

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

A Trivia Problem
EP 916

Premise by: Brittany Jo Flores

Distribution:

Production:
Devon Cody
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Mike Myhre
Zoe Borroz
Nicole Dubuc
Josh Haber
Jada McDermott

Discovery Family:
Linda Shima Tsuno
Beth Mohammed

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Meghan McCarthy
Eliza Hart
Leslie Wishnevski
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales
Tyla Bucher
Loretta Masters
Narae Song
Bill Cheungcp
Molly Shaffer
Emily Thompson
Kevin Farrell
Lauren Devereux
Michael Kelly

Hasbro Brand:
Jamie Cipolla
Julie Sanfilippo
Matt Riordan
Andrea Ehret
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Brian Chapman

Premise: January 31st, 2018

A TRIVIA PROBLEM

Premise by Brittany Jo Flores

Logline: *Twilight Sparkle is beside herself preparing for Trivia Trot (Trivia Night), a recent, reoccurring Ponyville event with a serious, competitive following. But despite all of her efforts, nothing can prepare her to be teamed up with Equestria's least serious pony, Pinkie Pie!*

TWILIGHT SPARKLE is absolutely ready to be the first pony to reign as the Trivia Trot champion for the third time in a row (and maybe even beat her own high score)! SPIKE finds her hold up in her library with every book open, trying to brush up on anything that might be asked during the game. Since the game is played in randomly selected teams of two, Twilight has also charted out all of her potential teammates from the regular attendees (along with her odds of winning with each based on their strengths and weaknesses). Spike wants no part of it. The Trivia Trot is serious business.

The next day Twilight heads to Sugar Cube Corner to drop her name into the hat from which the teams will be selected. Outside, she runs into the regulars who are all excited in the same serious way she is. PINKIE PIE comes out, wondering what all the fuss is about. They explain it's for Trivia Trot which, despite living upstairs at Sugar Cube Corner, Pinkie has never heard of. Twilight explains it's basically a game night and Pinkie immediately starts to get excited. She LOVES games. They are soooo much fun! The regulars all share a knowing look as Twilight explains to Pinkie that even though it's a game, it may not be the kind of fun she'd appreciate. It's "serious" fun, not... Pinkie fun! Pinkie lets out a long "Gottttttt ittt" and bounces away. Later that night inside, GRANNY SMITH (the Trivia Trot MC) gets ready to kick things off by drawing the teams. Twilight goes down her chart, crossing off each name as they're called, until there's no one left for her to match with! Finally, Granny Smith yells out Twilight's name, then reaches in and pulls out the name of her teammate: PINKIE PIE!!

Nowhere on any of her charts did Twilight prepare to be partnered with Pinkie! She asks Pinkie why she entered and if she's sure she really wants to. "Of course!" Pinkie says. She's all about fun, and since she's never even heard of "serious fun," she felt obligated to look into it! With only minutes before Trivia Trot begins, Twilight tries to be positive and gives her teammate a few practice questions, unfortunately, Pinkie doesn't understand that made up answers don't count. Twilight suggests they switch, but Pinkie's practice questions aren't helpful either, "What's the combination to my frosting safe?" Before Twilight can explain how that probably wouldn't be a question, the game begins! SUNBURST and CRANKY DOODLE get off to a hot start, but as the hour grows late (like 5:30!), Cranky starts to nod off and is disqualified! And while everypony is thankful RAINBOW DASH and APPLEJACK weren't paired with each other, having them on separate teams is almost worse as their competitive natures get the better of them and they spend the evening suspicious that the other has an unfair advantage. As the atmosphere grows more and more

tense, even FLUTTERSHY joins her teammate BULK BICEPS' emotional outbursts when the unstoppable, mind-melded team of MAUD and MUD BRIAR go on a tear.

Throughout the night, Pinkie tries her best to bring the fun, unintentionally killing Twilight's chances of winning in the process: she buzzes in when she doesn't know the answer, lets the clock run out, puts the buzzer under Twilight's seat, etc. And while Twilight tries to be patient, her growing frustration becomes more and more clear. Soon she's trying to ring in before Pinkie can answer and eventually just takes the buzzer away all together. But when there's a question that nopony knows the answer to Pinkie begs Twilight to give her a chance because she really, really, reaaaaaallly knows it. Twilight acquiesces and Pinkie's answer is more ridiculous than anything she's said so far. Even Granny Smith is stunned at how far off the mark it is as she emphatically explains that it is 100% incorrect. Watching her chances of winning reduced to practically zero, Twilight finally freaks out and snaps at Pinkie for not taking the game seriously. Pinkie counters that games are supposed to be fun, "but nopony here is having any of that!" Twilight insists that they are having fun, and the collection of serious, dower faces around them agree. Pinkie doubts she'll ever understand "serious fun," but whatever it is, it's not for her and she slumps out.

Before Twilight can follow, Sunburst points out that with both of their respective teammates out of the game, the rules allow them to team up. Twilight realizes that with Sunburst, her chances of winning are back to normal and before long the two of them are dominating the field. Unfortunately, Sunburst is even more of a trivia nut than Twilight and soon, he's moving the buzzer to his side of the table and answering before Twilight even has a chance. When Twilight points out that she's just as savvy as he is, Sunburst backs off. But just as it's Twilight turn to answer, she notices Pinkie returning incognito (determined to suss out this "serious fun" concept). As Pinkie's antics continue (she's behind a plant, in disguise, etc.), a distracted Twilight fails to answer question after question until finally, Sunburst freaks out on her. Realizing how Pinkie must have felt, Twilight gets it. She tells Sunburst they are friends and should be having fun, but an unconvinced, Sunburst returns to his old teammate, Cranky (refreshed from his nap). Twilight apologizes to a still disguised Pinkie, explaining that she'd much rather lose and have fun with her friend than win and have her be upset. Pinkie explains that she never wanted to hurt Twilight's chances, she just wanted to understand this new kind of fun. Twilight admits that she isn't sure "serious fun" is a thing and the two reunite, committing to having actual fun. And the more fun they have, the more they start to win! In fact, they crush it, but at the final question, again, nopony knows the answer. Twilight doesn't think twice about letting Pinkie go this time and when she buzzes in, Pinkie gives the exact same nonsensical thing she said before! Granny Smith, "Yep. Still wrong." For a moment it looks like Twilight might freak out again, but instead she BURSTS OUT LAUGHING! Soon, the entire room joins along as Pinkie finally cracks the tough nut of Trivia Trot and makes it fun. Twilight and Pinkie lose the game, but Twilight had such a good time, she can't wait to team up with Pinkie again.