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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"The Cart Before the Ponies"

Episode 615

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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. PONYVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

SC. 2 - INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

STUDENT PONIES are getting their books out, waiting for class to begin. SWEETIE BELLE sits next to SCOOTALOO and APPLE BLOOM. DIAMOND TIARA, SNIPS, SNAILS, and PIP SQUEAK are also there, among others.

MISS CHEERILEE comes to the chalkboard at the front of the room. She looks unusually droopy, tired, and bedraggled.

1 STUDENT PONIES
Good morning, Miss Cheerilee.

2 MISS CHEERILEE
(sounding a bit down:)
Good morning, class. But really,
what's so good about it?

3 SWEETIE BELLE
Um, Miss Cheerilee? You didn't say
that very... cheerily.

4 MISS CHEERILEE
I suppose I didn't. But you'd feel
the same way about today if you saw
the homework you have coming.

5 APPLE BLOOM
Homework? Hold them apples - what's
our homework?

6 MISS CHEERILEE
Oh, it's awful! The first part is
these dry and dusty calculations...

A <STING OF MUSIC> as she points to a tangle of math on the board. ON: the horrified Crusaders and other Student Ponies:

7 CRUSADERS / STUDENT PONIES
Ugh!

8 MISS CHEERILEE
Followed by copying all these books
- in "Olde Ponish," a language from
three hundred years ago.

A <STING OF MUSIC> as she points to a stack of large, dusty-books. ON: her horrified class.

9 CRUSADERS / STUDENT PONIES
Yuck!

10 MISS CHEERILEE
Followed by the stinkiest science
experiment imaginable.

She pours a liquid from a beaker on her desk into a second beaker. <BANG!> An explosion, with a green STINK CLOUD. A <STING OF MUSIC> as Miss Cheerilee puts a clothespin on her nose, and all the students gag.

11 CRUSADERS / STUDENT PONIES
Pee-YEW!

12 SCOOTALOO
Miss Cheerilee, we LOVE school -
but this homework sounds awful!

13 SWEETIE BELLE
Why are you doing this to us?

14 MISS CHEERILEE
Why? WHY? Because that's always the
homework I assign on... PONY FOOL'S
DAY! WHOOO, FOOLED YOU! FOOLED YOU!

Miss Cheerilee pulls down a pull-down calendar: today is marked with a silly-looking pony face. Then she grabs a noisemaker from her desk and <BLOWS ON IT> - then tosses confetti and prances around the room. As confetti falls, the students look relieved and confused:

15 APPLE BLOOM
Today is "Pony Fool's Day?" Wait a
gol-durned minute - you mean you're
just foolin' with us?

16 SCOOTALOO
You mean we don't really have to do
that awful homework tonight?

Miss Cherrilee puts herself back together,.

17 MISS CHEERILEE
Oh, of course not! In fact, you
have a VERY exciting assignment.
Tonight, you'll make your carts
for... the APPLEWOOD DERBY!

The ponies go NUTS! Hi-hooves, prancing, happy mayhem.

18 SCOOTALOO/APPLE BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
The Applewood Derby? YAY!

19 STUDENT PONIES!
 (excited walla)

20 SNIPS
Oh goody - I was afraid we were
gonna have to - y'know... learn
something. WHEW!

Snips and Snails hi-hoof as other students celebrate!

END TEASER

MAIN TITLE

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - RESUME

Resume on the <CHEERING> Crusaders and Student Ponies.

21 SCOOTALOO
Tomorrow's the Applewood Derby? I
LOVE that race!

22 SWEETIE BELLE
We've been waiting for the
Applewood Derby for years and
years.

23 APPLE BLOOM
And now we're finally old enough? I
can't believe my apples!

Miss Cheerilee pulls out a big block of wood - big enough to
carve into a cart for a pony.

24 MISS CHERRILEE
Tonight everypony gets a big block
of applewood to carve into a cart
of your design. Then tomorrow,
you'll ride it down the streets of
Ponyville to the finish line.

25 SCOOTALOO
And the awards - there are awards,
right? Tell us about the awards!

Miss Cheerilee takes a big box from her desk and opens it.
<ANGELIC VOICES> Inside are a collection of SHINY BLUE
RIBBONS.

26 MISS CHEERILEE
Of course there are awards.
Fastest, for winning the race,
naturally. Most Traditional, for
the best working replica of an
original Applewood cart. And Most
Creative, for the cart with the
best overall design.

The Crusaders stare at glimmering ribbons, transfixed.

27 APPLEJACK
Hoo-eee! Do I want one of those
ribbons!

28 SCOOTALOO
Me too!

29 SWEETIE BELLE
Me three! They're so wonderful -
and so blue!

30 APPLE BLOOM
But Miss Cheerilee, applewood is
mighty hard to carve!

31 MISS CHEERILEE
That's why you've got to team up
with an older pony. But they can
only help out - they mustn't do the
work for you.

32 SCOOTALOO
Got it! I can practically do it all
myself anyway. I have TONS of
ideas!

33 MISS CHEERILEE
Get to work, everypony - and I'll
see you on race day tomorrow.
Ready, set... it's DERBY TIME!

All the Students <CHEER> and prance out to the yard.

SC. 4 - EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - LATER

Trotting away from school, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle each
lug a big hunk of applewood behind them with great effort.

34 SWEETIE BELLE
With Rarity on my team, how can I
help but win one of those ribbons?

35 APPLE BLOOM
And I'm gonna ask Applejack for
help, a'course!

Scotaloo scoots by, effortlessly dragging her block, which
is tied onto her scooter.

36 SCOOTALOO
And I know Rainbow Dash is gonna be
my ticket to success - WHOO HOO!

DIAMOND TIARA and SILVER SPOON trot by.

37 DIAMOND TIARA
(sighing)
I must say, you Crusaders are soooo
lucky to have the help of such
great older ponies. It's a big
advantage.

38 APPLE BLOOM
Advantages? Why you're practically
made of advantages!

39 DIAMOND TIARA
It may seem that way. But I'm sure
my father will insist that my cart
be jewel-encrusted.

40 SWEETIE BELLE
That's not an advantage?!?!

41 DIAMOND TIARA
Have you ever tried to steer a
jewel-encrusted cart? It's heavy.
And slow. And I'm sure to come in
last!

Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon trot off.

42 SWEETIE BELLE
We really are lucky to have such
great older ponies to chose from.
Scotaloo, I know with Dash's help,
you'll make the fastest car ever!

43 SCOOTALOO
(thinking)
Sure... but my scooter is pretty
fast already. If I'm going to make
something, I want it to be
different. Way different. Maybe
I'll try to win the award for "most
creative."

44 SWEETIE BELLE
Sweet! And if you're gonna go for that, maybe I'll try for something else. I've been reading all about how the Derby started. It's so interesting what the carts looked like back then. Maybe I'll try for "Most Traditional."

45 APPLE BLOOM
Well, us Apples usually win that. I'm pretty sure the race started on our farm. But to tell you the truth, it sure would be fine to actually win the race! I'm gonna build the fastest cart there ever was!

46 SWEETIE BELLE
PERFECT! Let's go talk to our older ponies and make the racecarts of our dreams!

They gallop off as fast as they can drag their applewood.

SC. 5 - INT. DASH'S CLOUD HOUSE - DAY

Dash lounges on a CLOUD SOFA. Scoot stands by looking excited.

47 RAINBOW DASH
The Applewood Derby, huh?

48 SCOOTALOO
You know about it, right?

49 RAINBOW DASH
Of course! I raced in the Cloudsdale Derby when I was just a filly.

50 SCOOTALOO
Annnnd, don't tell me: you won.

51 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, how'd you know?

52 SCOOTALOO
Just a guess. So can you give me some pointers on my racecart?

53 RAINBOW DASH
ALL OVER IT. In fact, I've got a
lot of ideas. Let's see...

Dash starts rummaging behind the sofa, pulling out junk.
Scootaloo dodges random bits of bric-a-brac.

54 SCOOTALOO
Don't worry - you're not really
going to have to do anything. Miss
Cheerilee said it had to be all our
own work... um, what are you
looking for?

55 RAINBOW DASH
The original blueprint for my Cloud
cart, of course. I've GOTTA have it
somewhere... I'm gonna make sure
your cart is AMAZING!

She keeps throwing stuff around.

56 SCOOTALOO
Um, okay, Rainbow Dash, thanks!
 (to herself)
How awesome is THIS? With Dash on
my team, how could anything go
wrong?

Dash tosses out something particularly bulky and Scoot has to
move quickly to dodge it.

SC. 6 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY

Apple Bloom talks with APPLEJACK, who's busy apple bucking as
GRANNY SMITH rocks in a rocker.

57 APPLEJACK
I'm mighty flattered you wanna work
with your big sis!

58 APPLE BLOOM
With your help, I'm sure to win one
of those blue ribbons!

59 APPLEJACK
Darn tootin'! Why, our family
practically invented the Applewood
Derby way back when...

She points to a photo on the barn wall. ON A PICTURE: a young
Granny Smith races in an old-fashioned dress and hat, in an
old-timey carriage like a Victorian stagecoach.

60 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
See, that there's the first
Applewood Derby race-- way afore my
time. And there's Granny Smith!

61 APPLE BLOOM
Wow - that's you, Granny?

62 GRANNY SMITH
Ayup. I had a need for speed.

63 APPLEJACK
Why, I couldn't be more proud to
help my little sister take that
prize for "Most Traditional!"

64 APPLE BLOOM
Actually I was kinda thinkin' of
somethin' else... Like fastest?

Applejack and Granny Smith <GASP.>

65 APPLEJACK
"Fastest?" Apple Bloom, things
aren't like they were in Granny's
day. The fastest cart now has gotta
be sleek and modern...

66 APPLE BLOOM
Exactly!

Applejack stops bucking apples.

67 APPLEJACK
...and not Apple at all.
(off AB's disappointment)
Why don't you head off and get some
chamomile vines, some hickory
sticks, and some apple barrels and
I'll show you what a real Apple
cart should look like.

Apple Bloom stares for a second, unsure.

68 GRANNY SMITH
You heard the pony, whippersnapper!
Time's a tickin'!

Applejack starts to sketch on the barn wall with chalk as
Apple Bloom shrugs and trots away.

69 APPLE BLOOM
 (to herself)
I guess I can't really argue when
our family practically invented the
whole thing.

SC. 7 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

CLOSE ON: RARITY, very excited. In fact, OVER-excited.

70 RARITY
...THE APPLEWOOD DERBY? Would I
help out? You BET I would!

Widen to show Rarity trembling with excitement, as some
SNOOTY PONY CUSTOMERS stare at her, a little alarmed.

71 SWEETIE BELLE
Wow, uh, Rarity, I didn't know
you'd be this excited!

72 RARITY
Me? Why, I'm just itching to right
an old wrong from long, long ago...

FLASHBACK:

SC. 8 - EXT. FIELD - PONYVILLE IN THE PAST - DAY

On a field by a checkered finish line, LITTLE RARITY stands
expectantly by a tastefully designed derby cart. Big ponies
tromp by and surround her cart. We don't see their faces.

73 RARITY (V.O.)
I designed my own cart when I was
just a filly, and I was positive I
was going to win the prize for
"most creative," hooves down. But I
came in second. Second!

The ponies trot off - and they've left a '2nd Place' ribbon
on Rarity's car. She's thunderstruck.

74 SWEETIE BELLE (V.O.)
You? Came in Second - for Most
Creative?

Little Rarity looks at a snazzy cart next to hers, with a
'1st Place' ribbon on it. Her eyes narrow.

END FLASHBACK

SC. 9 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

RESUME ON: the similarly narrowed eyes of Present-Day Rarity.
She starts pulling out reams of fabric.

75 RARITY
I know! Though I suppose I should
be thankful. That loss gave me the
drive to succeed as a designer -
but all these years later it still
stings.

(to the shopping ponies)
Chop, chop, everypony out! We have
work to do!

Rarity starts to chase everypony out of the store.

76 SWEETIE BELLE
Um, Rarity? What are you doing?

77 RARITY
Why, closing up, of course! How can
I concentrate with all these
customers around?!

(to one straggler)
You don't have to go home, dear,
but you can't stay here.

78 SNOOTY PONY
Well, I *NEVER*!

The pony looks outraged as Rarity practically shoves her out
of the shop. Rarity starts sketching a design.

79 RARITY
This will take all of my
considerable skills, but I will
fashion the finest derby cart ever
to win the prize for Most Creative!

80 SWEETIE BELLE
Actually, I've been reading about
how the Derby started and I was
sort of thinking of something
more... traditional.

81 RARITY
(sketching madly)
Please. Leave tradition to the
Apples. Trust me, Sweetie Belle, I
know what you need.

(almost to herself:)
Soon the most creative prize will
finally be in my hooves!

82 SWEETIE BELLE
You mean MY hooves.

83 RARITY
Yes, That's what I said - "my
hooves." Darling, I hope you're
ready to get an early start
tomorrow.

84 SWEETIE BELLE
Uh, how early?

SC. 10 EXT. FIELDS AROUND SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAWN

Dawn is breaking as Rarity trots happily up a hill. Sweetie Belle drags behind her, pulling along all the makings of the racecart.

85 SWEETIE BELLE
Rarity, the sun's not even up yet!

Applejack and Scootaloo trot up, with Apple Bloom and Scootaloo following, both equally exhausted, both dragging their woodblocks behind them.

86 APPLEJACK
Oh, apples - quit complaining. In
my day, we were up even earlier!

87 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, I wouldn't care if I got up in
the middle of the night - as long
as my cart crosses that finish line
first!

88 RARITY
And my cart wins Most Creative!

89 APPLEJACK
And my cart wins Most Traditional!
Apples to Betsy, it's gonna be a
good day!

Oblivious, the three older ponies trot up the hill, followed close behind by the Crusaders who exchange a shocked look.

90 SCOOTALOO
You mean "our" carts, right?

91 RARITY
That what we said, darling!

92 APPLEJACK
Yep!

93 RAINBOW DASH
Our carts!

<STING OF MUSIC> On the concerned faces of the Crusaders as we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 11 - EXT. FIELDS AROUND SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY

Resume on the faces of the Crusaders, aghast.

94 APPLE BLOOM
"Their" carts? I sure hope they're not planning on building them without us.

95 SWEETIE BELLE
I bet they meant "our" carts, like the team cart. Right?

96 SCOOTALOO
Of course! I mean they're all our older sisters... practically. They know a ton of stuff we don't. I'm sure they'll have nothing to offer but helpful advice.

O.S.: a loud <AIR HORN>. Jarred, the Crusaders jump. ON: Applejack with an air horn over by her pit stop (a tree).

97 APPLEJACK
All right, pokey li'l ponies! Get a move on. This cart ain't gonna build itself, Apple Bloom!!

Another <AIR HORN>. The Crusaders swivel their attention to Rarity over at her own pit stop by a fence.

98 RARITY
Precisely! Everypony to her station on the double. That means you, Sweetie Belle.

A third <AIR HORN>. The Crusaders startle again, more than ever, and turn to Dash at her pit stop up on a hill.

99 RAINBOW DASH
You heard what the ponies said!
Scoot over here and get to work,
Scootaloo.

The Crusaders turn to each other apprehensively.

100 APPLE BLOOM
You reckon they're gonna order us
around all the livelong day?

101 SCOOTALOO
I guess that's the price we have to
pay for their expert advice.

102 SWEETIE BELLE
They are offering to help us. Let's
just buckle down and -

<AIR HORNS> again. The ponies jump, really jarred.

103 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
(sighing)
- get to work. Good luck,
Crusaders!

All three Crusaders take up their applewood blocks and begin to trudge off in their three separate directions.

SC. 12 - EXT. FIELDS - SCOOTALOO'S PIT STOP - DAY

Scootaloo drags her block of wood over to Dash, who's by a tool box. Scoot <PUFFS AND PANTS>, kicking hard to move the scooter up the hill with the wood block behind it.

104 RAINBOW DASH
Scootaloo, what took you so long?
I've only got a little time to make
the fastest cart ever. Let's see...

She flies around the block, consulting a paper plan.

105 SCOOTALOO
About that, Rainbow Dash. I really
am interested in trying for the
Most Creative prize..

106 RAINBOW DASH
(not listening)
Mm-hmmm...

107 SCOOTALOO
I mean, I know something about
speed already. Hello: Scooter!

Rainbow Dash shows Scoot her blueprint: a sleek, speedy cart.

108 RAINBOW DASH
So I'm going with my most
aerodynamic, super-speedy design.
Give me that saw, will you?

Scootaloo gives Dash a saw.

109 SCOOTALOO
I really am glad you're excited to
help, but... um, this Derby is
supposed to be for us *younger*
ponies - right?

While she talks, she's interrupted by a <SAWING SOUND> from
O.S. ON: Dash, sawing away at the block of wood. It now looks
a little like a derby cart. Shards go flying.

110 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Um, Rainbow Dash - are you even
listening?

111 RAINBOW DASH
(intent on her work)
Sure am! Hey, I left a bunch of
paint cans by the road. Bring them
up here, would ya? Nothing as fun
as painting racing strips on the
winning cart!

She goes back to <SAWING>. As Scootaloo turns and scoots off:

112 SCOOTALOO
(uncertain)
Yeah. Fun.

SC. 13 - EXT. FIELDS - APPLE BLOOM'S PIT STOP - DAY

ON: Applejack intent on her work on the cart (out of frame).
Apple Bloom keeps peeping over her shoulder.

113 APPLE BLOOM
Spendin' time building a cart with
my big sister, why this is just tee-
riffic! You've been mighty busy
this apple bucking season, huh?

114 APPLEJACK
Yup! Hey, Apple Bloom - think you
could give me a little space here?

115 APPLE BLOOM
Oh, sure, sure - how's it going?

116 APPLEJACK
Just give me a second... *there!*

Applejack steps away, revealing an old-fashioned stagecoach
type cart: a "surrey with the fringe on top". Apple Bloom
stares at it in horror.

117 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Isn't that just the best cart ever?
I mean, it ain't finished yet -

118 APPLE BLOOM
(relieved)
Oh, good -

119 APPLEJACK
But it's just what I had in mind.
(off Apple Bloom's
troubled expression)
Is somethin' wrong, Apple Bloom?

120 APPLE BLOOM
Actually, I was kinda sorta
thinking of something a little more
modern. Um, and less rickety. And
maybe with more chance of winning.

121 APPLEJACK
Bless my hooves, I thought we
covered this! Anybody can do
speedy.

122 APPLE BLOOM
I know, but...

123 APPLEJACK
This is how Apples have always made
their Derby carts. Who knows how to
work with applewood better than
Apples? No pony! That's who!

124 APPLE BLOOM
(uncertain)
Okay. But what if I just take off
this fringe...

She reaches up a hoof to the fringe.

125 APPLEJACK
Don't touch that!

Apple Bloom merely touches the fringe - and the whole front of the cart falls apart with a <CRASH>!

126 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Why, shoot, now I've gotta start all over from scratch!

127 APPLE BLOOM
Oh! So, maybe we can redesign it then... just a little?

128 APPLEJACK
Redesign something that's already perfect? Not likely. Now, you trot on over and find me a bucket of nails so's I can finish the job.

Applejack goes back to working on the cart. Apple Bloom watches warily.

129 APPLE BLOOM
(to herself)
Guess I'll just watch then.

SC. 14 - EXT. FIELDS - SWEETIE BELLE'S PIT STOP - DAY

Sweetie Belle stands with a clipboard. Rarity is maniacally hard at work at something under a big bulky cloth.

130 SWEETIE BELLE
Okay, so I sketched out some of my ideas. How about a nice yellow fringe on top?

131 RARITY
Fringe? Oh-hoe, darling. No. And yellow is SO last season.

132 SWEETIE BELLE
Well, it doesn't have to be yellow. But I really do love the way the old-timey carts looked. I was thinking more like this...

She shows Rarity her clipboard. ON: a picture of a cart, a little like Applejack's but of Sweetie Belle's own design.

133 RARITY
Sweetie Belle, "Old-Timey" is just a synonym for passé!
(MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)
Besides, there's no competing on
that front with the Apple's.
Applejack's cart will win the Most
Traditional.

134 SWEETIE BELLE
But it's not Applejack's cart -
it's Apple Bloom's!

Rarity grabs tools and gets back to work behind the cloth.

135 RARITY
(not listening)
Besides, can you imagine what
everypony would say if I designed
something like THAT?

136 SWEETIE BELLE
But we're supposed to be doing it
together!

137 RARITY
Of course we are, darling. In fact,
we just finished! *Voila!*
(she LAUGHS MANIACALLY,
like Dr. Frankenstein)

Rarity whips the cloth off. The cart is extremely avant
garde: part swan boat with wings and a giant head, part a
sculptural fantasia, with swooping pillars like Disney Hall.

Sweetie Belle stares, stunned.

138 RARITY (CONT'D)
Breathtaking, isn't it! I simply
can't wait for everyone to see it
when my cart rolls down the track.

139 SWEETIE BELLE
MY cart, right?

140 RARITY
That's what I said. Watch this!

She flips a lever, and the swan wings start to <FLAP>.

141 SWEETIE BELLE
(horror-struck, doesn't
know what to say)
That... is... amazing. I'll go find
our helmets.

Rarity turns back to the cart, <HUMMING>. Sweetie Belle turns
and trots off across the field, dejected.

She's met by Apple Bloom.

142 APPLE BLOOM
Hey, Crusader - how's it goin'?

143 SWEETIE BELLE
Not so great! Rarity isn't paying
attention to anything I say!

144 APPLE BLOOM
Tell me about it! Applejack is so
focused on winning Most
Traditional, she's not listening to
what I want!

Scotaloo scoots over to them.

145 SCOOTALOO
Same thing here, Crusaders! I'm
starting to wonder why I even asked
Dash to help out.

146 APPLE BLOOM
I thought this would be a great
time to bond with my sister, but
honestly I just feel like I'm in
the way.

147 SWEETIE BELLE
We need to do something.

148 APPLE BLOOM
But what? They're older. They're
supposed to know best.

149 SCOOTALOO
And they've already spent so much
time working on our carts.

150 SWEETIE BELLE
You mean, "their carts"?

The three of them look across the field toward their
"sisters" put the finishing touches on the carts.

151 APPLE BLOOM
Well, if we're gonna do something,
we better do it soon.

O.S. <CLOCK BONGS>. They look up at the Ponyville clock as
the hands move to noon - the time begins to strike!

A <ROLLING AND RACING SOUND> and a CLOUD OF DUST as two carts come to a stop right before them: the finished carts pedalled by Rarity and Rainbow Dash (both wearing helmets and seatbelts).

152 RAINBOW DASH
Where've you been, slowpoke? It's
noon - the race is about to start!

153 RARITY
Let's go, Sweetie Belle! Don't you
just love how the cart turned out?
Most Creative prize, here I come!

Applejack rolls up, pedaling her rickety, old-timey cart.

154 APPLEJACK
Whoa, ponies! Wait for me! This
traditional cart handles at the
perfect pace! And I got the
passenger seat all warmed up for
you, Apple Bloom!

155 RAINBOW DASH
Come on! Let's GO GO GOOOOOO!

The older ponies toss helmets to the Crusaders and pedal off to a starting line marked by a ribbon. The Crusaders are left in a cloud of dust.

156 APPLE BLOOM
Passenger seat?

157 SWEETIE BELLE
(coughing)
They built the carts - now they're
gonna drive them, too?

Diamond Tiara rides past in a diamond encrusted cart.

158 SCOOTALOO
Wow, those diamonds do look heavy!

159 DIAMOND TIARA
You're telling me. Father couldn't
even ride along. I can't take the
extra weight.

<PUFFING WITH EFFORT>, she pedals off to the starting line.

160 SCOOTALOO
I guess we should be grateful
Rainbow Dash, Rarity, and Applejack
are at least riding with us!

161 SWEETIE BELLE
I'm not feeling super grateful at
the moment.

162 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah. I kinda thought I'd be doing
the driving. At least Diamond Tiara
is getting to do that.

163 MISS CHEERILEE (O.S.)
Derby Racers, to the starting line!
Derby Racers, to the starting line!

ON: the starting line, where Dash, Applejack, and Rarity are lined up alongside the other kids' derby carts.

The Crusaders rush to the starting line. Tension as they hop into the passenger seats of their older "sister's" carts.
(*NOTE: everypony in a racecart wears a seatbelt and helmet.)

QUICK CUTS: the three older ponies eye each other as they get ready to take the racecourse as Miss Cheerilee whips out a trumpet and plays a quick <FANFARE> a la the call at the start of the Kentucky Derby.

164 MISS CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Racers, on your marks...
Get set... GO!

And the Derby is ON! The carts zoom off like the drag race from *Grease*, with the Crusaders holding on for dear life.

165 SCOOTALOO/APPLE BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
AAAAAAH!

Rainbow Dash, Applejack, and Rarity drive ahead like mad, with the Crusaders in the passenger seats, manes blown back.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 15 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

A racing flag flaps across CAM. Resume: the race is underway!

Cross cut between the three carts, with the Crusaders still in the passenger seats. ON: Sweetie Belle, mane blown back as she rides along.

166 SWEETIE BELLE
AAAAH!

ON: Scootaloo, holding on for dear life:

167 SCOOTALOO
AAAAHHHH!

ON: the freaked-out face of Apple Bloom:

168 APPLE BLOOM
AAAH... can't we go any faster?

PULL WIDE: to show Apple Bloom is simply annoyed that the cart is going at a snail's pace as other pony racers zoom by, leaving them in the dust.

169 APPLEJACK
Nope! This is as fast as she goes.
Isn't it perfect?

170 APPLE BLOOM
(to herself:)
Not really.

SONG BEGINS: "GO GO DERBY RACERS"

Dash, Rarity, and Applejack race down the track, steering their carts through Ponyville (think: Gran Prix through the streets). Spectators eagerly look on and sometimes leap out of the way when the racecarts get too close.

Thus begins a fast-paced, heart-pounding RACING SONG (think the "Speed Racer" theme - especially the jacked-up techno version from the movie by Ali Dee and the DeeKompressors).

Cross-cut Rarity, Applejack, and Rainbow Dash as they drive the carts...

...with the Crusaders in the passenger seats, who chime in with opposing verses.

Miss Cheerilee and some of the Student Ponies, dressed as cheerleaders, line the streets and cheer on the racers.

171 MISS CHEERILEE / CHEERLEADER PONIES
Giddy-up, Giddy-up GO!
Giddy-up, Giddy-up GO!
Giddy-up, Giddy-up, go, go GO!

172 APPLEJACK
Check me out: racin' the Derby!
Check out my old-fashioned cart!

173 RARITY
Check me out: racing the Derby
in my original work of art!

174 RAINBOW DASH
*Check me out: faster than ever,
Nobody's catching me now!*

Split Screen of the three Crusaders, white with terror:

175 SCOOTALOO/APPLE BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
*Let me out! I'd do it over -
Or I would if only I knew how!*

176 MISS CHEERILEE / CHEERLEADER PONIES
*Derby ponies,
Derby ponies,
Derby ponies - YEAH!*

Syncopation, and... a rap break:

177 RARITY
*My cart's most original!
I designed it with imagination.*

178 APPLEJACK
*My cart's most traditional!
It's simple, ain't no complication.*

179 RAINBOW DASH
*Me? I'm on the case! The Ace!
So give up the chase, Dash just
ain't losing this race to home base
Yeah, you see it in my face!
It's gonna be Dash for the win
When I steer my racecart "In
like Flynn" watch me spin
And zip and skip and flip me up
cause Nothing's gonna trip me up
this time, feelin' fine
As I race towards the finish line!
Ponies, leave me room as I zoom
With the boom and the speed!*

180 RARITY
*I've got a fabulous design -
and that's everything I need.*

181 APPLEJACK
*Tradition, tradition -
That's AJ's only mission.*

182 RARITY / RAINBOW DASH / APPLEJACK
*We're riding high, living large -
Could this day be any better?*

Again, a split-screen of the 3 Crusaders.

183 SCOOTALOO/APPLE BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
*Yes it could -
if only the Crusaders were in
charge!*

184 MISS CHEERILEE / CHEERLEADER PONIES
*Giddy-up, Giddy-up GO!
Giddy-up, Giddy-up GO!
Giddy-up, Giddy-up, go, go GO!*

The carts pull up alongside each other. From her passenger seat, Scootaloo calls out to Sweetie Belle:

185 SCOOTALOO
Having fun yet?

186 APPLEBLOOM
*Nope! Wish I could go fast like
you!*

187 SWEETIE BELLE
*You know what, ponies? There must
be something we can do...
(the light dawns)
Hey, there IS something we can do!
They took over this derby - that's
exactly what I feel. Are you
thinking what I'm thinking?*

They all look at each other, knowing just what to do:

188 SCOOTALOO/APPLE BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
CRUSADERS, TAKE THE WHEEL!

The Crusaders each grab the wheel from the other ponies. The cars swerve, wheels <SCREECHING>.

189 RARITY / RAINBOW DASH / APPLEJACK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

190 MISS CHEERILEE / CHEERLEADER PONIES
*Go Crusaders!
Go Crusaders!
Go Crusaders.....*

191 ALL
AAAAHHHH!

There's an O.S. <CRASH>.

END SONG

ON: a giant pile-up of derby carts, with a lot of disgruntled ponies. It's like the worst pile-up ever on the 405, with <HONKING> of horns - everypony clearly uninjured.

192 PONIES
<Disgruntled traffic jam walla>

Diamond Tiara putt-putts along, pedals <SQUEAKING> - and passes them all in her diamond-studded cart!

193 DIAMOND TIARA
I'm gonna win! I'm gonna win!

...But she drives through a mudpuddle. Her cart weighs down and sinks up to the wheels.

194 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Um, not gonna win. Darn diamonds!

The older ponies hop out of their carts, <SLAMMING> doors in frustration. Covered in mud, they confront the Crusaders.

195 RAINBOW DASH
Scootaloo, what were you thinking?
My cart was almost at the finish line!

196 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom, now my cart is a rootin'-tootin' wreck.

197 RARITY
My cart! My beautiful cart! It was perfect - PERFECT!

The Crusaders, quiver and bite their lips, almost beside themselves in anger. Then they BUST:

198 SCOOTALOO/APPLE BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
THEY'RE NOT YOUR CARTS!

Their voices echo. Everybody stops and stares at them.

199 RARITY / RAINBOW DASH / APPLEJACK
HUH?!?!?

200 RARITY
Children! What on earth is the matter?

201 SWEETIE BELLE
YOU'RE the matter! All three of you.

202 APPLE BLOOM
We know you just wanted to help,
but it's turned into an apple-
pickin' mess.

203 SCOOTALOO
The Derby was supposed to be about
us, not the three of you!

204 APPLEJACK
Now wait an apple-bloomin' minute,
we helped you build your carts!

205 RARITY
And we helped design them!

206 RAINBOW DASH
And we helped steer them!

207 SCOOTALOO
But you didn't help, you took the
whole job over completely.

208 RAINBOW DASH
But Scootaloo, look at our cart!

She points with a hoof. ON: the other kids' carts, broken
down in the mud.

209 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
You gotta admit, it's way more
awesome than everypony else's.

210 SCOOTALOO
Maybe so, but it's not our cart.
It's yours.

Sweetie Belle looks to Rarity.

211 SWEETIE BELLE
The same thing with ours. I just
wanted to design something that
reminded me of how the Derby
started, not a flying swan!

She points at their cart, it's broken wings still flapping.
Applejack looks to Apple Bloom.

212 APPLEJACK
I'm guessin' you feel the same way?

213 APPLE BLOOM
Honestly, Applejack, I know how
important our family traditions
are, but I just wanted to win the
race.

214 APPLEJACK
Well, shoot. I can't believe how
the three of us streamrolled right
over what you youngins wanted.

215 RARITY
(sighs)
I suppose we did forget what the
Derby was supposed to be about...

216 RAINBOW DASH
...and who it was supposed to be
for. Sorry, Scootaloo. I guess I
sorta did take over a little.

217 APPLEJACK
But I'm proud of the three of you.
It takes some apples to stand up to
ponies older than you, though I
wish you woulda done it before the
race, instead of during it.

PULL OUT ON: the pileup of carts.

218 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah. Next time we'll try to speak
up a little sooner.

219 SCOOTALOO
Definitely.

The Crusaders go over and happily hug their older 'sisters'.

Suddenly, Rarity gets an idea...

220 RARITY
You know, I wonder if we can't find
a way to make next time happen
right now.

Off the three older ponies sharing a look...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 16 - EXT. FIELDS AROUND SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY

ON: Scootaloo and Dash at Rarity's art car. [*NOTE: The older ponies now all wear grease-stained coveralls and ball caps, like a pit crew.] Scootaloo finishes painting the swan head on the hood like a bird of prey. She turns to the older ponies.

221 SCOOTALOO
Thanks for helping us fix up the
carts. How's my falcon look,
Rainbow Dash? Pretty creative,
right?

222 RAINBOW DASH
Totally. Maybe not as fast as the
one I made...
 (off Scoot's eye roll)
But definitely creative!

Apple Jack helps Apple Bloom put a new spoiler on the speedy cart from Dash.

223 APPLE BLOOM
I know it's not traditional, but it
sure looks fast, don't it?

224 APPLEJACK
The fastest one on the track!

Excited, she helps Apple Bloom <HAMMER> the fender on. Meanwhile, Sweetie Belle and Rarity work on the "traditional cart", now spruced up with fringe and yellow lace.

Rarity takes a step back and puts a hoof on Sweetie Belle's shoulder.

225 RARITY
You know, darling, now that I'm
thinking of it as an homage to the
original Applewood Derby carts, I
believe that yellow fringe is
stunning!

226 SWEETIE BELLE
 (smiles up at her)
Thanks, sis.

Miss Cheerilee trots by with her horn.

227 MISS CHEERILEE
Well, it isn't every year I get to
say this twice, but...
 (MORE)

MISS CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Derby Racers, to the starting line!
Derby Racers, to the starting line!

The Crusaders hop in their carts and look to their older 'sisters'.

228 SWEETIE BELLE
Thanks, everypony!

229 SCOOTALOO
We couldn't have done it without you.

230 APPLE BLOOM
Here comes Applewood Derby, take two!

The Crusaders wave and pedal their respective carts away.

231 APPLEJACK
I sure am glad Ms. Cheeralee let us run the race over again.

232 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, but what are we supposed to do while they're all racing?

233 RARITY
I think I have an idea...

CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER: The Crusaders (and all of their classmates) line up again at the starting line while...

OFF TO THE SIDE: Rainbow Dash, Rarity, and Applejack lounge in beach chairs, wearing shades and drinking what is clearly apple cider -- like soccer moms.

234 APPLEJACK
Now, this is the life.

235 RARITY
I'm not sure WHY we even wanted to race those silly carts in the first place.

236 RAINBOW DASH
Seriously! I didn't know how tense I was. This is the most relaxed I've been all day...

237 MISS CHEERILEE (O.S.)
On your marks, get set. GO!

Miss Cheerilee <BLOWS HER HORN AGAIN> - and as the racers take off, Rainbow Dash gives in to one last burst of aggression:

238 RAINBOW DASH
GO SCOOTALOO!!! YOU'RE GONNA CREAM
'EM!!!
(off the looks of the
other two:)
Er, I mean... This is the life -
right, ponies?

She settles back into her lounge chair, flips down her sunglasses, and <SIGHS> happily.

On the track, the Crusaders <LAUGH> as they drive along merrily.

MUSIC UP. SONG REPRISE:

239 MISS CHEERILEE / CHEERLEADER PONIES
Go Crusaders!
Go Crusaders!
Go Crusaders...
Giddy-up, Giddy-Up, GO!

The Crusaders go over a hump and go airborne. We freeze on their hi-hoof and happy faces as we...

FADE OUT.

END