

## APPENDIX 2.8 Adaptation of “The Princess and the Pea”

### *Adaptation of “The Princess and the Pea”*

One stormy night, a young woman knocked on the door of a castle. She had gotten lost in the dark, and her horse was tired and hungry. A servant opened the door, but only a crack.

“May I come inside until the storm passes?” asked the young woman.

“No,” said the servant, and began to close the door.

“Please,” said the young woman. “I am a princess.”

The door swung open. Without a word, the servant led the princess through a great stone hall where candlelight flickered on the walls, into a room where the queen and her son sat eating dinner.

The room had thick lion-skin rugs, and a fireplace roared in the corner. The servant whispered into the queen’s ear, and her eyes lit up.

“Join us,” she said. The princess was suddenly nervous. “Maybe I should leave,” she thought, but icy rain drummed on the windows. She began to eat instead and soon relaxed.

She learned that the prince was looking for a woman to marry.

“But he can’t find a true princess,” said the queen.

After dinner, the princess was shown into a guest chamber. The bed was piled with mattresses and featherbeds

nearly to the ceiling. She climbed up the pile and sat on top of it, feeling ridiculous.

She remembered a rumor that one way to test a royal was to hide a pea in the bed. If she could feel it, she was a true princess. “But how silly,” she thought. “That wouldn’t tell you anything about someone.”

She searched under every mattress and finally, near the bottom, found a small green pea.

The next morning at breakfast, the queen asked, “Did you sleep well?”

“Very,” said the princess.

The queen smiled. The test had worked again.

“Oh, but I found this,” said the princess. She placed the pea on the table.

The queen clapped her hands. The prince dropped to one knee. “Will you marry me?” he asked.

“No, thank you,” said the princess. “It was a test. I don’t believe either of you passed.”

The queen and the prince sat with their jaws open. The princess bridled her horse and rode off into the dewy, shining countryside.