

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
A TRIVIAL PURSUIT
EP 916
Outline 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
Premise V2: February 6, 2018
Outline: February 12th, 2018

A TRIVIAL PURSUIT

Outline by Brittany Jo Flores

Logline: *Twilight Sparkle is on a run and hopes to be the first pony to be on a Trivia Trot (Ponyville trivia night) winning team three times in a row. But when she's teamed up with Pinkie Pie, Twilight fears her hot streak is about to flame out.*

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. SPIKE'S ROOM – NIGHT**

SPIKE is in a restful slumber when he's suddenly awakened by a ruckus coming from the library! Thinking something's wrong, he dashes out of bed!

SC. 2 - SINT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – CONTINUOUS

Spike finds TWILIGHT SPARKLE frantically talking to herself and going through each and every book in the library. As Spike looks around at the chaos, he concludes this must be serious! Twilight says it *is* serious! Tomorrow is Trivia Trot, and she has the chance of being the first pony to win the game three consecutive weeks in a row (and maybe even beat her high score while she's at it)! Now the big question is, who will she be paired up with this week? It could be anypony since the pairings are random to keep things fair. She's charted all her potential teammates based off of the regular attendees (along with her odds of winning with each based off their strengths and weaknesses). As Twilight continues to furiously study and chart, forgetting Spike's even there, Spike slowly backs away from the mayhem to go back to bed...

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE – DAY**

The next day Twilight and Spike head to Sugar Cube Corner where Trivia Trot takes place. Since Spike has never attended, Twilight excitedly and animatedly explains the extensive rules of the game to him. After explaining the base rules, Twilight goes on and on and on... and we dissolve to:

SC. 4 - EXT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – LATER

Twilight is still explaining the rules to a very overwhelmed Spike. After listening to one last thing, Spike exhales. Wow! So, last night wasn't just a feverish routine of preparation; Twilight is *really* into this game! Twilight confirms this, going into

details about past games and reminiscing about her previous victories! She goes off into her own world, hoping for certain categories along with the perfect teammate! She has got to get that third win! Spike is relieved that he'll just be a spectator. He doesn't think he could handle being randomly matched with Twilight only to let her down! Twilight laughs this off. She knows it seems intense, but she assures him it's really very fun. And besides, according to her chart of past game statistics, no matter what pony she'll be paired with, her team will have a good chance of keeping her winning streak alive! It should be an excellent game.

SC. 5 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – DAY

Twilight and Spike enter to find the place is already packed! As Spike stands on the sidelines to watch, Twilight confidently drops her name in a bowl at the front to be randomly assigned a partner, then joins the crowd of regular Trivia Trotters. The Trotters comment on how Twilight is the reigning champ – some predicting she'll win a third time in a row while others aren't so sure. Twilight holds her mane high and proud, but maintains a modesty around her potential teammate/opponents, announcing that they all have a chance of winning this week, so they'll just have to play and find out! Suddenly, she spies PINKIE PIE across the room, putting her name into the bowl! Pinkie is somepony she did not anticipate to be in the game!

As Pinkie enthusiastically bounces around the other Trotters, Twilight takes herself aside to bust out her statistical chart. Spike asks what's wrong and she explains that everything is now off because she hadn't charted Pinkie as a potential player! She can't even anticipate what kind of teammate Pinkie would be because she's never played before... One thing she does know—Pinkie in the mix will change the game in unpredictable ways! To make a few quick adjustments, Twilight unfolds the entire chart which drops to the floor, rolling past Spike and out the door! But there's no time — GRANNY SMITH (Trivia Trot's MC) starts to pick from the bowl to match up ponies, shifting Twilight's attention.

As Granny matches the first team, SUNBURST and CRANKY DOODLE, Twilight cringes and crosses out the names on her chart. Sunburst was her first choice. Paired up, they would've had the greatest percentage chance of winning! But no matter, there are still plenty of great matches out there. Next, Granny calls out APPLEJACK. Twilight looks over her chart and sees she's won with her before – she'd be a great teammate! But to her disappointment, Applejack is paired with DR. HOOVES. Twilight looks on the bright side, at least Applejack isn't paired with Rainbow Dash; those two together are a tough, aggressive combo... Oh! Rainbow Dash! With her competitive spirit, they could definitely win together! But it turns out RAINBOW DASH is paired with MATILDA. Too bad. Next MAUD and MUDBRIAR are paired up. Twilight is stunned. They've bizarrely been randomly put together every week (a statistical impossibility!) and have proven to be a force to be reckoned with. As Twilight scratches her mane and scribbles things out on her chart, solving other equations, Spike is concerned. Coming up for air, Twilight says she's rerun the numbers, and there's only one pairing that threatens her chances of her

winning streak. As Spike asks who that would be, Granny Smith calls out the next team: Twilight and... Pinkie Pie! As Twilight gasps, dropping her chart, Spike realizes exactly who and responds with a simple, "Oh." Off Pinkie jumping for joy and Twilight in disbelief...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – RESUMING

Twilight stares in shock, barely noticing as FLUTTERSHY and BULK BICEPS get paired as the last duo. Pinkie bounces over exclaiming how she loves games and is super, duper excited to play this game for the first time ever with Twilight! They almost never get quality fun and games time together, and Pinkie's most certain being teammates will make it all even funner (*confetti burst!*)! Seeing her friend's excitement, Twilight puts her analyzing aside and forces a smile to tell Pinkie that this should be an interesting experience! Pinkie likes the sound of both of those words then gets totally distracted by choosing their table! Twilight in tow decides that she can make this work. She could be Pinkie's teammate and still win the game. No matter what kind of partner Pinkie turns out to be, Twilight has enough Trivia experience to pick up the slack. As Pinkie unnecessarily waves Twilight down from five hooves away, Twilight determines that she still has a chance!

SC. 7 -INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – GAME CIRCLE – CONTINUOUS

The tables are arranged in a circle with all the contestants paired up (as Granny announced) at each one. Each team has their own bell to ring in, and flippable score cards are displayed at the front of each table. Granny announces that their regular scorekeeper Starlight Glimmer has sadly decided to remove herself from the game after last week's intense score debate (Sunburst says he has to visit her separately now without any mention of Trivia Trot). Granny asks if anypony is up for the job? Spike volunteers! He can be unbiased since he's never seen a game! Plus, Twilight gave him a rundown of all the rules earlier. Each and every one.

As all the players wish each other luck or get their game faces on, Granny starts the game with the category "Literature!" Twilight gets giddy. This is her kind of category! But as soon as Granny asks the question, Pinkie eagerly rings in and shouts out a fun, made up answer which is completely wrong! Realizing that nopony understood her attempt at making up a fun answer, Pinkie deflates and sits back down to see Twilight just as confused as everypony else. Twilight tries to convince Spike that Pinkie's still getting the hang of the game, but to her dismay he knocks them down to negative points. He's just doing his unbiased job after all! As Sunburst rings in to get it correct, Twilight laments that she totally knew that answer! Pinkie apologizes; she didn't know that Twilight was so focused on the points. Did she mess it up? With a forced light-heartedness, Twilight tells Pinkie it's okay, that it's only

one question... Then with a little more intention says, “But maybe only ring in if you’re totally, without a doubt, 100% sure you definitely know the answer.” As Pinkie salutes and says she’s got it, Twilight busts out a few more tips: And sit still. And don't forget to listen! And it's best to keep quiet in-between questions. As Pinkie says “gottt iiitt” with a little less sureness...

SC. 8 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – GAME CIRCLE – LATER

As Pinkie struggles to keep up with all of Twilight’s ongoing directions, Twilight realizes they’re falling even further behind (as all the other teams gain points). Getting more concerned about her chances of winning, Twilight starts to get desperate. As Cranky Doodle falls asleep in the middle of a question, she subtly mentions a rule about sleeping at the tables which forces Granny to disqualify the team. This gets rid of Twilight’s main competition as Sunburst frustratedly retreats to the sidelines while Cranky snores on the bell. When Fluttershy consults Angel Bunny, then correctly answers the next question, Twilight off-handedly mentions a rule about pets not being able to participate. This makes Dash call foul, insisting that Spike take away some of Fluttershy’s and Bulkbicep’s points. Twilight even busts out a rule about hoof to bell distance to ensure fairness, which catches Applejack by surprise, forcing Spike to awkwardly take more points away.

SC. 9 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – GAME CIRCLE – LATER

At this point, Pinkie thinks she’s got the hang of all the rules of the game and focuses on ringing in again as the category is “Cupcakes!” But Twilight, worried that all her hard work will be for naught, distracts Pinkie with a false “Confetti Appreciation Parade” sighting out the window. Pinkie goes to see and Twilight makes sure to ring in before Pinkie can get back to the bell! She happily answers correctly, as Pinkie returns to say she knew that one! Twilight points out Pinkie was distracted, and she didn’t want to miss the opportunity. Pinkie sees her point, then goes back to the window. She still can’t see the Confetti Appreciation Parade, is it around the corner? As Spike adds points to Twilights increasing score, things are finally looking up for her winning streak!

MONTAGE

In a series of quick beats, Twilight’s wacky antics to keep Pinkie distracted from the game so she can have full control continue! With each question, the bell seems to get further from Pinkie and closer to Twilight! Then Pinkie straight up loses the bell only to find Twilight has it floating above! Then Pinkie tries to ring in, only to discover the bell has been replaced with a bell-shaped cupcake (TS: “Oh, I thought you would appreciate it.”) When Pinkie finally has the bell and goes to ring in, Twilight magically swaps out the bell for Spike’s tail, surprising both Pinkie and the scorekeeper! Then, Twilight has Pinkie work on a detailed team banner, giving her detailed instructions on how to design it. Throughout it all, Twilight, mane a mess,

obsessively rings in for all the questions, raising their score and making Spike work overtime!

SC. 10 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – GAME CIRCLE – LATER

Pinkie happily hangs the new team banner (a crayon drawing of Pinkie and Twilight's faces) from their table and rejoins Twilight. She finally finished it per Twilight's instructions and is ready to answer some questions! Twilight fumbles, unable to think of anything else to assign Pinkie and panics about their score as Maud and Mudbriar prepare to dominate the new category: "Sticks and Stones." Stress and pressure build fast as Twilight tries to focus on Granny's questions, deal with Pinkie, and is totally bewildered by Maud and Mudbriar's detailed answers. She feels her winning streak slipping away and doesn't know what to do! Out the corner of her eye, she sees Sunburst sitting in the gallery and thinks fast — In a desperate move, Twilight tricks Pinkie into asking Maud a rock question (Pinkie yells across the room for everypony to hear). This is clearly a foul as rocks are part of the active category, and Granny disqualifies Pinkie from the game! As Pinkie apologizes to Twilight for getting them disqualified, Twilight tells her it's fine, citing a technicality to save herself and match her up with the last disqualified (and awake) player, which would be Sunburst! She tells Pinkie she understands... Right? Pinkie says of course. But as Sunburst runs over, pumped to be back in the game, Pinkie despondently removes the team banner and makes her way to the sidelines. As Spike consoles her, Pinkie does her best to hold back her hurt feelings to support her friend. She knows how important winning the Trot is to Twilight. With a feeble cheer from Pinkie for Twilight, we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 11 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – GAME CIRCLE – SOON AFTER

As Twilight and Sunburst giddily get ready to take over the game, Granny announces the new category: "Pre-Equestrian History!" Twilight celebrates; she knows tons about history but this is totally Sunburst's expertise. Surprisingly to Twilight though, Sunburst tells her not to worry; even if she isn't up on her ancient history, he'll pick up the slack. Worried that her teammate doesn't quite believe in her, she hurriedly rings in for the first question to prove her worth! Unfortunately, her answer is incomplete. As they lose points, Sunburst proposes that maybe he should take the lead. As he hooves the bell over closer to himself...

MONTAGE

Worried that Twilight is going to hurt his chances of winning, Sunburst controls the team also with wacky antics! He makes sure to beat Twilight to the bell; he "accidentally" drops his pencil and makes Twilight look for it as he rings in for the

next question; then Twilight can't find the bell! As she hears it ring, she finds it on the ground where Sunburst surreptitiously rang in with his back hoof! Finally, Twilight has a chance to ring in but realizes the bell's been replaced with another cupcake! (Sunburst, "Weird. How'd that get there?")

SC. 12 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – GAME CIRCLE – RESUMING

Twilight confronts Starburst, telling him that he's not the only pony that can win this game and that she has a lot to contribute to the team! As Sunburst notices the game go on without them during Twilight's speech, he says she's right, and asks for her help with a book to quickly fact-check another team's previous answer. Relieved that Sunburst finally acknowledges them as a team, Twilight leafs through the pages, asking Sunburst what she's looking for when BZZZNH! Twilight is disqualified for "looking up an answer!" As Sunburst shrugs with an "innocent" smile, he cites a rule allowing him to go back to his former teammate, Cranky, who is awake now! As Twilight heads over to the sidelines, she realizes how she did the exact same thing to Pinkie just moments before. And, wow, it does not feel good... She sees Pinkie sitting in the stands holding up the team banner where Pinkie's face has been replaced with Sunburst's face, still cheering Twilight on despite everything. Twilight is relieved and thankful to see her friend's spirit still in tact.

SC. 13 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER - GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

Twilight goes up to Pinkie who is still holding the revised team banner. She apologizes to Pinkie, confessing that her behavior was not okay. Winning is nice, but she doesn't want to win at the expense of her friend's feelings. She asks if Pinkie would reconsider teaming up with her again (there's totally a rule to allow them to do that). Pinkie doesn't know... She's worried that Twilight won't have fun with her as her partner. But Twilight assures her that she got carried away before. She just wants to have some quality fun and games time with her friend. Pinkie asks if she's sure. What if they lose? Twilight says, then they will lose together—but she bets they'll have fun! With that, Pinkie rips the "Sunburst face" off the team banner to reveal her own face — The Twilight and Pinkie team are back together! Delighted, the two go back to rejoin the game! Granny asks the next question and everypony seems stumped, including Pinkie and Twilight! But the two share a mischievous look and both ring in together to definitely get the question wrong as they both yell out two different answers and laugh, enjoying the game and each other!

END