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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Testing, Testing, 1, 2, 3"
Episode 422
Written by: Amy Keating Rogers

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Testing, Testing, 1, 2, 3 Premise by Amy Rogers

The Wonderbolts have decided to create a new group, the Wonderbolts Reserves. Its members can be called upon to assist the Wonderbolts if one of their core members is temporarily unable to fly. Because of her performance at the Wonderbolt Academy and the further respect she earned during the trials for the Equestria Games, Rainbow Dash is in the running to join this new group. Rainbow is thrilled. That is until she finds out that the next round is learning about the History of the Wonderbolts and taking a test!

Rainbow thinks this is ridiculous. The Wonderbolts are a flying squad and she's proven she's one of the best fliers around. Why in Equestria does she need to take a test? Twilight explains that as important as the flying element of the Wonderbolts is, knowing their origin and being able to represent them properly is also important. And Rainbow Dash doesn't need to worry. Twilight will be happy to help her study! But Rainbow hardly seems to be the dedicated student that Twilight is. As Twilight tries to teach her, Rainbow does everything from daydreaming to blowing spit wads to falling asleep. And she keeps whining about when she can go to recess! Twilight starts losing her patience with her less than studious student. And when Twilight has her do a pop quiz, Rainbow fails miserably. With the official test happening at the end of the week, Twilight has to find a way for Rainbow to learn and fast!

So Twilight enlists their friends. Surely one of them will have a study method that could help. Pinkie immediately comes up with a catchy little rap about the History of the Wonderbolts, but when Rainbow tries to say it back, everything is a mixed up mess. Fluttershy has her animals put on an adorable play reenacting the history. But still, none of the facts stick. Rarity feels that if Rainbow is able to visualize what the Pegasi looked like through the different periods of Wonderbolt history, it will surely make an impression. And so she has made all of the Wonderbolts' costumes through the ages. But to Rainbow, it just looks like a bunch of goofy old clothes. And Applejack? Actually, Applejack has nothing. She'd be happy to tell Rainbow all about the History of Apples, but it took her years and years to learn all that.

Rainbow Dash decides that the whole thing is just hopeless. She's just not a good student and is never going to be able to pass the test. There is no point in even trying. Frustrated, Rainbow takes to the skies. Twilight goes after her friend to try and convince her not to give up. They need to give Twilight's study methods another go. Rainbow Dash just needs to try harder. As Twilight and Rainbow chat, Rainbow's ears move in different directions and her eyes dart about now and again, panning the sky and the town. At one moment, Rainbow pushes Twilight out of the way of an aerial moving van that is right in their flight path. Twilight can't believe she didn't notice it. She was just so wrapped up in their conversation she didn't see it there. Rainbow shrugs this off as nothing. As an experienced flier, she just notices things without even thinking about it.

'Like what?' asks Twilight. Rainbow then recounts everything that was going on in Ponyville as they flew. She heard conversations, read signs, noticed what ponies were wearing and what groceries they bought. But at the same time, she was totally focused on what she and Twilight were talking about and is about to repeat that as well. Twilight's eyes light up. All of this time, Twilight and her friends were trying to help Rainbow Dash study the way *they* would learn best. They never thought to try and figure out how Rainbow Dash might learn best. Twilight tells Rainbow Dash to meet her in an hour for one last study session.

Later, and with time running out before Rainbow Dash is supposed to report to Cloudsdale for her exam, Twilight has Rainbow Dash go on another flight around Ponyville. As they fly, Twilight talks about anything but the Wonderbolts. But once again, Rainbow's ears and eyes are scanning around, observing everything. The two land and Twilight asks Rainbow what she noticed while she was flying.

Suddenly, Rainbow starts reciting all the facts of the History of the Wonderbolts! Names, dates, and events. She can't believe it. But Twilight can because she finally figured out how Rainbow learns. Because of her keen observational skills, she's a "fly and learn" pony! So, Twilight had all the friends and citizens of Ponyville talking about facts and holding up signs as she and Rainbow flew. That way they got stuck in Rainbow's brain without her even thinking about it! Rainbow can't believe it and departs for Cloudsdale certain she can ace this test! Over Rainbow Dash confidently taking her exam, we hear Twilight's entry in the Journal of the Two Sisters. Her experience with Rainbow Dash has taught her that just because your friends don't learn things the way you do, doesn't mean they aren't capable of being a good student. The best thing you can do as a friend is to keep encouraging them and help them find their own way to succeed.