary Kate seemed weird to you lately? She said she wanted to hang out with me, but she keeps running off to some family emergency whenever we're alone.

MELISSA

I don't know, maybe she just has family stuff.

LEROY

Maybe. Do you mind if I try to get some sleep? When I was up front Barbie kept nodding off and drooling on my shoulder.

MELISSA

Sure. Thanks for your help!

(End of transition.)

## Scene 7

*POUGHKEEPSIE, NY: The auditorium of the Nonagon Hotel, in which the competition is to take place. AMBER, MARY KATE, BARBIE, LEROY and MELISSA enter with their luggage. The kids take selfies and marvel over the hotel. MCGERY sweeps in after them.*

MCGERY

Voila! The stage is set for your competition. Be dears and check yourselves in whilst I settle with the bus driver. He looks like a fat Stanley Kowalski!

(MCGERY exits.)

MELISSA

Poughkeepsie!

AMBER

It's so...

MARY KATE

I know.

LEROY

What?

MARY KATE  
(like she's saying a dirty word)

Cute.

AMBER

Quaint.

MARY KATE

I haven't seen a single weirdo hipster yet.

BARBIE

I'm sure we'll find one soon!

MELISSA

I can't believe I made it here.

AMBER

Um, we made it here.

(MELISSA touches the walls and furniture as if to make sure they're real.)

MELISSA

After all the obstacles, against all the odds, here I am. I'm gonna be unstoppable.

AMBER

Calm down, Napoleon, it hasn't even started yet. But hold on to that energy, because I cannot go back to Waukesha without winning. (Beat) I'll hit the front desk for room keys.

MELISSA

Let's see if the Sanford All Boy's School is here already!

(AMBER exits to get the room keys and MELISSA and BARBIE exit to check out the roster. MARY KATE goes to join them but LEROY calls to her:)

LEROY

Mary Kate, do you want help with your bags?

MARY KATE

What? No, I'm fine.

LEROY

I got it!

(He picks up one of her bags.)

MARY KATE

Seriously, I have two working arms.

LEROY

You look like you could use a break. And it's no big deal to me...

(He flexes and almost drops the bag. MARY KATE smiles.)

MARY KATE

If you insist. (Beat) This place is really nice, I bet they even do room service.

LEROY

Like in *Home Alone 2*!

MARY KATE

(understanding his reference for once)

Yeah, actually! I used to watch that movie on tv all the time.

(BARBIE and MELISSA re-enter. BARBIE notices that LEROY and MARY KATE are talking without her and comes over to them, interrupting their nice moment.)

BARBIE

What are you guys talking about?

LEROY

How sweet this hotel is!

BARBIE

Oh yeah, cool. MK, you'll be my roomie, right?

MARY KATE

Of course!

(Mollified, BARBIE hugs both LEROY and MARY KATE to her.)

BARBIE

We're like Samwise Gamage and Frodo! Best friends, taking on New York in our own epic quest! Fighting the oppression of all-boys' schools--

LEROY

Um--

BARBIE

Inseparable companions who would lay down their lives for each other--

MARY KATE

Definitely not. I am not dying before I get into college.

BARBIE

Together, slaying the dragon of potential humiliation and defeating the giant of national scrutiny!

LEROY

Don't let Melissa hear you talking like that.

MARY KATE

(a nice moment with LEROY)

She'd probably pass out!

LEROY

(to MARY KATE)

I'm pretty psyched to finally get some time with you without your family stealing you away.

MARY KATE

(into it)

Yeah...

(Snaps herself out of it.)

I mean, no distractions, just math! We can really focus on our performance so we impress any schools watching.

LEROY

Right.

BARBIE

We'll be study buddies!

(AMBER and MELISSA re-enter.)

AMBER

Rooms are 311, 312, and lucky number 13. Oh, and 310 for Ms. McGery.

(MCGERY enters.)

MCGERY

That's my cue! Key, please, my dear, I need to moisturize and rest, we're going to be on television tomorrow!

MELISSA

Won't you just be in the audience?

MCGERY

You didn't hear? The emcee developed a severe case of triskaidekaphobia and had to be temporarily committed! They needed someone with charisma, who's not afraid of any numbers, and I happened to be a short distance away, across the parking lot and just a tiny highway, easily shouted across--anyway, don't worry, I will be impartial of course. But I must get my beauty sleep!

(MCGERY takes her key and leaves.)

LEROY

I'll take Room 311. Like the band!

BARBIE and MARY KATE

(simultaneous but for different reasons)

I'll take 312!

(MARY KATE, LEROY and BARBIE exit.)

AMBER

(to MELISSA)

Great. I guess that leaves you and me.

MELISSA

I guess so.

AMBER

Just don't spend too much time in the bathroom practicing your weird breathing exercises. Some of us actually put time into their appearance.

MELISSA

Off to a great start. I call first shower!

(End of scene.)

## Scene 8

*The AUDITORIUM. Five podiums at which the five MATH TEAM members stand. The lights and music are very intimidating. MCGERY stands onstage as the announcer with a headset mic and earpiece.*

9. Song: **THE PRESSURE IS ON**

MCGERY

Ladies and Gentlemen. Mathletes. Welcome to the 32nd Annual National Math Sum-It. The biggest show in town! Due to the illness of the competition's usual moderator, I will be your emcee this year--but don't worry, I'm not judging. I am simply the face of this competition! Our first round is a relay. Each member of our two teams will complete a problem set. Once the set is complete, the next member of the team will complete their own problem set, and so on. Points will be awarded for speed and accuracy. So. Las Vegas Variables. Waukesha Numbers Nerds. Let the First Round...commence!

(Spoken in rhythm to the music.)

AMBER

We're here. It's real.

LEROY

I can't believe it's starting.

MARY KATE

I'm completely unprepared.

BARBIE

I can't feel my fingers.

AMBER

Oh my god, what are numbers.

MELISSA

Why do I feel so scared...

ALL



5, 4, 3, 2, 1: THE PRESSURE IS ON!

MARY KATE

It is a leap year. Juanita has thirteen bottles of horchata...racist... if she drinks the...sodas at a rate of 11/9ths of a six-pack per...fortnight? And begins on February first, will she...

THE PRESSURE IS MOUNTING  
WITH EV'RY INANITY  
LEROY I'M HOPING YOU CAN'T SEE ME SWEAT  
MY FRACTIONS ARE TURNING  
INVERTING DENOMINATORS  
HOW DO YOU MULTIPLY THESE? I FORGET.

HAIL MARY...

ALL but MARY KATE  
AAAAH THE PRESSURE IS ON

MARY KATE  
FULL OF GRACE...

ALL but MARY KATE  
AAAH THE PRESSURE IS--

MARY KATE  
ONE PROBLEM DOWN, NOW  
OKAY, I SEE PATTERNS  
THEY'RE ALL CRYSTALLIZING INSIDE MY HEAD  
ANGLES IN QUADRANGLES  
ADD TO THREE SIXTY  
THERE, LOOK, I'M FINISHED! GUYS, WE'RE AHEAD!

Leroy, go!

ALL but LEROY  
AAAAAAHHH THE PRESSURE IS ON

LEROY  
Okay, OKAY

ALL but LEROY  
AAAAAAHHH THE PRESSURE IS--

LEROY

"THE SMALLEST PRIME NUMBER  
 WITH MORE THAN FIVE VOWELS"  
 IS THIS MY FINAL ANSWER, CAN I PHONE A FRIEND?  
 MARY KATE ARE YOU WATCHING  
 DO I LOOK COOL LIKE LANCE BASS,  
 OR DON'T I MATTER LIKE IN LINKIN PARK'S IN THE END?

TRIED SO HARD...

ALL but LEROY  
 THE PRESSURE IS ON

LEROY  
 GOT SO FAR...

ALL but LEROY  
 THE PRESSURE IS--

LEROY  
 "DONE!"

MARY KATE  
 TWO THIRDS DONE

AMBER  
 I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW QUICKLY

BARBIE  
 YOU GUYS I THINK WE'RE WINNING!

LEROY  
 FOUR MORE TO GO

MELISSA  
 I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS  
 WHY IS MY HEAD SPINNING?

ALL but BARBIE  
 BARBIE, TIME TO GO: THE PRESSURE IS--

BARBIE  
 LALALALALALA  
 LALALALA--COLUMBIA!  
 LALALALALALALALALALA LA  
 LALALALALALA  
 LALALA--UNICORN!  
 GREEN PURPLE SPARKLES, LA LA LA LA DONE!

ALL but BARBIE

AAAAAHHHHH  
THE PRESSURE IS ON

BARBIE

THAT WAS FUN  
LA LA LA

ALL but BARBIE

THE PRESSURE IS ON  
THE PRESSURE IS ON  
THE PRESSURE IS--

AMBER

"FIRST FIND THE LIMIT  
APPROACHING INFINITY"  
WHAT IS A POPULAR GIRL DOING HERE?  
WHAT IF WE LOSE  
AND DON'T BRING BACK THE TROPHY  
THE ODDS OF ME STAYING "COOL" DISAPPEAR

I'M THE ONE WHO SETS TRENDS  
BUT THE TRENDLINE IS TURNING  
AND MELISSA, IT WON'T BE ME DRAGGING US DOWN  
OKAY, AMBER, RALLY  
WITH GOD AS MY WITNESS  
I'LL BRING THIS TROPHY BACK TO OUR TOWN

WE'VE ALMOST WON

ALL but AMBER

THE PRESSURE IS ON

AMBER

I'VE ONLY BEGUN

ALL but AMBER

THE PRESSURE IS--

(MELISSA is silent, blank.)

THE PRESSURE IS--  
THE PRESSURE IS--

MELISSA

ON.  
 TRY NOT TO SPAZ OUT  
 OH GOD, THEY'RE ALL STARING  
 MELISSA, YOU'VE GOT THIS, IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND  
 BUT WHAT IF I FAIL  
 AND WORSE, WHILE THEY'RE WATCHING  
 AND THIS IS THE MOMENT BY WHICH I'M DEFINED?

ONE PERSON LEFT  
 THEIR TEAM IS ALMOST DONE  
 YOU GUYS I THINK THEY'RE WINNING!  
 ONE PROBLEM LEFT  
 BUT THEIR GUY JUST FINISHED  
 AND I'M JUST BEGINNING  
 MELISSA, COME ON: THE PRESSURE IS--

(A buzzer goes off.)

MCGERY

And that is time! Oh, dear. It looks like the Waukesha Numbers Nerds did not have time to complete their last question. So it all hinges on the number of correct answers. Let's take some time for the judges to tally up. Please turn in your answers.

(AMBER grabs the paper out of MELISSA's hand to hand it to MCGERY who goes Offstage. The MATH TEAM whispers:)

AMBER

(to MELISSA, through her teeth)

*What* just happened?!

MELISSA

No--no, no, no, I got over this, I'm better than this--

LEROY

Dibs on the backseat of the bus.

MARY KATE

My scholarship--I'm never going to college.

AMBER

(to MELISSA)

I swear to god, if you ruined this after I was brave enough to come here--

MARY KATE

"Brave?" You wore a hat and sunglasses until we got to Waukegan!

BARBIE

Why are we whispering?

MCGERY

Advancing to the next round is...Waukesha!

(End scene.)

Perussat

## Scene 9

*BARBIE and MARY KATE's hotel room. AMBER, MELISSA, BARBIE, and MARY KATE are inside. The door opens and LEROY enters with a two-liter of Mountain Dew and a bag of Doritos.*

LEROY

(trying to cheer people up)

The lobby store has the best snacks, fo' shizzle! Have you guys had Doritos? And my parents never let me have Mountain Dew.

MELISSA

(still in shock)

I'm a total failure.

BARBIE

No you're not!

MARY KATE

At least we still won.

AMBER

She's not wrong, guys. We only let Melissa back on the team because she promised she was over this.

LEROY

(sitting next to MARY KATE)

Want some of my Dew?

MARY KATE

I'm okay.

BARBIE

I'll take some!

LEROY

Actually, looks like we don't have cups. Sorry.

MELISSA

I don't understand. I planned everything. The breathing and planting my feet. And then the lights went on and I went totally blank.

MARY KATE

Maybe Ms. McGery can help?

MELISSA

We've gone over this a thousand times! I'm supposed to have beaten my stage fright! She trusted that I'd know the answers if I followed her stupid steps, and I didn't!

(LEROY holds a Dorito up to MARY KATE, ready to feed her. She takes it from his fingers and eats it herself. BARBIE opens her mouth like a baby bird to be fed and LEROY shrugs and feeds her one.)

AMBER

(to MELISSA)

Well, you'd better snap out of it. We still have two more rounds and I am not going home a loser. Again.

LEROY

(looking at MARY KATE)

We could pair up and study!

BARBIE

I'm with MK and Leroy!

MELISSA

Why bother? I failed. A second time. I might as well not even compete.

MARY KATE

But it's the group round next, those have always been fine!

MELISSA

I'm a mathematician. I'm supposed to be able to do this on my own.

(MELISSA gets up and exits.)

BARBIE

Should we go after her?

AMBER

I say let her go. We all want to win this competition.

LEROY

I guess. I mean, math is cool but I'm mostly here to hang out with you guys.

(AMBER rolls her eyes at him.)

AMBER

Good for you. Barbie, MK, you're in this to win, right?

BARBIE

Yeah. My parents said they'd make it. They say that a lot, but I think they might actually do it this time. If we could win, maybe they'd finally notice me.

MARY KATE

My whole family is here. Kevin, Julie, Patrick, Meghan, Colleen, and Erin came too.

LEROY

Are those family friends?

MARY KATE

Those are my brothers and sisters.

LEROY

Whoa, you have *six*?

MARY KATE

That's why we've got to win. My parents can't pay for college for all of us. Precalc is the only thing I have that sets me apart. I need to use my math competition skills to get a scholarship if I want to go anywhere good.

AMBER

Meanwhile I took a stupid risk to do something I'm good at, and if we don't win, it's fresh ammunition for Jennifer.

LEROY

Isn't she your friend?

AMBER

For now.

LEROY

Am I missing something?

AMBER



It's not important. In middle school I hadn't figured out how to use a blowdryer or assemble an outfit.

MARY KATE

Some of the girls used to bully Amber.

AMBER

Whatever. No one calls me "Loser" anymore. I'm past it.

BARBIE

Do you really think if we don't win Nationals you'll lose your friends?

(Everyone looks sympathetically at AMBER.)

AMBER

What is this, therapy? I'm fine. Everything's fine. We'll win and they won't care that I rejoined the team.

MARY KATE

(gently teasing)

You actually love math, don't you? I swear, I've never seen you happier than when you solve a tough problem.

AMBER

(hiding a smile)

You're delusional. I've got homework to do.

(AMBER leaves.)

LEROY

So...Mary Kate, want to go study?

MARY KATE

We could study here! We've got everything we need: snacks, books, and little hotel notepads.

LEROY

Or we could go for a walk to get some air.

BARBIE

I'm with MK! This is our fortress. We can hide out here against the forces of...well, not evil exactly. Maybe snobbery? But if you want a break from math we can just talk! On the bus I didn't even get to European unicorns.

LEROY

Studying it is! (Long pause) Hey, Barbie, do you still want some Mountain Dew?

BARBIE

Yeah!

LEROY

What about you, Mary Kate?

MARY KATE

Sure. I could use some caffeine.

LEROY

Great! Barbie, could you go grab some cups? And ice?

BARBIE

Me? Okay! I'll prove myself worthy of our fellowship by fulfilling this trial in a jiff!

(She grabs the ice bucket and then speed-walks outside.)

LEROY

Finally. It is *hard* to get alone time with you!

MARY KATE

(awkward)

We spend plenty of time together!

LEROY

Yeah, but Barbie is attached to you at the hip. I mean, I like Barbie, but she's a little...clingy.

MARY KATE

She's my best friend. And her parents leave her alone so much, I think she just needs people sometimes.

LEROY

I get it. I was just really hoping you and I could hang out more this weekend.

MARY KATE

And...here we are! Hanging out!

LEROY

Yeah...

(He leans in to kiss her.)

MARY KATE

(as a dodge, in a panic)

Have you ever heard of Saint Teresa of Avila? I was just reading her autobiography. She was pretty amazing, she worked her whole life for reformation of the church in Spain--

LEROY

Is everything okay? Sorry, am I moving too fast?

MARY KATE

I just--think she's an incredible woman! So dedicated to one goal. So focused. That's admirable, right? She never got distracted.

LEROY

Right...

MARY KATE

She kept her eye on the big picture, no matter how many cute priests came to visit, even if she really found herself... tempted...

(She starts to lean toward LEROY.)

LEROY

Uh huh...

MARY KATE

(still leaning in)

Because...women have to work really hard to be taken seriously.

LEROY

(leaning in as well)

I can totally respect that.

MARY KATE

(getting really close to LEROY)

And she didn't want people to think...she was just doing it...for some guy...

(MARY KATE and LEROY almost kiss again)

when BARBIE opens the door, panting from running. She holds a full ice bucket.)

BARBIE

I got the ice!

(MARY KATE rockets away from LEROY.)

LEROY

Great.

MARY KATE

That was really--fast!

(BARBIE comes over and wiggles her way to sit in between MARY KATE and LEROY.)

BARBIE

So let's get cozy! Who wants to make flashcards?

(End of scene.)

## Scene 10

*Back in the AUDITORIUM for Round 2 of the competition. MELISSA stands back from the rest of the group and is slowly drawn in to help. MCGERY is back in position as announcer.*

MCGERY

Ready? Problem set. Go!

**10. Song: THE PRESSURE IS ON (REMIX)**

MCGERY

KIDS: WORK TOGETHER  
AND YOU CAN GET THROUGH THIS  
AND MAKE IT TO THE FINAL ROUND  
SO GATHER ROUND LADIES AND GENTLEMAN MATHLETES  
YOUR EXPONENTIAL POWERS WILL ASTOUND...

You have up to ten minutes to complete your problem set as a team. Those who complete their sets before time is up and wish to submit early will be considered for automatic victory with a perfect score. It's the Waukesha Numbers Nerds against the Dallas Derivatives. Ready? Go.

ALL

THE PRESSURE IS ON  
BELIEVE ME THE PRESSURE IS ON  
GOTTA WORK TOGETHER IF WE WANNA MOVE ON  
CUZ THE PRESSURE IS ON

BARBIE

OOH, I'LL TAKE "5"

MARY KATE  
(with LEROY)

WE'LL TACKLE TWO

AMBER  
(Snaps:)

MELISSA, HEY, WHAT ABOUT YOU

MELISSA

(Starting to panic)

UH HUH

AMBER

WHATEVER, I'LL GIVE THREE A TRY

BARBIE

(To MELISSA:)

ARE YOU OKAY?

MELISSA

I'M FINE

BARBIE

OKAY...

AMBER

DON'T DO THIS TO US, TODAY  
IF YOU FREEZE UP, KISS OUR WIN GOODBYE

BARBIE

(Consoling MELISSA:)

THE PRESSURE IS ON  
WE GET IT, THE PRESSURE IS ON

AMBER

AND TWO PRECIOUS MINUTES ARE ALREADY GONE  
THE PRESSURE IS ON

LEROY

HEY LOOK, NUMBER 1'S OBTUSE...

MARY KATE

JUST SOLVE FOR THE HYPOTENUSE

MARY KATE and LEROY  
(having a little moment)

AND THEN INVERT AND MULTIPLY

AMBER

MELISSA, EITHER HELP OR QUIT  
FIVE MINUTES UNTIL WE SUBMIT!  
DO I NEED TO CLARIFY, THAT WE HAVE

MCGERY

MINUTES TO GO  
THERE ARE ONLY MINUTES TO GO

TIL THEY SELECT THE FINALISTS  
LIKE LAST YEAR, SO LONG AGO

MELISSA  
(interrupting)

Fine, I'll help. Just don't blame me if we lose.

(Instrumental break. LEROY and MARY  
KATE flirt. BARBIE won't leave them  
alone. AMBER and MELISSA finish the set  
themselves and hand the answer to  
MCGERY.)

AMBER  
THIS IS THE LAST PROBLEM.  
I THINK OUR MATH IS SOUND.  
SO UNLESS I MIS-HYPOTHESIZE...

MCGERY  
Submitting early!

(She hands the paper offstage and puts  
a finger to the headset in her ear.)

And it is...my Lord and Taylor. A perfect score! Waukesha  
moves to the final elimination!

ALL  
WE'VE REACHED THE FINAL ROUND

(End of scene.)

## Scene 11

*MARY KATE and BARBIE'S hotel room. The whole team is inside chattering happily, but AMBER is quiet.*

MARY KATE  
(to LEROY, flirtatious)

Nice work on that inversion.

LEROY  
Couldn't have done it without you. It's almost like we're good together.

MARY KATE  
I'm starting to get that impression.

(They subtly hold hands. BARBIE notices and sits between them, breaking up any cuddling.)

BARBIE  
We're doing great! I can't believe we made the finals!

MELISSA  
And I got back in stride! (To AMBER:) Bet you're glad I was here to correct those problems for our perfect score. Thanks for getting me back in the game!

AMBER  
About that.

LEROY  
What's up, Amber?

AMBER  
I shouldn't have had to do that. (Steeling herself:) Melissa can't compete in the final round.

MELISSA  
What?

AMBER  
As team captain--

MARY KATE



Technically we never voted on that--

AMBER

I have to do what it takes for us to win.

LEROY

I don't understand. We are winning. "We on fire!"

MELISSA

I did well last round!

AMBER

Yeah, in a group. After I pushed you to decide if you were in or out. Weren't you listening? The final round is elimination.

BARBIE

So what?

AMBER

So it's each of us up there alone, and one mistake--one freeze--could cost the whole team the trophy. At this point we need consistency. Nothing's changed. Melissa still doesn't know she can take the pressure. So I say she sits out.

MELISSA

But now I've had time to get used to competition. I really think I can do it. I got my groove back last round.

AMBER

Did you? Because I remember you mostly judging our work like you're better than us, then finishing up the last like, five minutes.

MELISSA

I was helping. I just was...apprehensive.

AMBER

Listen, Melissa. You need to accept this. You're just okay at math. So you were top of the class in seventh grade or whatever, and you decided you'd be a famous mathematician. You want to prove you're a genius. Only...let's face it. You're not.

(MELISSA is shocked into silence.)

BARBIE

Amber!

AMBER

What? Someone has to be brutally honest. You think I would have turned my social life around without a rude awakening? None of you are ready to tell her the ugly truth. You're too nice and Leroy and Mary Kate are too distracted by their clear need to get a room.

BARBIE

What? They're just friends.

AMBER

Right. Just friends who hold hands when they think no one is watching.

BARBIE

Maybe...

AMBER

You are so in denial.

BARBIE

No I'm not. Right guys? We're just super good friends.

AMBER

This is getting off-track.

BARBIE

Mary Kate? Back me up here! We're Sam and Frodo, right? Nothing would ever come between us. Not even a boy.

MARY KATE  
(frustrated)

Honestly, Barbie, cool it with the fantasy world stuff. Maybe Leroy and I do want to go out. That's normal. This is real life. People don't need to spend every second together.

BARBIE

What?

MARY KATE

All of your weird unicorn and quest and "Lord of the Rings" stuff gets really old!

LEROY

Guys--

BARBIE

You've never called me weird before. Other people have, but not you.

AMBER

Do we have to do this right now?

MARY KATE

I didn't mean it that way.

BARBIE

(ramping up into anger)

I get it! After all your feminist rants, you drop everything for the first guy who shows interest in you, even if he has no concept of personal space!

LEROY

Excuse me?

BARBIE

(to MARY KATE)

You think you're so perfect? Okay, let's get real then. I wonder what Leroy would think if he knew you just flirted with him because we needed another team member!

LEROY

Say whaa?

(He moves away from MARY KATE.)

MARY KATE

That was a long time ago.

AMBER

We were talking about the finals!

BARBIE

Congratulations, Leroy, you get the girl who only ever cared about herself and her stupid scholarship. You know what? Now you'll never know why England has a unicorn on their flag!

(BARBIE gets up to leave.)

MELISSA

Barbie, we need to talk about tomorrow!

BARBIE

I don't want to be here anymore.

(BARBIE exits.)

AMBER

This is pointless. I'm going to do my homework. If I'm going home a loser, I might as well be a loser who won't fail History.

MELISSA

We're not done here!

(AMBER leaves. A stunned beat.)

MELISSA

You guys think I can handle the final round, right?

MARY KATE

Don't worry, even if you get eliminated, the rest of us will still have a chance!

MELISSA

I thought you guys believed in me.

MARY KATE

It's just a worst-case scenario--

MELISSA

Whatever.

(MELISSA leaves. LEROY and MARY KATE are alone. An awkward moment.)

MARY KATE

So...wanna watch a movie?

LEROY

Is what Barbie said true? About you just flirting to get another team member?

MARY KATE

(trying to distract him)

I wonder what channels they have!

LEROY

I thought you were acting kind of weird after you asked me to join. But I never thought you'd manipulate me.

MARY KATE

Leroy. Come on. Barbie was just upset.

LEROY

So is it not true?

MARY KATE

Technically...

LEROY

I thought you liked me! But you were just using me? This is like "She's All That!" And "10 Things I Hate About You!" And "How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days" and "You've Got Mail" and "Clueless" and "Drive Me Crazy" and "Cruel Intentions" and "Never Been Kissed". I'm Julia Roberts in "Pretty Woman"!

MARY KATE

I've never seen like 80% of those movies, could you be normal for once?

LEROY

You said you liked that I was different.

MARY KATE

I do, it's just exhausting sometimes.

LEROY

I can't believe I fell for the first girl who batted her eyes at me. I'm such an idiot.

MARY KATE

I had to figure some stuff out. I do like you, I just had to let myself admit it!

LEROY

Why should I trust you?

MARY KATE

Please--

LEROY

I'm going to my room. I'll see you at finals.

(LEROY leaves.)

MARY KATE  
(Defensive:)

Fine. That's...fine.

(Calling out to him:)

You're just a distraction anyway!

(Gathering herself.)

I need to focus on my goals. I don't need Leroy. I don't need any of them. I can make it on my own. Like...Joan of Arc! Except with less burning.

(End of scene.)

## Scene 12

*MELISSA is sitting in the hotel lobby, upset. MS. MCGERY enters.*

MCGERY

Melissa! How is my star pupil on the eve of the big show?

MELISSA

Not so great.

MCGERY

Still battling your stage fright?

MELISSA

It's not just that. The whole team is fighting. We can't win if we can't even be in the same room without yelling. (Beat) They don't think I can do it.

MCGERY

And what do you think?

MELISSA

I don't know. Maybe Amber is right. Maybe I was never going to be a genius mathematician.

MCGERY

A genius? What a role to live up to. I wouldn't want that on my shoulders. (Beat) Have you ever been in a show, Melissa?

MELISSA

We've been over this. I'm not a theatre person.

MCGERY

Well, if you had, you might have noticed that no matter how brilliant the costumer, or the lighting designer, or the supporting actress of a certain age--in order for the show to be a success, all of the parts need to work together.

MELISSA

Can we not do metaphors? I'm a left-brain person.

MCGERY

The right brain-left brain dichotomy is a myth. (Beat)  
 You'll also see the reverse. It's why I chose to devote my  
 life to the arts. When the chorus works in sync, when the  
 scenic design distills the play's theme, when the music  
 swells at the right moment--even if no one part of the show  
 is revolutionary, together you can achieve great things.

MELISSA

But what about me? What about my future in math?

MCGERY

A good director brings the ensemble together. The world can  
 always use more leaders.

MELISSA

But I'm not the leader anymore.

MCGERY

Do you want to be?

MELISSA

Yes.

MCGERY

Then it's time for you to rally your ensemble.

MELISSA

I don't know how to start.

MCGERY

Tell me this. Why are you here?

MELISSA

To win Nationals.

MCGERY

But why are you really here? Why math?

MELISSA

Because—

MCGERY

My dear. I'm not the person you need to convince.

**11. Song: IN DEFENSE OF MATH**



(Underscoring. A transition as MELISSA is absorbed in thinking of her answer. As the transition ends, the MATH TEAM is gathered around her in the hotel room. Vamp.)

MELISSA

Thanks for coming. I've been thinking a lot about why we're here, and I'd like to hear from you guys, too. What does math mean to you? (Silence.) Okay. I'll start.

MELISSA

MATH IS EVIDENCE  
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE  
(beat) IT'S PROOF OF ALL THAT I CAN BE  
I KNOW WHO I AM TODAY  
IS DISAPPOINTING, AND STRANGE  
BUT WITH MATH, AND ME, EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE

(Spoken:) Barbie? How about you?

BARBIE

MATH IS ABSOLUTE  
MATH IS TRUE  
NUMBERS NEVER TURN THEIR BACK ON YOU  
THEY NEVER LEAVE MY SIDE  
NO MATTER WHAT THE TIDE  
I'M CONNECTED AND THE LONELINESS SUBSIDES  
THE LONELINESS SUBSIDES...

BOTH

IN DEFENSE OF MATHEMATICS

MELISSA

IT'S MY CALLING CARD

BARBIE

IT'S UNDRAMATIC

AND WHEN WE FIND COMMON CAUSE TO DERIVE  
I FEEL SO...ALIVE

MELISSA

Mary Kate? Leroy?

MARY KATE

What?

MELISSA

Your turn. Defend math. Does it matter to you?

LEROY

Of course.

MARY KATE

MATH IS... SINGULARITY

IDENTITY

IT'S WHAT SEPARATES THE WORLD FROM ME

WHEN THE FUTURE FEELS SO CROWDED

AND I SEEM TO DISAPPEAR

WITH MATHEMATICS, AT LEAST I KNOW I'M HERE

LEROY

MATH IS EVERYWHERE

LAOS TO BORDEAUX

MATH IS THE SAME, NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO

WHEN MY PARENTS SAID "WE'RE LEAVING"

AWAY FROM ALL I'D KNOWN

WITH MATH, I ALWAYS FEEL AT HOME

I ALWAYS FEEL AT HOME

ALL

AHHHHH

IN DEFENSE OF MATHEMATICS

LEROY

WHEN YOU'RE MOVING, IT STAYS STATIC

MELISSA

AND IF YOU'RE ALL IN THIS WITH ME

ALL

WE CAN WIN IN HARMONY

(A moment.)

MELISSA

We can win. If we remember the reasons we're here. (Beat)  
And if I can get past that stupid question. It still gives  
me palpitations. "You're on a spaceship..."

MARY KATE

We remember the question.

BARBIE

What if you just focus on a place to begin? Remember when we talked about this? You just need to start with the acceleration, which is the square of a velocity...

MARY KATE

Follow on to the next logical step. Think about the problem, not the people. Next you can integrate to determine time, eliminating distance.

LEROY

And like you said on the bus--the planets are moving, so you have to consider the relative rate.

AMBER

Technically you could use linear algebra.

(Everyone looks at her.)

What? I'm helping.

BARBIE

Amber...why do you do math?

AMBER

Me?

MARY KATE

Yeah, we're all baring our souls here. It's your turn.

(A beat.)

AMBER

MATH CAN'T OSTRACIZE  
OR CALL YOU NAMES  
FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING, MATH'S THE SAME  
THERE'S NO JUDGEMENT, REJECTION  
OR FEAR YOU'LL FALL BEHIND  
THERE'S JUST RIGHT OR WRONG, THE REST IS UNCONFINED  
I LOVE THAT MATH IS BLIND

ALL

IN DEFENSE OF MATH  
IT DEFINES EACH OF OUR PATHS  
WHERE OUR ROAD GOES, WE DON'T KNOW  
BUT WE'LL TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOMORROW  
YEAH WE'LL TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOMORROW

MELISSA

Here we go.

(End of scene.)

Perussol

## Scene 13

*The final round of competition in the AUDITORIUM. The team looks into the audience, psyching themselves up.*

AMBER

All right team. We've got this.

(BARBIE looks at the audience and gasps.)

MARY KATE

What's up?

BARBIE

My parents are here!

(BARBIE waves frantically to the audience.)

MCGERY

Mathletes. Parents. And everyone watching from home on ESPN-EMC2. It all comes down to this: the final round. Will this year's National Math Sum-It Champions be returning winners the Sanford All Boys' School Numerators or our newcomers from Waukesha? It's time to find out. Every wrong answerer will be eliminated, and the round will continue until the buzzer sounds. Let the final round begin!

**12. Instrumental Song: THE FINAL ROUND**

(Through movement, the team gets some questions right, then some wrong. Individual players are eliminated as they get questions wrong. The tempo increases, faster, faster. Everything we expect takes place: MARY KATE and LEROY avoid each other. AMBER is determined. BARBIE marvels at the colors she sees as she calculates. One by one the girls (and LEROY) are eliminated until only MELISSA remains. Buzzer sounds. They are tied.)

MCGERY

And that is time! Ladies and gentlemen--

(She puts a finger to her earpiece,  
listening)

Oh, how dramatic! For only the...second time in this competition's history, is that right? We have a tie in the finals. We've reached the Lightning Round. For this round, only team members who have not been eliminated may participate.

(Spotlight on MELISSA, who freezes.  
Underscoring.)

I will ask a question aloud, and the first person to buzz in will have a chance to answer. If they are correct, they will become our champions; if incorrect, their opponent will have one opportunity to answer for a steal. Mathletes, prepare yourselves.

MELISSA  
(to herself)

Don't choke, don't choke, don't choke.

MCGERY

Now, onto the final question.

MELISSA

Breathe, Melissa.

MCGERY

And here it is. Mathletes, at the ready.

MARY KATE

Hail Mary full of grace.

(The problem is projected on the  
screen.)

MCGERY

"You're on a mission to a planet one light year away. You launch your rocket-ship, and you start in earth orbit. You accelerate at a rate of 1 km/s squared. At half the distance between Earth and the planet you decelerate at the same rate. You arrive, snap a quick photo, and return home

in the same manner. To an Earth observer, how much time elapses?"

MELISSA

But--that's the same format as the Regionals question! Is Ms. McGery trying to trip me up? Come on, Melissa. I don't think I can do this. Breathe in. Breathe out. WWMTD? What Would the Math Team Do?

**13. Song: MELISSA'S NEXT THEOREM**

MELISSA

A NERD IN HIGH SCHOOL  
FROM A SUBURB IN WISCONSIN  
DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS  
WELL, I GUESS SHE DOES NOW  
WAS A TOTAL IDIOT, HAD AN OUT, JOINED THE TEAM AGAIN  
BUT SHE COULDN'T DO IT ON HER OWN...

I WON'T BE THE NEXT ONE, ALBERT  
I WON'T BE JUST LIKE YOU  
IT'S UP IN SMOKE, BECAUSE I'LL CHOKE

(In her mind, her teammates step forward.)

MARY KATE

MELISSA, THAT'S NOT TRUE

MELISSA

Remember what we worked on. A first step.

MARY KATE

Integrate to determine time. Eliminate distance.

BARBIE

Acceleration is the square of a velocity.

LEROY

Don't forget relative rates!

AMBER

And use linear algebra if you need to.

(Sung:)

YOU'RE GONNA BE THE GIRL WHO LEAVES EINSTEIN IN THE DUST

BARBIE  
MAKES SOMETHING, SOMETHING COPERNICUS

LEROY  
LEAVES FIBO-NA-NA-NACCI NON-PLUSSED

ALL but MELISSA  
YOU'RE GONNA DERIVE ALL THE BRILLIANCE FROM YOUR MIND  
'CAUSE YOU CAN SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF EV'RY EQUALS  
SIGN  
SO WHAT ABOUT TODAY  
WE MIGHT LOSE, BUT WE'LL COME THROUGH  
WE MADE IT HERE BECAUSE OF--

MELISSA  
To an Earth observer! That's it!

(A buzzer sounds. Everyone looks over to MELISSA, who pressed it. Calmly and confidently, she answers.)

MELISSA  
Two years, three months.

(The Math Team gasps.)

MCGERY  
That...is...

(She pauses, finger to earpiece, as she listens to the judges.)

Correct!

(The MATH TEAM explodes into celebration—hugging each other, jumping up and down, even crying. Everyone piles over to hug MELISSA. MCGERY runs on with the trophy and hands it to MELISSA.)

MCGERY  
You were magnificent! Brava!

BARBIE



That was amazing, Melissa!

MELISSA

I followed all the steps we talked about! I couldn't have done it out without you guys.

MARY KATE

But we didn't solve it. You did. You were brilliant.

AMBER

How did you do it?

MELISSA

I remembered your advice. Then I took a deep breath and planted my feet.

MCGERY

And? Anything else?

MELISSA

Well, I figured something out.

**14. Song: FINALE ULTIMO**

THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR  
IN SWALLOWING YOUR PRIDE  
TO SHARE GLORY WITH  
YOUR FRIENDS WHO WALK ASTRIDE  
EINSTEIN TOOK WHAT PYTHAGORAS KNEW AND APPLIED IT  
HE STOOD ON THEIR SHOULDERS, 'BOUT TIME I TRIED IT

MCGERY

DARLING I'M MOVED TO APPLAUD:  
YOU'RE SPEAKING YOUR TRUTH!

MELISSA

OH MY GOD... (Spoken:) This means--

I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
IN MY HEART I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN  
THAT I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE ONE ON MY OWN

MELISSA

(to AMBER)

Here. I know this was important to you.

(She hands AMBER the trophy.)

AMBER

Wow. (Beat.) Actually, I think you should hold onto it. Who cares what the Blondes think? Even if we'd lost it would have been worth coming.

AMBER

BEING POPULAR  
WILL ONLY LAST FOUR YEARS  
BUT MY WHOLE LIFE  
I'LL REMEMBER ALL THE CHEERS

WE WON NATIONALS, THIS IS THE DREAM  
WE DID IT TOGETHER AS A TEAM

I'LL SPEAK MY TRUTH TO YOU TOO:  
MELISSA, WE'RE NOT A WHOLE TEAM WITHOUT YOU

'CAUSE YOU AND I, WE ARE NUMBERS NERDS  
AND MAYBE NOBODY WOULD GUESS

AMBER and MELISSA

BUT YOU AND I, WE ARE NUMBERS NERDS  
YOU AND I ADD UP TO A SUCCESS

(MARY KATE approaches LEROY.)

MARY KATE

Leroy...I'm sorry I manipulated you. Back in November, I was only thinking of myself. But since then I've actually gotten to know you. When I got eliminated in this round, I wasn't worried about college. I was worried I wouldn't have a reason to see you anymore. You really are an outlier.

LEROY

I'm not being "Punk'd?" No Big Brother cameras?

MARY KATE

Definitely not.

LEROY

Tight. 'Cause I still think you're all that and a bag of Cheetos. Do people still say that?

MARY KATE

Nope. But I like it.

(He takes her hand.)

MARY KATE

THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR  
IN BEING KIND OF WEIRD

LEROY

BEING SUPER WEIRD

MARY KATE

IF YOU'RE JULIA, THEN I AM RICHARD GERE

LEROY

YOU'RE RICHARD GERE

BOTH

FORGET ABOUT WHAT WE SAID BEFORE, YOU  
ARE TOTALLY WEIRD AND I KIND OF ADORE YOU

BARBIE

SO FRODO AND SAM DISAPPEARED  
BUT CAN WE BE THE THREE MUSKETEERS?

(Vamp. As BARBIE approaches, LEROY gauges distance and takes a step back, pulling MARY KATE along, to make sure he is a proper distance from BARBIE.)

BARBIE

I was mean to you last night, Leroy. I'm sorry. You've done a great job learning American social norms.

LEROY

Really? Thank you.

MARY KATE

Barbie, I'm sorry I called you weird. You're still my favorite superhero.

BARBIE

(Correcting:) "Sorceress." (Pause) I guess sometimes it's good to be part of the real world too. Like this fall when I start at Columbia...

MARY KATE

You got in?!

BARBIE

I found out last night! The head of their Medieval Studies department loved my essay.

LEROY

Let me guess. Was it about unicorns?

BARBIE

How did you know?

MARY KATE

Square root of 7,569?

BARBIE

87.

MARY KATE

I love it when you do that.

BARBIE

I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
ONE FOR ALL AND ALSO ALL FOR ONE  
I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
ONE LAST TIME NOW, EVERYONE:

ALL

I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
UNCONVENTIONAL AND UNDETERRED  
YEAH I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
I FOUND MY FLOCK; I'M FREE AS A BIRD

I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
THE FIVE SWEETEST WORDS I'VE EVER HEARD  
GOT TWO VICTORIES, HERE COMES THE THIRD  
HEADS UP EVERYBODY, WHAT'S THE WORD?  
I, I, I, I, I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
I AM A NUMBERS NERD  
IAMANUMBERS... NERD!

(Curtain. End of show.)

Perussat

## NOTES:

1. "Waukesha" is pronounced "WAH-key-shaw."
2. Feel free to change the name of the popular clique Amber is a part of if the actress is not blonde. For example, "The Four Foxes" works for a redhead or in general.
3. Younger performers or audiences may be uncomfortable with the line "instead of prayer they solved for x/And maybe had a lot of sex." Feel free to replace with "Instead of prayer they solved for y/He really was an awesome guy."
4. Younger performers or audiences may also not want to have the joke about unicorns sensing if people are virgins. Feel free to cut from "...they can sense who is pure of heart" to "Help me practice?"
5. "Mephisto" is pronounced "meh-FEEST-o."
6. "Saoirse" is pronounced "Seer-shuh."
7. There are production projections available for rental should your production require them for scenic design.