

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8
Non-Compete Clause
Ep 809
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NON-COMPETE CLAUSE

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TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – DAY**

TWILIGHT has called a staff meeting with the MANE 5 and SPIKE. She explains that she needs a volunteer teacher to head up a special friendship lesson session for a few of the students. With that, Spike pulls out the enormous EEA book -- <THUD>. The other ponies react in concern and shock. They thought Twilight got rid of that – surely she's not doing things the EEA way again?! Spike shrugs apologetically and stands on the book to reach Twilight's own rule book from a shelf – he just needed a step stool.

Twilight thanks Spike and levitates the massive book to the table, flips through the pages, puts her hoof on the page and reads: *"Section 147 b, paragraph 2a says that the concept of teamwork is one of the most important parts of friendship. And Section 229, paragraph 9c specifically states that group participation in an outdoor setting is one of the best ways to retain important lessons. So you put all that together, it adds up to one thing!"* PINKIE PIE raises her hand, *"Ooo, ooo! I know! Three hundred and eight-seven and some letters!"* No, Twilight says -- she's decided it's time the students went on a *field trip*. And she's looking for somepony to lead the group. Who wants to volunteer?

APPLEJACK and RAINBOW DASH raise their hooves at the same time – then level glares at each other. Applejack asserts she's the best pony for the job. Sweet Apples Acres has taught her a thing or two about working together. Rainbow Dash smirks, *"Doing death-defying moves in the air alongside the Wonderbolts is kinda the **definition** of teamwork. Take it from an expert."* Applejack narrows her eyes and steps up to Dash. *"You're not sayin' fancy flyin' makes you better qualified to teach teamwork than me, are ya Rainbow Dash?"* Dash steps to Applejack and the two go nose to nose. *"If the horseshoe fits, Applejack..."* Rainbow Dash challenges. FLUTTERSHY blinks, a little uncomfortable -- maybe they can *both* be the field trip leaders?

Twilight defuses the situation by agreeing—after all, who better to teach the art of working together than Applejack and Rainbow Dash? Pinkie starts to make a list and RARITY shushes her. Twilight clarifies; what she MEANS is – Dash and AJ have long since gotten past their competitive ways and can definitely work together! As Applejack and Rainbow Dash flash not-so-convincing smiles...

END TEASER.**ACT ONE****SC. 2 - EXT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – DAY**

Twilight leads the field trip students – BLAZE, GALLUS, GOSSAMER, SILVERSTAR, SANDALWOOD, and YANA – out to their chaperone teachers. The students are excited and a little distracted. Blaze asks what this field trip is supposed to be about, anyhow. Twilight happily explains that it's a chance to really experience working together and how that strengthens friendship.

REVEAL: Applejack and Rainbow Dash, in disagreement about what their lesson plan should be. Gallus quirks an eyebrow, *"Oh yeah. Totally see what you mean."* Twilight clears her throat, and Applejack and Rainbow Dash snap out of it, cheerfully welcoming the students. Dash assures them that with her in charge, this is going to be the best field trip in basically the history of ever. Applejack corrects her, *"With us in charge. Mostly me."* Twilight asks the teachers what they have planned for the trip, and Rainbow Dash and Applejack answer at the same time – differently. Seems like they each have their own ideas of what to do. *"Can we do BOTH?!"* Silverstar enthuses – he's all about field trips (even though he's never been on one before).

Twilight nods, grateful for the suggestion, and Applejack and Dash do a quick "horseshoe, nail, rock" game (hoof upside down, hoof right-side up, hoof stomped on the ground – horseshoe beats rock, rock beats nail, nail beats horseshoe, as explained by Sandalwood). But each time, the ponies come up with the same thing. Twilight sighs and picks for them – Applejack's activity can go first. Applejack beams, and Dash sulks. The field trip is on! Twilight wishes them all good luck – and remember to WORK TOGETHER!

Sc. 3 – EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

Applejack leads the gang to the farm, telling everyone to inhale and asks what they smell. *"Yak."* Gallus says, making a face as he stands next to Yana. *"Apples?"* Gossamer asks. Applejack shakes her head – what they smell is the promise of team work. All those apples need somewhere to be stored once they're picked. So they're going to work TOGETHER to build an apple shed! *"YES!"* Proclaims Silverstar, then adds, *"Um, what's a shed?"*

Applejack leads the team to a pile of building supplies and shows them a crude drawing of what they're building – a simple lean to. *"Nothin' brings friends together like a little honest sweat and hard work,"* she smiles. *"Sweat? Seriously? That's part of friendship?"* Rainbow Dash asks, eyebrow raised. AJ gives her a look and RD shrugs, *"whatever. Let's just get this done so we can move on to the fun stuff – MY lesson!"*

SOON – Applejack supervises the students as they pound, cut, and measure for the apple shed frame. As they work, Applejack schools everycreature of the importance of slow and steady work ethic. *"Emphasis on the slow,"* Dash quips as she comes zipping past, kicking in nails rapid-fire like a pony version of a high-powered nail gun. *"That's no way to build an apple shed!"* Applejack insists as Dash continues to slap up wood willy-nilly and pound away. Oh yeah? Dash says -- she points. Applejack looks to see to three sides of the shed, already built and standing. Gallus, Blaze and Yana marvel at Rainbow

Dash's handiwork, while Gossamer, Silverstar, and Sandalwood give Applejack a sympathetic look. Dash gloats to Applejack, *"Need help on your side?"* Applejack burns, but turns back to her work... Just because it's fast doesn't mean it's good. She'll be down here doing it the *right* way -- anycreature who wants to learn that, stick with her. Rainbow Dash narrows her eyes -- anycreature who wants to actually get things done, come with her. The students trade looks and Gallus deadpans: *"Yeah, this isn't awkward."* How exactly is splitting them up teaching togetherness, again?

Applejack and Rainbow Dash wince, remembering they're supposed to be working together. They rein it in, Applejack suggesting they all work to put the roof on – that's a task that'll take everycreature – true teamwork at its best.

SOON: Dash, Silverstar, Blaze, and Gallus fly above to lower the shed roof (on ropes) down toward the shed frame, as the others support the shed walls. *"Steady, steady..."* Applejack coaches, bracing a crossbeam below, *"Take her nice and slow. Liiiiittle to the left. A hair to the right. A hoofshaving higher..."* Rainbow Dash, getting more and more frustrated at the slowness of it all, can't contain herself and finally blurts: *"Just bring it down already!"* The students jump and drop their ropes -- *CRASH!*

Everyone winces as we reveal: the crushed remains of what could have been an apple shed... the roof and three sides a tangle of broken two by fours. *"I'll give ya one guess whose side is still standin',"* Applejack comments pointedly. Dash doesn't care, because now it's HER turn to show everycreature what real teamwork is! Last one to the stream is a rotten apple shed!

SC. 4 – EXT. RIVER - DAY

The students, Applejack, and Dash stand at a river's edge near an eight-creature canoe (think a crew boat). Dash explains that they're going to work together to break the Equestria speed record for single-canoe canoeing! Gallus sottos to Sandalwood: *"Is that even a thing?"* Dash addresses the students as she lays out her idea of teamwork – everyone has to follow the leader and act fast – no time to think. Teams need to work like one creature if they're gonna succeed. So everyone...Get in the boat!

Yana isn't so excited about the prospect – she's afraid of water. But with her friends' encouragement, she finally awkwardly makes it into the boat without capsizing the whole shebang. Applejack and Rainbow Dash don't even notice this awesome instance of collaboration/support because they're too busy not seeing eye-to-eye on the lesson plan. AJ: *"What does racing have to do with teamwork?"* Dash: *"Well, we're racing... in the same direction... on the same river... in the same boat.... As a team!"*

Sc. 5 – EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE RIVER - DAY - MINUTES LATER

The students, Applejack and Dash float down the bumpy river. Dash is in the front (facing backward like a coxswain) with Blades, Gallus, and Yana. Applejack is in the back with Gossamer, Silverstar, and Sandalwood. *"Okay, team!"* Dash coaches. *"Get*

ready, get set... STROKE!" Dash's front group digs in with relish. The canoe shoots forward, as Gossamer, Silverstar, Sandalwood and Applejack's heads snaps back whiplash style.

Applejack calls to the front of the boat: "*Slow down or you're gonna get us in a wreck!*" "*It's water, there's nothing to crash into,*" Dash says. "*Stroke, stroke, stroke! FASTER!*" Dash tells the front of the boat. Meanwhile, AJ counters, instructing the back of the boat to take it slow and steady: "*Strooooooke... strooooooke... strooooooke! SLOOWER!*" Applejack and Dash are so intent on shouting out their own pace, they hardly notice when they hit a RAPIDS section!

The canoe jerks and spasms, as the rapids and the conflicting rowing pace sends it zig-zagging erratically across the river. "*ROCK!*" warns Sandalwood. Dash turns and spots the boulder. She turns back to her crew, coaching them to paddle left while Applejack coaches to back-paddle right! Their conflicting paddling sets the canoe spinning in circles as it moves closer and closer to the huge rock! And finally the team does something together... CRASH!

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

Sc. 6 – EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE RIVER - DAY

The canoe, now split in half, bounces around the rock and floats away as the teachers and students (except Yana) pop up to stand in the middle of the river as Silverstar yells out, "*I LOVE FIELD TRIPS!*" Nearby there's a panicked thrashing of legs and hooves. "*Help!*" Yana screams, "*Yak can't swim.*" "*Dude. Just stand.*" Gallus says. Sandalwood and Gossamer grab Yana and pull her to her feet. Yana looks surprised, then nods. "*Yaks best at standing.*"

Nearby, Rainbow Dash and Applejack are so tied up in playing the blame game that they hardly notice the students. "*I hope you're happy,*" Applejack sniffs. *Don't blame this on me*, Dash shoots back – *You're the one who threw off the whole rhythm!* But they freeze when they hear Twilight's voice from OS. "*I just came to see how everycreature is doing on the... fieldtrip?*"

Twilight stops to stare at the miserable, soggy group who inexplicably stand in the middle of the river. Dash explains she was trying to teach the students about teamwork, but Applejack messed it up. "*No I did not!*" "*Did too!*" "*Did not!*" Twilight stares, aghast. Gallus nods to Twilight, "*Yep. It's been like this all day.*" Gossamer tries for a smile -- she wouldn't say *all day*. Just, 99% of it. His enthusiasm flag still flying, Silverstar blurts, "*This has been so fun! When do we get to the part about working as a team?*" Twilight frowns with a "Marge" noise...

Sc. 7 – EXT. THE RIVERBANK – SOON

Gossamer beats her wings to try to help Yana blow-dry her yak hair as Twilight takes Rainbow Dash and Applejack aside for a "quick teacher conference."

Twilight points out to the chagrinned teachers that they seem to be doing more competing than team-building. Twilight was sure they were past that. AJ and RD assure her that they are – it's just hard when they both have such great ideas to teach the students. Twilight nods – but what do they think they're teaching by bickering? Applejack is chastened; she been acting pretty mule-headed when she comes to think of it. Dash sees the light too -- she was so sure her way was the right way, she never even gave Applejack's ideas a chance.

Chastised, Applejack apologizes to Dash for being so apple-pickin' stubborn. Dash apologizes too. They high hoof it, vowing to turn over a new leaf – for the rest of the field trip, they'll respect each others' ideas. Just to be sure that teamwork gets the spotlight for the rest of the day, Twilight suggests a conflict-free nature walk as their next activity. *"No pony could possibly get into an argument over that,"* Twilight reasons before she heads off.

Sc. 8 – EXT. TREES / FOREST – SOON

Applejack and Rainbow Dash cheerfully lead their students toward the forest. By now, Gallus is over field trips in general, and Sandalwood tells the teachers he feels like they've learned plenty about teamwork. But AJ and Dash are united in their mission: *"You're gonna love this nature walk, trust us."* *"Yep! Lots of learning still left in the day!"* The students look confused. Gossamer shyly raises a foreclaw to ask, *"How will walking teach us to work together? Or did I miss something?"*

Applejack and Dash trade a look. *"Why don't you tell 'em, Rainbow Dash."* *"No, you go ahead, Applejack."* They both take a beat, then start in at the same time, then laugh. *"I'm sure we'll find out along the way."* Applejack says. *"That's what friends do!"* Dash agrees. Applejack and Dash head into the woods best of friends once again as the students wonder who has kidnapped their teachers...

Just then, everycreature arrives at a fork in the road. The students halt and look to their teachers – which way do they go? *"Let's let Applejack decide,"* Dash graciously concedes. *"No, no. You pick, Rainbow Dash,"* says Applejack with a smile. Dash asks if Applejack wants to go left. Only if Dash does, Applejack insists. Right then? Dash wonders. If that's what Dash wants to do, maintains Applejack. The students watch, their heads moving back and forth between their teachers tennis match style until finally Yana just chooses a path. *"Is that the way you wanted to go?"* Dash asks Applejack as they follow after their student. *"It doesn't matter what I want, Rainbow Dash. It's what **you** want."* *"Hey Yana, can I borrow some of your hair? Cause I could really use some earplugs,"* Gallus rolls his eyes in the direction of their teachers.

Sc. 9 – EXT. FOREST/CLIFFSIDE - DAY

Looking weary, the group pulls up alongside a sheer cliff. *"We've gone in the same circle five times,"* Sandalwood says. Blaze notes that's because "someponies" won't make up their minds about which way to go. The group swivels to Dash and Applejack. *"Do you want to keep going in a circle, Applejack?"* Dash asks with an obsequious, if forced grin. *"Up to you, Rainbow Dash,"* Applejack says with an even more sycophantic eye bat, this mutual respect war obviously wearing thin on both the ponies: *"I insist."* *"No no, I insist."* *"But I insisted first..."*

Silverstar cocks his head in confusion – are they even still on a field trip? Because this just feels like being lost in the woods. Gossamer looks scared at that. Blaze has had it, and she flies straight up, looking a good 360 around the trees. They're not lost – they just need to cross the chasm ahead of them (with a river of rapids running below it), and they'll be on a straight path back to the School of Friendship. Rainbow Dash chimes in that they knew that – it was all part of their plan. Applejack agrees – all they have to do is build a bridge over the chasm and they'll be home free. That is...If Rainbow Dash thinks it's a good idea. *"Not THIS again,"* Gallus sighs, *"Can't we just fly over?"* Rainbow Dash and Applejack shake their heads – this isn't about getting home, this is about everycreature pulling together. *"Teamwork!"* Dash agrees. *"Togetherness!"* Applejack crows. *"You are SO right,"* Dash concurs. *"Only as right as you are!"* AJ adds.

Sandalwood tries to speed things up and asks what they should gather to build the bridge out of. Rainbow Dash and Applejack answer at the same time: *"Branches!"* *"Vines!"* The teachers look at each other, ready to disagree...But, still locked in their admiration war, they quickly pull back, insisting they go with other's suggestion. *"I'll build a bridge of vines, like Applejack said,"* Rainbow Dash offers. *"And I'll use Rainbow Dash's great idea and build another bridge out of branches,"* Applejack says.

IN QUICK SHOTS - The students watch Applejack and Dash as they build their bridges side by side. The bridges stretch across the ravine, the smiles of their teachers growing more manic as they call out strained compliments about the other pony's bridge building skills for the students to hear. And with each shot their bridges progressively become more mangled and precarious. Soon, both bridges sway perilously in the breeze as Applejack and Dash cling to the rickety railings. *"These branches are just the thing to build this here bridge, Rainbow Dash!"* Applejack shouts as she fights to ponyhandle a branch into place while simultaneously struggling to hang on for dear life. *"Not to disagree,"* says Dash as she forces a vine into place, growing more and more trapped by the second in the twisted vines, *"but your vine bridge idea is the way to GOOOOOOO!"*

Suddenly, Dash's bridge (which is slightly elevated from Applejack bridge) collapses and SMASHES into Applejack's bridge! The two bridges tremble for one sickening second, then...

Both bridges drop down into the vast gorge! The students rush to the edge to see the branches and vines plunging downward as one tangled bridge towards the rapids below.

"Oh no!" Gossamer yells out as she looks to see that Applejack and Dash are dangling above the water, trapped in a branch/vine "cage" at the end of the bridge. As the vines begin to snap...

END ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

Sc. 10 – EXT. CHASM – DAY - RESUME

Tangled in their net of vines and branches, Dash tries to fly, but the vines have bound her too tight. And AJ can't reach the cliff top with her lasso. To make matters worse, a toothy FISH leaps from the water below and SNAPS close to their viney cage. Followed by another. Dash and AJ are in agreement – there's only one thing to do in this situation – yell for HELP!

Sc. 11 – EXT. CLIFFSIDE – CONT.

The students put their heads together for a quick pow-wow -- they've got to come up with a plan! *"Leave them hanging? What! I'm kidding! Mostly,"* Gallus quips, before they get down to business: they need fly down and grab their teachers... But how can they avoid those biting fish? They've got to work as a team -- and fast! Just then they hear a *RIIIP...* They look to see: CLOSE ON the bridge connected to the cliffside... as it begins to tear away from the cliff's edge...

Sc. 12 – EXT. CHASM – CONT.

Down at water level, the vine cage jerks down even closer to the now SCHOOL of SNAPPING fish! Suddenly, a PONY-SIZED snapping fish hovers near the net, mouth grinning with sharp fangs. AJ and Dash startle back and take this moment to make their possibly final apologies to each other... Until Gossamer's voice comes from the fish's mouth. *"Don't worry, I'm just the distraction."* Sure enough, the other fish take one look at Gossamer's huge teeth and swim away, with her chasing close behind. Gossamer yells that the coast is clear, giving Blaze a chance to lead her flight squad of Gallus and Silverstar down into the chasm.

Sc. 13 – EXT. CLIFFSIDE – CONT.

The fliers swoop down and grab the dangling "cage" with their claws, lifting it up to safety at the top of the cliff! *"Your turn, guys!"* Blaze says, and Yana and Sandalwood go to work -- Yana quickly chewing away the entombing vines, and Sandalwood kicking away the branches (safely away from Applejack and Dash who move to the other side of the cage). Together they create a pony-sized hole in the cage, and Applejack and Rainbow Dash step out to the collective cheer of our students!

AJ and Dash are very impressed with the students' teamwork. The students shrug – they just used what their teachers taught them. Sometimes you have to work slow and steady to come up with a good plan, like AJ. And sometimes, you have to jump into speedy action and follow a leader, like Dash. What matters is every member of the group doing what they're best at, together. AJ and Dash share an amazed look. *"Yeah, that's totally what we meant for you to learn."* Dash says, covering. AJ grins, *"THAT we can agree on."*

Sc. 14 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - EVENING

The students are still buzz with excitement as Twilight enters and asks how their friendship learning fieldtrip turned out. Applejack and Dash exchange tense smiles, girding themselves for the worst -- but the students surprisingly praise their teachers as nothing short of brilliant. *"Ponies smart!"* Yana says, high praise from a Yak.

Gallus: *"It was kinda crazy genius. They showed us what not to do so we'd figure out what we should do."* Silverstar adds, *"It took us awhile to get it! But Applejack and Dash never gave up!"* Blaze explains to Twilight that when they came to the ravine it would have been so much easier just to fly home -- but Applejack and Dash just kept teaching by example.

Yeah, says Gossamer -- and of course the right way to build the bridge was to use branches *and* vines, *and* to do it together. But Applejack and Dash built it the *wrong* way just to show them what a bad idea that was. Sandalwood: *"Totally. And they even risked their own lives doing it! Now that's commitment."* They all agree if it weren't for Applejack and Dash they never would have worked together as well as they did to pull off the rescue.

As the students exit, Twilight turns to Applejack and Dash. *"You were actually just competing the whole time, weren't you."* *"To tell the truth...? Yep,"* Applejack admits. *"Well, not all the time,"* Dash amends. *"What the hay are you talkin' 'bout, Dash...?"* Applejack counters. And as the friends start up once more...

END EPISODE