

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Josh Haber
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Lesley Crawford
Claire Bartleman

The HUB:

Linda Shima Tsuno
Wayne Winstead

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Brian Lenard
Gabriel Monje
Daniel Barnes
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales

Hasbro Brand:

Jamie Cipolla
Yusun Hwang
Husuk Jung
Andrea Ehret
Marissa Mansolillo
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Kristen Riley
Katherine Padilla
Brain Chapman

MY LITTLE PONY 6

“Applewood Derby”

Formerly known as Heroes and Horseshoes

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Beat Sheet by: Ed Valentine

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TEASER**INT. SCHOOL – DAY**

Before class starts, SCOOTALOO, APPLEBLOOM, and SWEETIE BELLE make a promise to an excited young Blank Flank who idolizes them: when he gets his Cutie Mark, he'll be just as wise as they are (which is exactly as wise as their idols, Rainbow Dash, Applejack, and Rarity).

MISS CHEERILEE announces a big event: the APPLEWOOD DERBY – for which each of the kids will team up with an older pony. THE CMCs' eyes light up, as they each say in unison to themselves: "Older pony?" I know the PERFECT ONE!"

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****INT. SCHOOL – CONTINUOUS**

The CMCs are really excited as Miss Cheerilee briefly reminds the class that the Applewood Derby is an annual event: a pony version of a traditional "Soapbox Derby". She'll give each young pony/older pony team a big block of apple wood to carve into a car of their own design. On race day, one member of the team will ride in a race to the finish line down the streets of Ponyville.

EXT. SCHOOL – LATER

Trotting outside, the Crusaders each boast that their particular older pony is the secret weapon to lead them to victory. Their classmates all seem to agree and comment on how lucky the three of them are to have such great older pony options. DIAMOND TIARA is pretty sure that FILTHY RICH will help her make a car that will be fancy, but come in dead last. The CMCs bask in the glory of having awesome older "sisters". "May the best pony win," they wish each other – and then hurry off to enlist the aid of their elders...

EXT. A TREE UNDER A CLOUD IN THE SKY – DAY

With some effort, Scootaloo climbs to the top of a tall tree to recruit RAINBOW DASH, who's drifting by on a cloud.

She asks Dash to give her some pointers to help her make the fastest racecar imaginable, and Dash is ALL OVER IT. Dash, of course, won the Derby herself back when she was just a

filly. She says she'd be honored to help Scootaloo make her racecar. She's already got a lot of ideas! Scoot promises she'll do most of the building work herself - but Dash isn't really listening, as she's rummaging through junk that she pulls out of the cloud in hopes of finding the original plans for her long-ago Derby cart. "I know I saved them somewhere..." Scoot doesn't care if Dash listens or not. With her "older sister" on board, Scoot is certain she's going to win this year's race. It's gonna be a slam dunk, she thinks...

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – BARN – DAY

While over at the Farm, Apple Bloom is just as certain that her own victory is ensured, since she's enlisted the aid of her sister APPLEJACK. Apple Bloom is excited to spend time with her sister, especially since they haven't had much time together lately. Applejack's been busy during this recent apple picking season. Applejack promises Apple Bloom that if they work together they can definitely make the best derby car of all – and she has just the design in mind: the same cart design she used, and the same design Granny Smith used – in fact, the same model the Apple family's been using since the very first Applewood Derby.

But when Apple Bloom mentions an idea or two for what she wants to racecar to look like, Applejack doesn't really listen. She hurries Apple Bloom off to collect materials for the racecar while she sketches out the design from memory. Apple Bloom doesn't listen to the warning signs – she's just excited about her prospects for victory: "My family practically invented the race, who the apple else could possibly win?"

INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE – DAY

At the very same moment, Sweetie Belle is sure that she's gonna be the winner, thanks to her sister RARITY. Rarity is itching to right an old wrong from her own Applewood Derby days: she was hoping to win the "most original" prize but she came in second. The loss did stoke her drive to succeed as a designer – but she's still smarting about it all these years later.

Driven and intense, Rarity immediately closes the shop and tosses out her customers so she can work entirely on the derby car and nothing else. She starts sketching a design, using all her considerable skills to fashion the sleekest, slickest derby car she could ever dream of. A grateful Sweetie Belle says she doesn't need anything that fancy and gamely tosses out few design ideas of her own, but Rarity isn't listening to a thing her sister says. When Sweetie Belle says they have to assemble the cars tomorrow at noon - Rarity grits her teeth and says "I'll be ready. Oh, you BET I will. Maybe even a little early." Sweetie Belle smiles nervously.

EXT. FIELDS AROUND SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAWN

Turns out all three of the older ponies are so overexcited they wake their respective CMCs ridiculously early and drag them out to the fields to get ready for the race even before dawn. The already-exhausted CMCs end up lugging all the gear and materials for the racecars, so they lag behind their elders.

As the older ponies trot ahead, they engage in a little trash talk with each other... and the CMCs are astonished to overhear the older ponies referring to their racecars (i.e., the older girls' cars) – and Dash, Applejack, and Rarity each insist “MY racecar is going to be the best today!”

ACT OUT: We go out on the shocked faces of the CMCs as they realize the older ponies really seem to think this is their race. The CMCs have created a monster - where will it all lead?

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. FIELDS AROUND SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

Resume on the aghast CMCs. Did they actually hear what they thought they heard? Could this really be happening – could the older ponies really be taking over? No, they decide – the CMCs know their sister ponies are older and wiser, and they'll surely make sure that the race is run in the true spirit of friendship. The CMCs plan to ignore their elders' remarks and assume the trouble will go away. Then...

Like taskmasters, all three of the older ponies call the CMCs over to work on their carts. Feeling apprehensive but trying to put a good face on things, the three CMCs wish each other good luck...

But soon, at three separate places on the field (like three separate pit stops around a race track), the CMCs quickly realize just how intense the older ponies are about the racecars!

EXT. FIELDS – SCOOTALOO'S “PIT STOP” – DAY

At her station, Rainbow Dash totally takes over building the Applewood Derby car. She knows exactly how to do it, and wants to hew closely to the aerodynamic and super-fast design of her winning entry from years ago.

Scootaloo gently tries to remind Dash that she knows a thing or two about speedy vehicles already (“Hello – I ride a Scooter!”) – and anyway, this is all supposed to be for fun, isn't it? Fun for the KIDS, right?!?!... But Dash just isn't hearing her: “Scootaloo, do you want to win or don't you?” Dash is determined to uphold her reputation: A WINNER! She's bossing Scootaloo around, and she doesn't realize that Scoot isn't having fun anymore.

EXT. FIELDS – APPLE BLOOM'S “PIT STOP” – DAY

Over at their part of the race course, Apple Bloom is overeager to help with the build since she's excited to spend time with her sister – but she ends up getting in Applejack's way.

Applejack is planning to build the derby car in a traditional manner, but Apple Bloom thinks it looks antiquated – this isn't what she'd had in mind at all! She wants something a little more modern, less rickety, and with, well... a little more chance of winning. But Applejack insists: this is how Apples have always made their Applewood Derby carts, and that's how it's gonna be. Anyway, who knows how to work with applewood better than Apples?

When Apple Bloom gets underfoot (or “underhoof,” as the case may be), knocking over a box of lugnuts for the wheels, Applejack has to start over – so she sends her younger sister off on an errand so she can finish the job. Apple Bloom trots off, bummed out: she just wanted some togetherness time with her sister. She wonders how the other kids are holding up.

EXT. FIELDS – SWEETIE BELLE'S “PIT STOP” – DAY

Not surprisingly, Sweetie Belle is in a similar pickle with her sister, since Rarity doesn't approve of any of Sweetie Belle's design suggestions. Sweetie Belle feels she really can't argue with her: her older sister really does have good taste, and the cart really IS exquisitely designed. But the more Rarity does to the cart, the less Sweetie Belle feels invested in the project that was supposed to be hers.

When Apple Bloom trots over, Sweetie Belle steps away from work for a sidebar conversation. (Rarity is so wrapped up in “her” design that she hardly notices Sweetie Belle's stepped away!) Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle agree that their sisters have taken over their projects and have sucked all the fun out of what was supposed to be a good time.

When Scootaloo scoots over and commiserates that the same thing happened to her, the CMCs decide that something has to be done. It's gonna be hard to speak up to their older sisters / mentors – but it's going to have to be done! Determined, the three CMCs pluck up their courage...

But just then the Ponyville clock strikes noon, and the CMCs are startled to see Dash, Applejack and Rarity drive the finished carts right past them!!! The CMCs stare in silence as Diamond Tiara rides past (and her car is, indeed, fancy). She turns to the CMCs and tells them how lucky they are to have the older ponies driving the racecars. Her father insisted that she drive hers “for the experience,” but she admits, she'd rather win. As she drives off to the starting line, the CMCs are conflicted. Of course they want to win, but wasn't the “experience” the whole point?

At the starting line, Dash, Applejack, and Rarity pull up alongside the other derby carts. The CMCs rush up and point out that Rarity, Dash, and AJ are the only older ponies racing. The rest of the cars have kids in them. The older ponies tell them that's great—since it means they all have an even better chance of winning. Of course the older ponies then start to

trash talk about which of them will be the winner. The CMCs are unsure how to respond. Wining is great, but having their older “sisters” race doesn’t sound very fun. But before they can decide, Miss Cheerilee blows a horn, and the cars zoom off like the drag race scene from Grease - with Dash, Applejack, and Rarity leaving the CMCs in the dust.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. PONYVILLE – DAY

The cars zoom off through the streets of Ponyville like the Gran Prix goes through the streets of Monaco. The three older ponies are far ahead of the cars of the younger ponies from the CMCs’ class, leaving them all in the dust.

Meanwhile, the CMCs talk among themselves and realize they want to get their carts back. They wanted to be builders and drivers, not spectators! So they all hop on Scoot’s scooter together and race off after the older ponies.

Thus begins a fast-paced, heart-pounding...

RACING SONG (think “*Speed Racer*”):

- Cross-cut the Rainbow Dash, Applejack, and Rarity as they zip through Ponyville (think: Formula 1), as spectators eagerly look on while...
- ...the CMCs are in hot pursuit. They chime in with opposing verses, wishing the older ponies would just chill and let them race!

Finally, with no hope of catching up, Scoot steers her scooter off-track and zooms to a shortcut, hoping to head off the older ponies. But even cutting through brambles and ditches, the older pony racers out pace them at every turn. Finally the CMC’s crest a hill to see their sisters cross the finish line far below.

EXT. FINISH LINE – DAY

As young pony after young pony cross the finish line into the waiting arms of their older pony team member, Rainbow Dash, Rarity, and Applejack are stuck in a stalemate, arguing over who won. It appears that they all crossed the finish line and exactly the same time. Unable to determine a winner the resolve to run the race again until the CMCs finally show up and tell them to “STOP!”

In front of everypony there, the CMCs dress down their older “siblings” explaining how at every turn the three of them took something that was supposed to be a fun bonding experience between and young pony and an older pony and drained all the fun out of it.

They point to how all the other teams worked together and came out of the experience better for it. Even Diamond Tiara explains that she's glad her dad made her run the race. Driving the car herself was way more fun than she thought, even if it meant not winning.

The CMCs tell the older ponies that they forgot what the Applewood Derby was supposed to be about: Fun! Being good sports! And most of all: *Friendship!*

Dash is confused: "But Scootaloo - didn't you want to win?" Scoot answers: *not as much as she wanted to have fun*. She asked Dash for help building the cart – she never wanted to have the derby totally taken away from her! Applejack is confused, too: "But if you weren't having fun, why didn't you just tell us?" Apple Bloom explains that sometimes it's hard to tell an older pony when you think they're wrong.

Rarity has to admit it's true: the CMCs are right. The older ponies really *did* forget what the Applewood Derby was supposed to be about, and who the race was supposed to be for. Chastened, Dash realizes she took over the event. Applejack tells Apple Bloom and the other Crusaders that the grown up ponies don't always know best – but that friends have to speak up when there's something wrong, no matter who's younger and who's older.

Then Rarity suggests an ideal solution: why don't they run the race again just like they were going to, only this time with the CMCs at the wheel. Miss Cheerilee, the CMCs and their classmates all think this sounds great...

EXT. FIELDS AROUND SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

...so that's exactly what happens! At the end of the day, the CMCs race again and their fellow classmates join in for a much more kid-friendly time. The race is rag-tag, with some drivers heading in the wrong direction, others puttering along with busted wheels, and everyone driving cobbled-together carts through puddles - but you know what? Everypony is having the time of their lives. So what if none of these playful young'uns never actually cross the finish line? At least they're having fun!

And while the race is on, Rainbow Dash, Rarity, and Applejack watch the proceedings from the sidelines, wearing shades and lounging on lawn chairs while they drink cider. "This is the life," sighs Applejack happily. Rarity agrees: "This is where we belong. Now WHY did we want to race those silly derby carts anyway?" Dash says she's the happiest she's been all day...

...but then she looks at the track and she can't resist giving in to one last burst of aggression: "*GO SCOOTALOO!!! WIN! WIN! WIIIIIN!!! Er, I mean... This is the life – right, ponies?*" Then she settles back into her lounge chair, flips down her sunglasses, and sighs happily.

On the track, the CMCs laugh as they drive along merrily, as we...FADE TO BLACK.

END

