

MLP Season 9 Springboards

9/5/17

These are in a potential order, but we're happy to change them based on story and production needs! Some of them are more fleshed out than others. Please also note that the titles are placeholders for now.

1. "Beginning of the End" Part One

As harmony covers Equestria, the sun and moon begin to rise by themselves, alerting Princesses Celestia and Luna (and Discord's, their polar opposite) that their time in this realm is coming to a close. Meanwhile, a mysterious villain by the name of Grogar has assembled an army of baddies to defeat the Mane Six by working together. Sombra, resurrected to be part of this team, goes rogue and destroys the Tree of Harmony, leaving Twilight and her friends powerless.

****VILLAIN ARC**

2. "Beginning of the End" Part Two

Sombra attacks the Crystal Empire, bent on taking his kingdom back. The Mane Six and Discord make a stand against him. But when Discord is taken down, Twilight and her friends hold the line despite the danger. The friendship they share powers them up, revealing that even though the tree has been destroyed, the elements live within them.

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3. "Rebuilding"

Though it's summer break at the School of Friendship, the Young Six return because they've heard the Tree of Harmony was destroyed. They felt a bond with the tree, since it appeared to them and tested them in season 8, and they want to pay their respects. Each has a different idea of how to memorialize the tree, which puts them at odds. Finally, when they work together and combine their talents, they build a small clubhouse of the tree's fragments. Their friendship powers up their creation, and it magically grows into an amazing treehouse – a place for them to be together and the perfect symbol of the tree's memory.

4. 200th Episode

A short funny collection of character-based stories, as pitched by the actors of the Mane Six. A possible frame story could involve some kind of truth spell that makes the characters reveal their stories, OR it could be stories the Young Six have uncovered as a "report on your teachers" assignment.

5. "She's All Yak"

When Sandbar asks Yona to the School of Friendship dance, she's thrilled – Yak never go to Pony dance before. Observing the other Pony students getting ready, Yona realizes she needs a dress and goes to Rarity for help. But Rarity's generous spirit takes a decidedly Pygmalion turn, and she sets out not just to make Yona a pony dress, but to make her a pony in her own image: in style, speech and custom. Rarity's good intentions take a comic and then tragic turn – Yona fails at being a pony and sadly tells Sandbar she can't go to the dance. When he finds out why she thinks that, he clarifies – Yona doesn't have to change herself into a pony for him. He asked her to the dance because he likes her – just the way she is.

6. “Bad Advice”

Starlight Glimmer is so busy with work/obligations, in a tired moment, she gives a student some bad advice, with disastrous results. It's up to Starlight and Trixie to set things right – which is never as straightforward or easy as it seems.

7. “Point of No Return”

Twilight is doing some fun weekend cleaning, and she's is mortified to discover a library book that she never returned – from her pre-alicorn days back at school in Canterlot! This launches Twilight on a quest to bring back the purloined volume. The only problem is – the library is closed, the librarian has retired, and being Princess of Friendship doesn't mean your overdue fees get waived!

8. “Common Ground”

Quibblepants goes to Rainbow Dash for advice. He has a special somepony in his life, and she has a daughter. He thinks they're both great, and wants them to be a family – but he's having trouble finding any common ground with the filly. He's read AK Yearling books aloud to her, taken her to conventions, etc. But she likes sports stuff, and he couldn't find the bottom side of a buckball if his life depended on it. (Dash: “They don't have one.”) So he enlists Rainbow Dash's help them find common ground.

9. “Trial by Fire”

Smolder invites Spike to the Dragonlands for a visit during school break. Fluttershy tags along – it's baby dragon hatching season, and she loves baby dragons! When the trio arrives, Spike spots Garble and asks Smolder if they can steer clear of him – they have bad history. Smolder says they can try, but it'll be hard – he's her brother. WHAT?! Spike is already rethinking his visit and decides to go back early. But when Chrysalis returns to take over the dragons as her new subjects (with the help of a Grogar-gifted element of DISHARMONY), Spike and Fluttershy must work with Garble to save the day.

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10. “A Trivial Problem”

Twilight can't wait for the Ponyville Annual Trivia Challenge (like pub trivia). But when the teams are drawn, she is given Pinkie Pie as a partner. Twilight stresses that they'll lose, especially when Pinkie buzzes in and gives ridiculous answers. Trying to tamp down Pinkie and studying overtime to make up for her team mate, Twilight all but takes over the team and mutes Pinkie. Until the final trivia round comes up – and it literally is trivia – random pony culture and jokes that Twilight doesn't know the answer to...But Pinkie does.

11. “Home”

Scootaloo's parents return to Equestria on a vacation from their busy jobs (as travel photographers? CEOs? Land developers?). They've finally decided to settle down as a family – far away from Ponyville. Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle can't believe it – that would be the end of the CMCs! So they do everything they can to convince Scootaloo's parents to let her stay in Ponyville. Not surprisingly, their wacky schemes don't work – but they DO help show Scootaloo's parents the deep bond of the CMC's friendship. Scoot's parents agree to let her stay with her Aunts – as long as she promises to come visit often.

12. “It Came from Sweet Apple Acres”

Crop circles, or the appearance of strange new plants are appearing on the Apple Farm. Rarity dons her Shadow Spade guise to investigate the mystery, only to discover that Big Mac or Granny has been sleep-farming.

13. “The Big Mac Question”

Big Mac decides to finally propose to Sugar Belle. He enlists the M6 to help him in an extravagant proposal scheme (perhaps inspired by what his parents did – which could involve another flashback story about them from Burnt Oak). But every part of the day goes wrong or is ruined by Sugar Belle refusing to cooperate, or random “bad luck”. As Big Mac and Sweetie Belle get more and more frustrated, Big Mac begins to question if the universe is sending him a sign that this is a bad idea. Finally he blurts out to Sweetie Belle what he was trying to do – and she laughs. The reason everything wasn't working is because SHE was trying to do the same thing with the help of HER friends – propose to him!

14. “That's A Laugh”

Most of the M6 have accomplished their dreams, but Pinkie Pie has one desire that's never been achieved – to make all of Equestria laugh at once! She realizes she'll need to call in some expert help, and reaches out to Cheese Sandwich. But he has become a Willy Wonka-like figure, running a party factory. Pinkie realizes that he has lost the joy and spirit of what it means to make others laugh, and she has to help him reclaim his

mojo so the two of them can make Pinkie's dream of global laughter come true. ****THIS MAY BE A MUSICAL****

15. "Growing Up Is Hard To Do"

The CMCs are tired of living in Rarity, Applejack and Rainbow Dash's shadows. They're certain they can handle just as much adventure as their big sisters. But every time they volunteer to help other grown-up ponies, they get stuck with baby jobs, or worse, asked to have their sister's help. Apple Bloom concocts a Grown Up potion from Zecora's supplies, and the CMCs take it – turning into grown up versions of themselves. It's great fun when they visit a town outside of Ponyville and are mistaken for their sisters! They're celebrated and treated well... Until Cozy Glow returns with an element of Disharmony and attacks the town because she heard some of the M6 were there.

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16. "Dragon Dropped"

Spike grows out of his crush on Rarity. He still likes her, but doesn't lavish the attention on her that he used to. Rarity seems to be having a hard time coping with this – even though she didn't reciprocate his crush, it's a blow to no longer be adored. She attempts to "get her groove back" – but it's for all the wrong reasons.

17. **TBD**

18. "Rah-Rah Dash"

The School of Friendship is starting up a Buckball League, and nopony is more excited than Rainbow Dash. That is, until she learns that Fluttershy and Pinkie are the coaches, and Twilight is tapping Dash to lead the school pep squad. Rainbow Dash isn't thrilled – she doesn't view cheering as a real sport – and tries to subvert her cheer practice into Buckball training. Finally, her cheer students show her how important pep squad is to them, and Rainbow Dash realizes that it really is a sport of skill – and that when someone trusts you to lead them, you need to give that job your all.

19. Tirek attacks.

****VILLAIN ARC**

20. "Pinkie Pie's Dessert"

Pinkie Pie invents a new dessert. It's the talk of Ponyville, and everypony wants one. Rarity sees her chance to help her friend expand into a franchise, and she sets out to organize Pinkie and get her to be a business owner. The only problem is, Pinkie has moved on from that dessert, and wants to make new ones now. Rarity needs to learn that economic success isn't everypony's goal – for Pinkie Pie, success means living your creativity.

21. **TBD**

22. **TBD**

23. “Daring Doubt”

Caballeron publishes his own book – a “Wicked”-type retelling of his side of the story, under the pseudonym “Nom De Plume.” This leads Rainbow Dash on a mission to get the truth from both AK Yearling and Caballeron.

24. “Bad Day”

Grogar’s league of villains unite, become friends and revolt against their leader.

****VILLAIN ARC**

25. Finale part one

Evil Twilight – Discord turns Twilight evil with one of the elements of Disharmony.

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26. Finale part two

Grogar/Discord reveal and finale – all is back to normal, and Discord, Celestia and Luna leave the realm, passing the torch to Twilight and the M6 – and we get a glimpse of Twilight’s future.

****VILLAIN ARC**