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MY LITTLE PONY

"Fall Weather Friends"

EP015

Outline by
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TEASER

RAINBOW DASH and APPLEJACK are playing a friendly round of horseshoes out at Appaloosa Orchard. But being the two most competitive ponies in all of Ponyville, they can't help but razz each other as the game goes on. But bragging rights belong to Applejack when she finally beats Rainbow Dash with her final and best throw of the game. And brag she does! So much so that Rainbow Dash (who cannot stand losing) challenges Applejack to an "Iron Pony" competition with a series of different events designed to settle, once and for all, which pony is the BEST. Applejack is only too happy to show who's the most athletic pony and the games are on!

ACT I

Rainbow and Applejack start by strutting their stuff in a Rodeo Barrel Weave. Applejack does a fantastic job running this way and that, skimming past the barrels, barely touching them. But when it's Rainbow's turn, she zips through them without nudging a one, winning this round. Next the two ponies play "Buck the Bell," each trying to see who can make the bell ring. Applejack has some strong legs from Applebuckin' and knocks the bell clear off the stand. But Applejack's win only fuels Rainbow's competitive nature when they try to see who can bronco buck Spike off faster. While the games remain friendly, the intensity of the competition builds, and a crowd begins to gather. In game after game, contest after contest, from hay bail tossing to hoof wrestling, these two ponies prove to truly be equal.

But in the next round of games, Rainbow seems to edge ahead. In the steeplechase jump, Applejack misses the last tall hedge. But with one flap of her wings, Rainbow flies right over no problem. In a push-ups contest, each can barely manage that 100th push-up until Rainbow gets a little extra "oomph" from her wings. Her wings help her tightrope walk across a fence, hold extra weight, carry baby chicks, and balance during a barrel roll. And don't think that Applejack isn't noticing this rather unfair advantage that Rainbow has. If she weren't such a good sport, Applejack would've cried foul a while ago. Being kind of a bad sport, Rainbow Dash gloats more and more with each victory. In the final battle—a Tug-o'-War—Applejack's strong legs help her pull ahead. In fact, she is about to pull Rainbow right into the mud when Rainbow kicks in her "wing power" to gain the advantage. Rainbow pulls Applejack back towards the mud and then flies up into the air, dangling Applejack right above the puddle. Applejack tries to tell Rainbow that using her wings in these challenges isn't fair. But with the rope in her mouth, Rainbow can't (or acts like she can't) understand Applejack. So Applejack opens her mouth and falls in the mud. Rainbow gloatingly declares herself the "Iron Pony" of Ponyville.

As Rainbow continues to brag, a mad and muddy Applejack tells Rainbow that the only reason she won was because of her wings. Sounds like 'sour apples' to Rainbow Dash. She denies that her wings were the key to her victory. She insists she would've still won without them. But Applejack challenges her to prove it. Tomorrow is the annual "Running of the Leaves" when the ponies stampede through Equestria making the leaves fall off the trees. Applejack challenges Rainbow to run and Rainbow eagerly accepts. But Applejack adds that there's ONE condition. The point is to RUN. So NO WINGS ALLOWED! Rainbow tells Applejack she's on!

ACT II

The next day, everypony in Ponyville is ready for the big event. PINKIE PIE is set to take off in her Whirligig, working as the "Eye in the Sky" announcer for the race. Rainbow shows up

ready to run the race—and beat Applejack. Applejack repeats that Rainbow can't use her wings. Rainbow snorts, stating that she can win this race with both wings tied behind her back! Applejack is only too happy to oblige and quickly ties Rainbow's wings back.

From out of the crowd comes Twilight who stands near the starting line with the rest of the racers. Rainbow and Applejack can't believe it. Twilight is going to *race*? Twilight concurs. After all, the Running of the Leaves is a Ponyville tradition. Since she is here to learn, she wants to participate. Rainbow bust up laughing while Applejack tries to suppress her chuckling. Twilight's not an athlete! She's a nerd! Insulted, Twilight shoots back that she is not a nerd and that she knows a lot about running! She's read several books on the subject! Anyways, she's not here to win. She's here for the experience. Applejack gives Twilight kudos for her good attitude while Rainbow Dash continues to snicker.

When the starting bell goes off, Rainbow and Applejack quickly take the lead, racing ahead of the pack. The two race side by side and as their hooves pound into the ground, the autumn leaves begin to fall. Up above in her whirligig, Pinkie gives a blow by blow in the style of a horse race announcer. Rainbow Dash and Applejack are holding strong to the lead, racing neck and neck. But then Applejack, a very strong workhorse with strong legs and no wings to depend on, pulls ahead of Rainbow. The visibly worried and annoyed Rainbow Dash looks back at her wings.

But then Rainbow digs in and catches up with Applejack. Once again, the two race neck and neck. Suddenly, Applejack stumbles and falls. She immediately accuses Rainbow of tripping her. Rainbow assures her that she didn't. As the two argue, many ponies run by and Twilight catches up to her friends. She shows Applejack a rock sticking up from the ground that she must have tripped on. Believing Rainbow and accepting Twilight's explanation, the two continue the race. Rainbow and Applejack race through the rest of the ponies, quickly taking the lead once more. But then *Rainbow* trips on a rock. This time it's Rainbow who accuses Applejack of tripping her. Twilight catches up once again and tells her quarreling friends that it was just another rock. But unlike Applejack, Rainbow is convinced that Applejack is cheating and is unwilling to listen to Twilight. As Applejack and Twilight run off to continue the race, Rainbow Dash gets a determined look in her eye. "Two can play that game."

ACT III

Fueled with anger at Applejack's 'cheating', Rainbow Dash quickly catches up to her rival and even gets a length ahead of her. As she pushes past a branch, she sends it flying back, whacking Applejack in the face. Rainbow snickers as she takes the lead. Applejack is appalled at Rainbow's dirty trick and decides it's time to fight fire with fire. She uses that same branch to catapult herself forward, whizzing right by Rainbow. Rainbow is catching up with Applejack when Applejack spies a beehive up in a tree. Giving it a swift kick, she dislodges the beehive so that it lands right in front of Rainbow. Applejack gains ground again. But then Rainbow comes buzzing past, spurred by the trail of bees in her wake. Ahead of Applejack, Rainbow changes the racecourse sign, sending Applejack running the wrong direction. But Applejack soon realizes what happened and gets back on course. But now she is way behind. Determined to catch up, she enlists help from a couple of Pegasus and flies in front of Rainbow. After all, it's Rainbow who can't use wings, not *her*!

Back and forth and back again it goes, with each pony trying anything to stop the other. They stick the other in sap, send the other sliding in oil slicks, kick up cyclones, sabotage bridges, and buck down avalanches. But as they do, instead of actually racing, they keep

getting distracted and stop to accuse the other of cheating. And at each detour, the non-athletic, bookworm Twilight catches up to them, commenting on her friends' rather unusual racing techniques and marveling at the beautiful countryside.

Finally with the finish line in sight, Applejack and Rainbow Dash are once again neck and neck. But now their battling becomes nasty as they push and shove the other, trying to get ahead. As one pony gets ahead, the other grabs her by the tail and pulls her back. On and on it goes until finally, Applejack pulls on the rope that is tying down Rainbow's wings. Rainbow falls and Applejack passes. Applejack is sure to win now and Rainbow is furious. But then she notices that her rope is loosened. She's free! "That's it! All bets are off!" Rainbow unfurls her wings and is about to take off to beat Applejack to the finish line. But Applejack sees this and cries, "Oh no you don't!" tackling Rainbow. The two fall to the ground and scuffle in a big dust cloud with hoofs and tails a-flying.

Finally they roll right over the finish line. As the dust clears, Applejack and Rainbow see that the race is over. But which one of them won the race? Pinkie announces that they tied—for LAST!!! Everybody has beaten them. Even 'nerdy' Twilight!

Applejack and Rainbow apologize to each other for their "unsportsponylike" behavior. And in her letter to Celestia, Twilight writes of the race and what lesson they all have learned. Applejack and Rainbow Dash let their competitive natures get ahead of their friendship. And in any contest, Friendship should always come in first.

The End.