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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

A Trivial Pursuit
Ep 916

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TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - NIGHT**

Dressed for bed, SPIKE walks towards the library, girding himself for what he's about to see.

1 SPIKE
 (to himself)
Okay Spike. You know you might get distracted by the stacks of books and copious charts, so remember what to say, (addressing himself in a nearby mirror) "Twilight, I know you're in full prep mode for Trivia Trot tomorrow, but you need to get some sleep!" (impressed with himself) Nice work! (back to his reflection with a fist pump) You got this!

As Spike enters the library his eyes go wide and he GASPS!

REVERSE SHOT - The library is perfectly in tact, everything neat and orderly, and Twilight is nowhere to be seen!

2 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Huh. No diagrams. No notes on the floor, the books all put away, and no charts?! This is weird.

Spike turns to leave and bumps right into TWILIGHT SPARKLE, all dressed and ready for bed!

3 SPIKE (CONT'D)
AHH! ...Twilight! What are you doing?

4 TWILIGHT
Great question, Spike! And the answer is: Going to bed! Brains need eight hours of sleep to perform at optimum levels!

5 SPIKE
Oh! Cool. I thought I'd have to force you to go to bed since tomorrow is your chance to be the first pony to win Ponyville trivia three times in a row. (then) That is tomorrow, right?

6 TWILIGHT
The answer is: Yes!

Spike nods as Twilight smiles, staring at him. A BEAT as neither says anything.

7 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
(nudging) ...Ask me another one.

8 SPIKE
Another one what?

9 TWILIGHT
Another question! I wanna stay in the zone. That way I can sleep in the zone, wake up in the zone, and be totally in the zone tomorrow!

10 SPIKE
Oh! Got it! Okay... Well, um, let me think... Hmmm...

As Spike rubs his chin, thinking, Twilight gets closer and closer, searching his face for any clues that might give away his next question. Spike clearly gets uncomfortable.

11 SPIKE (CONT'D)
This is a whole new level of Twilighting, isn't it?

12 TWILIGHT
The answer is: Yes!

13 SPIKE
Are you okay?

14 TWILIGHT
(gaining excitement) The answer is: Yes!!!

As Spike doesn't quite know how to react, he starts to slowly back away.

15 SPIKE
Oookay. Well, goodnight, Twilight. Good luck with your brain sleep and getting that third win.

16 TWILIGHT
(ultimate excitement) The answer is: Goodnight and YES!!!!

With that, Twilight excitedly gallops away to bed, leaving Spike as confused as ever.

17 SPIKE
Thattttt wasn't a question.

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY**

Twilight and Spike happily walk down the street.

18 TWILIGHT
I'm glad you decided to come watch
your first Trivia Trot, Spike! I
hope the rules aren't too
confusing.

19 SPIKE
Rules? Isn't trivia just asking
questions and answering them?

20 TWILIGHT
(laughs) The Trot is a little more
involved than that. Let's start
with the first category of rules:
Categories! Rule 1: Each category
must be categorically designated
and thoroughly researched in all
categorical...

As Spike's eyes start to glaze over we...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE CAFE - LATER

Twilight and Spike approach the cafe. Spike looks exhausted
and dizzy as Twilight continues going through the rules!

21 TWILIGHT
...of any and each team
participating in Trivia Trot. And
that wraps up rule 41.6! Of course
the exception to that, 41.6a, is
interesting itself because--

22 SPIKE
(desperately interrupting)
--Oh look we're here!

Twilight excitedly stamps all four hooves.

23 TWILIGHT
Oooh! I can't wait to see who my
partner is going to be!

24 SPIKE
You don't get to pick your own
team?

25 TWILIGHT
Rule 20.16b Spike! To keep things
fair, the teams are randomly
selected!

26 SPIKE
20.16b. How could I forget?

Twilight magics up a what seems like a normal sized scroll
from her pack.

27 TWILIGHT
And based on the regular attendees,
I've charted every potential
teammate's strengths and
weaknesses, plus my percentage of
winning with each one!

28 SPIKE
Ha! I knew there'd be a chart! (off
her look) Glad I'm just watching. I
don't think I could handle being
your teammate. What if I let you
down?

As Spike curiously reaches for the paper, Twilight puts it
away and LAUGHS.

29 TWILIGHT
You could never let me down, Spike.
But I'm glad you're watching too.
I'm going to need all the support I
can get for win number three!

Twilight heads inside and Spike shrugs, following.

CUT TO:

SC. 4 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Twilight and Spike enter to find the place is already packed!
As Twilight looks around, eyeing her opponents, APPLEJACK
walks up.

30 APPLEJACK
Well, well, well, if it ain't our
reigning champ. Think you can win
again this week, Twilight?

31 TWILIGHT
Everypony here has a different area
of expertise, so it really is
anypony's game. (then, quickly)
But, yes.

Twilight fills out a slip of paper and confidently drops it
in a bowl filled with similar slips, then turns to see
RAINBOW DASH.

32 RAINBOW DASH
Then you better hope you get paired
with me, because I am gonna rule
this game!

33 SUNBURST (O.S.)
We'll just see about that. I didn't
come all the way from the Crystal
Empire to lose.

They all turn to see SUNBURST who also drops his name in.

34 SUNBURST (CONT'D)
(to Dash)
And I hope you realize I have the
highest percentage of correct
answers, and I aim to keep it that
way!

35 RAINBOW DASH
I hope you realize not every
category is gonna be Spells So Old
Not Even Starswirl the Bearded
Remembers Them.

36 FLUTTERSHY (O.S.)
I hope there's one on fur
maintenance for adorable creatures.
Because I've been brushing up.

FLUTTERSHY walks up pulling a brush through Angel's fur.
Angel just shakes his head, embarrassed.

37 MUDBRIAR (O.S.)
Technically, that was a category
last week.

38 MAUD (O.S.)
It won't be in the game tonight.

They all look over to see Maud and Mudbriar, standing side by
side like the twins from The Shining. Twilight nods,
agreeing.

39 TWILIGHT
Rule 37.2c - no back to back
categories-- (to Mudbriar) But I
think Fluttershy was joking.

40 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Sure sounded like a joke to me!

Twilight spins around just as PINKIE PIE bounces in and drops
her name in the bowl!

41 TWILIGHT
Pinkie Pie?

42 PINKIE PIE
Present!

With that, Pinkie hops off. Suddenly concerned, Twilight
steps toward a corner.

SC. 5 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - CORNER - CONTINUOUS

Twilight magics out her chart and unrolls it. It unravels
down onto the floor, past Spike who jumps over it, and out
the cafe door.

Twilight frantically scans through her endless list, MUMBLING
to herself as Spike leans over.

43 SPIKE
What's wrong, Twilight?

44 TWILIGHT
I hadn't anticipated Pinkie Pie as
a potential player! She's never
played before! My chart is
completely off! I have no way to
predict what will happen and
unpredictable is not good for a
Trivia Trot Three-peat!

45 SPIKE
Do I have to do that thing where I
list all your success as Princess
of Friendship to put things into
perspective and remind you this is
just a game?

Spike puts a claw on Twilight's shoulder, pretty sure she'll
think he's right. But then...

46 TWILIGHT
(are you crazy?!) Spike!! This has
nothing to do with being Princess
of Friendship! And this is not just
a game! This. Is. TRIVIA. TROT!!!

Spike barely has a chance to recoil when a *TAP TAP* comes from
the front of the room as GRANNY SMITH raps her hoof on a
podium with the bowl full of names!

47 GRANNY SMITH
Okay, settle down everypony. I'm
fixin' to pick these here teams!

Everypony CHEERS, stomping their hooves! Twilight shuffles
through her scroll.

48 TWILIGHT
<GASP> It's starting! But I have to
reevaluate my chart. Spike, I need
to find the part on match ups. Can
you look outside?

Spike nods and follows the scroll outside, as everypony else
crowds around Granny.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 6 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - A SHORT TIME LATER

Spike returns with a section of scroll. He looks up at an
ever more harried Twilight than before. She takes the section
of scroll and looks over it.

49 SPIKE
What'd I miss?

50 TWILIGHT
Granny's about to call out the
fifth team! (referencing her list)
Sunburst gave me the highest chance
of winning, but he's been paired
with Cranky Doodle...

Spike looks over at Sunburst and CRANKY sitting at a table
together. Cranky's eyes start to glaze over. Sunburst gives
him a nudge and he bolts upright.

51 CRANKY DOODLE
Who-- Whazzit-- WHAT?!

Back with Twilight--

52 TWILIGHT
At least Rainbow Dash and Applejack aren't together. Team AppleDash is basically unstoppable.

Spike looks at Applejack sitting with DR. HOOVES and Rainbow Dash with MATILDA. Applejack and Dash stare daggers at each other.

Back with Twilight checking her notes.

53 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
And apart they'll spend all their energy trying to one up each other, so that only helps my chances.

At the next table over, Fluttershy sits with BULK BICEPS.

54 BULK BICEPS
LET'S DO THIS! YEAAAHHHHH!

Angel bunny jumps off the table, annoyed, then jumps back on wearing earmuffs.

On Twilight:

55 TWILIGHT
And not every team is a threat, but there aren't many ponies left--

Twilight and Spike look toward Granny who pulls two names out of the bowl.

56 GRANNY SMITH
Alrighty, hold on to yer horse shoes cause the next pair of players is... Maud and Mudbriar!

GROANS and DISBELIEF from everypony. Spike looks around confused.

57 SPIKE
What's wrong?

58 TWILIGHT
Maud and Mudbriar have been paired together every week. (checking her list) It's a statistical impossibility! Which would be fine, if they weren't so good!

Determined, Twilight dives into her chart, making adjustments so fast and furious the quill starts to SMOKE! Spike worriedly wafts the smoke away.

Realizing something, Twilight GASPS and comes up for air.

59 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Oh no! According to my
calculations, the only pony who
could really threaten my winning
streak is...

60 SPIKE
Who? Who is it!?

Twilight looks up without answering as Granny reaches into her bowl and pulls out two more names.

61 GRANNY SMITH
And our final pair of contestants
for this week's Trivia Trot is...
Twilight and Pinkie Pie!

Twilight drops her chart and her jaw in disbelief as Pinkie bounces and SQUEES with excitement as she waves from across the room.

62 PINKIE PIE
Twilight it's you and me! Isn't
that great!

63 TWILIGHT
(forced smile) Yeah. Greeeeaaat.

Off Twilight's disheartened expression we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 7 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - RESUME

Spike looks on as Pinkie hops her way through the crowd toward Twilight.

64 SPIKE
So, I'm guessing the one pony who
could mess up your winning streak
is Pinkie.

Twilight gives a slight nod to Spike before Pinkie bounces right in front of her face. Still in shock, Twilight's eyes follow each bounce.

65 PINKIE PIE
Twilight! I can't believe we're
partners! For a game! I LOVE games!
(MORE)

PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)

And I'm super duper excited for this game because it'll be my first time ever playing it and I get to play it with you which makes it even funner!

Pinkie ZIPS off screen and ZIPS back with matching BALLOONS for each of them.

66 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Twilight and Pinkie foreveerrr! Oh!
We can be team Twinkie! Or... Team
Pinklight! Sparkle Pie! NO...
(gasps, eyes widen) TWIPIE!

Twilight rolls up her chart and tucks it away. She does her best to smile.

67 TWILIGHT
Pinkie... I'm glad you're excited,
but tonight's game is special. I
could be the first pony ever to win
three consecutive Trots in a row
and I'm really hoping I do!

68 PINKIE PIE
Twilight, you don't have anything
to worry about. I'll do everything
I can to be the bestest and most
funnest teammate ever!

With that, Pinkie rushes over to their table and proceeds to RING their answer bell repeatedly.

Twilight takes a deep breath as Spike sidles up to her.

69 SPIKE
So... still think you can win?

70 TWILIGHT
I know I can. Pinkie might not be
the partner I expected, but I can
coach her along. And besides, I'm
pretty good at this game. If she
misses a few, I'm sure I can pick
up the slack.

They look over to see Pinkie is still RINGING the bell.

71 PINKIE PIE
LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!!!

SC. 8 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - MOMENTS LATER

The cafe has been rearranged to start the game. The players' tables sit in a semi-circle, each with flippable score cards and a bell. All eyes are on Granny Smith who stands at the podium facing them, a stack of notecards at her side.

Pinkie fiddles with the score cards, then the bell, then her chair as Twilight tries not to let any of it distract her.

72 GRANNY SMITH
Now first order of business is we need somepony to keep score.

Spike jumps up.

73 SPIKE
I'll do it!

74 APPLEJACK
(laughs) I'm not sure you wanna take that job, Spike. The scorekeepin' can get a might intense.

Sunburst leans over.

75 SUNBURST
Yeah, Starlight used to do it, but now... (ominous) Well, I can't even say the word trivia around her.

Granny grabs Spike's claw and pulls him toward the front.

76 GRANNY SMITH
Aw, applemash! Don't let them scare ya. You'll be fine! (slapping the podium) Now let the game begin!

The contestants CHEER, then immediately begin eyeing each other warily. Rainbow Dash and Applejack exchange looks.

76A RAINBOW DASH
Get ready to be squished!

76B APPLEJACK
Get ready to be squashed!

76C RAINBOW DASH
Hey don't copy me!

76D APPLEJACK
Hey don't copy me!

Granny reaches over to her stack of cards and picks one.

77 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
The first category is "Literary Figures!"

Everypony GROANS except Twilight, who claps her hooves.

78 TWILIGHT
Oooh! A category about books! We
are off to a good start.

79 GRANNY SMITH
<AHM> (then reads) Who's the pony
that despises the holiday season in
the old classic, "A Hearth's
Warming Tale?"

Twilight reaches for the bell, but Pinkie Pie is already
furiously RINGING in. She jumps onto the table, flings her
arms wide, and shouts:

80 PINKIE PIE
The answer is NOPONY because
everypony ends up loving the
holiday with singing, festive
cakes, and thoughtful presents!

SILENCE. Actual CRICKETS CHIRP as everyone looks at Pinkie.

81 GRANNY SMITH
Well, much as that ain't exactly
wrong, it ain't right neither.

With a deflated, embarrassed CHUCKLE, Pinkie climbs back down
into her seat, as Spike walks up, flips their card to show
one TALLY MARK, thinks, then draws a minus sign in front of
it. Twilight frowns at him.

82 SPIKE
Just doing my job, Twilight.

Twilight SIGHS and Pinkie notices she's upset.

83 PINKIE PIE
Sorry. I didn't know we could have
negative points.

84 TWILIGHT
It's fine, Pinkie... But maybe
it'll help our chances if I coach
you as we go. Tip one... try
sitting still.

Pinkie sits ram-rod straight and salutes.

85 PINKIE PIE
(confident) Can do, Coach Twi--

86 TWILIGHT
 (interrupting) And don't get
 distracted, or be distracting. Oh!
 And remember to listen carefully!
 Also it's best to keep quiet in
 between questions.

Pinkie's posture slumps.

87 PINKIE PIE
 (less confident) Gottttt itttttt.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 9 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - LATER ON

Twilight and Pinkie now have TWO TALLY MARKS on their score card (no minus sign). Twilight tries desperately to focus on Granny while Pinkie does her best to sit still.

87A PINKIE PIE
 Sitting still, sitting still,
 sitting still, sitting
 still...

87B GRANNY SMITH
 Which topographical local
 used to be a cavern but after
 thousands of years of
 erosion, is now a gorge?

Over Granny asking the question, Twilight finds herself unable to focus and turns to Pinkie, startling her.

88 TWILIGHT
 Pinkie!

89 PINKIE PIE
 WHAAAAAAGHT!

Maud immediately RINGS in.

90 MAUD
 The answer is The Ghastly Gorge.

91 GRANNY SMITH
 That is 100% corr-ect!

Spike toddles over to Maud and Mudbriar and flips their score card. They now have SEVEN TALLY MARKS. Twilight drops her head onto the table as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 10 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - LATER STILL

Twilight sweats, looking around the room. Every scorecard has more tally marks than hers. Pinkie sits stone still, her eyes darting left to right. Granny picks another card.

92 GRANNY SMITH
The next category is... APPLES!

93 RAINBOW DASH
RIGGED!

94 APPLEJACK
I didn't hear you complain when the category was Wonderbolt History.

95 RAINBOW DASH
That's totally different!

On Twilight and Pinkie:

96 TWILIGHT
Okay Pinkie, remember the category is apples. Keep your mind on apples.

97 PINKIE PIE
Apples. Apples! Oohh, and oranges. And grapes! And strawberries! ...Strawberry cupcakes! I'm hungry.

As Pinkie veers off course, Twilight face-hooves just as Granny starts to read the next card.

98 GRANNY SMITH
Which variety of apple only blooms for five days?

Applejack smiles and reaches forward to ring in, just as Rainbow Dash leans over.

99 RAINBOW DASH
(cough-talking) Don't choke!

100 APPLEJACK
(dismissive) Now why would I choke on a question about apples?

AJ turns back confidently, ready to ring in, then stops as her face goes blank.

101 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(timidly to Granny) Uh... What was the question?

Granny shakes her head in disappointment at Applejack, then looks out and realizes EVERYPONY IS STUMPED--

--all except Twilight who's about to ring, but then looks to Pinkie who's trying hard to follow her sitting still tip. Twilight decides to give her a chance.

102 TWILIGHT
Come on, Pinkie! You know this one.
Mysterious apples... Only around
for five days...

Suddenly, Pinkie's eyes light up. She knows it! But just as she goes to ring in, her tummy RUMBLES. She looks down at it.

103 PINKIE PIE
Quiet down there. I'm pretty sure
there's a rule against tummies
ringing in.

In the time it takes Pinkie to address her tummy, Fluttershy rings in with a <DING>.

104 FLUTTERSHY
I'm just guessing, but is it Zap
Apples?

Granny turns a stern, squinty gaze at Applejack who hides under her hat.

105 GRANNY SMITH
Finally! Yes, Fluttershy, it is. At
least somepony, here knows her
apples!

Spike adds a point to Fluttershy and Bulk Biceps' score.

106 BULK BICEPS
YEAAAAH!

Twilight bites her tongue and Pinkie gives her a weak smile as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 11 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - EVEN LATER

Spike walks around the game circle calling out:

107 SPIKE
(announcing) One minute left in the
refreshment slash bathroom break!

Suddenly, Spike is yanked aside by Twilight!

108 TWILIGHT
(panicky) Spike! I don't think I can coach Pinkie well enough for us to get my three-peat. I don't want her to feel bad, she's trying so hard, but I might have to start answering everything myself.

PAN OVER to reveal Pinkie walking with an armful of food.

109 PINKIE PIE
Look Twilight! No more belly growl interruptions for team TwiPie!

As Pinkie tries to keep it all balanced while walking back to the table, Spike continues his conversation with Twilight.

110 SPIKE
Maybe instead of focusing on Pinkie you should just focus on how you're playing.

Off this, Twilight gets an idea.

111 TWILIGHT
Or... I should look at how everypony else is playing...

Twilight turns to scan the room, while Granny RAPS HER HOOF on the podium three times.

112 GRANNY SMITH
Hope yer all in yer seats 'cause the break is over and it's time for more questions! (pulls out next card) Let's see, hmmm. How do you say 'reward' in Old Ponish?

Twilight rushes back to her table, but Sunburst rings in, before she's even close. Twilight looks over and sees something she likes: Cranky Doodle, passed out on the table SNORING!

113 SUNBURST
"Reward" in Old Ponish is 'hlight'.

114 GRANNY SMITH
Corr--

115 TWILIGHT
(interrupting) SLEEPING!

Everypony looks to Twilight, confused. Twilight CLEARS HER THROAT.

116 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Sunburst's partner is sleeping and according to rule 57.6 sleeping at the table is subject to disqualification!

Flipping through a book, Granny finds what she's looking for.

117 GRANNY SMITH
Well lookie here. That's an actual rule! Cranky is disqualified. Sorry Sunburst, without a teammate you can't play neither.

118 SUNBURST
Fine. But I'm counting that as a correct answer!

Sunburst gets up in a huff and drags the still sleeping Cranky into the gallery of spectators. Twilight looks back at the rest of the field-- wheels turning. She turns to Pinkie, with a slight eye twitch.

119 TWILIGHT
Don't worry, Pinkie. We're not out of this game yet!

SC. 12 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - MONTAGE

In a quick series of shots, we watch as Twilight calls out the other competitors for various infractions:

--ON FLUTTERSHY AND BULK who huddle with Angel, then RING in.

120 FLUTTERSHY
Is the answer carrots?

Twilight stands, pointing an accusatory hoof.

121 TWILIGHT
Rule 13.2! No help from pets!

Spike looks at them and shrugs as he takes away a point.

--ON RAINBOW DASH AND APPLEJACK glaring across their tables at each other. Dash sticks her tongue out at Applejack. Then Applejack sticks her tongue out longer at Dash!

Twilight stands and points.

122 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Rule 72.8. No sticking tongues out at opponents!

Tongues still out, both AJ and Dash look to Twilight in shock as Spike shakes his head and takes a point away from each.

--ON MAUD AND MUDBRIAR who stare off, expressionless. Twilight points at them.

123 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Motion to establish new rule: No
expressionless contestants!

As Granny confusedly shakes her head "no", Twilight grits her teeth and sits back down.

124 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Fine.

Pinkie and Spike share a look of concern as we... END
MONTAGE.

SC. 13 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - RESUME

Twilight looks out at the field of players like a pony possessed. Her score is more competitive now, though you wouldn't know it from her intense stare as Granny pulls out another card.

125 GRANNY SMITH
The next category is, cupcakes!

Pinkie's eyes light up!

126 PINKIE PIE
Twilight?! I know all about those!
You have to let me help!

Twilight turns, CRAZED, eye twitching.

127 TWILIGHT
(over the top) Sssuuurrrreee!!!
Just when we're finally back in the
game! (manic laughter) Why, that
sounds perfect, Pinkie, but--

Thinking fast, Twilight looks towards the window, pointing.

128 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
(gasps, acting) --isn't that a
Confetti Appreciation Parade I
see?!

129 PINKIE PIE
WHERE?!!

Pinkie ZOOMS to the window, looking out in every direction as Granny reads the next question.

130 GRANNY SMITH
What flavor cupcakes did Princess Celestia order for Princess Luna's surprise birthday party last year?

131 PINKIE PIE
(pulling her head back in) Wait.
What?

Pinkie ZOOMS back to her seat, but Twilight is already RINGING in.

132 TWILIGHT
Double midnight chocolate fudge
with chili pepper frosting!

133 GRANNY SMITH
Corr-ect!

134 PINKIE PIE
Hey, I knew that! I made those
cupcakes!

135 TWILIGHT
Sorry, Pinkie, but you were looking
at the parade and I didn't want our
team to miss the point.

136 PINKIE PIE
I guess that makes sense. But...

Pinkie rushes back to the window, smushing her face against the glass.

137 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Which way'd that Confetti Parade
go, anyway?

As Spike adds points to her score, Twilight smiles, slyly eyeing Pinkie at the window...

GAME MONTAGE

QUICK CUTS as we stay on Twilight and Pinkie's table.

--Twilight and Pinkie gear up to answer a question. Pinkie goes to ring in, but Twilight magics the bell an inch closer to herself and RINGS in first!

--Another question, as Pinkie puts her hoof down to see the bell isn't even there. It's on the other side of the table where Twilight RINGS in.

--This time it really looks like Pinkie's gonna get it, but when she slaps down on the bell we see it's not a bell at all, it's a cupcake. Pan over to reveal Twilight holding the bell which she RINGS.

--Pinkie just watches as Twilight obsessively RINGS the bell over and over, looking even more crazed than before - her answers growing louder and louder...

138 TWILIGHT
(RINGS) 1547 Pony B.E. (RINGS)
Chancellor Puddinghead! (RINGS)
Vanhoover (RINGS) Cutie Pox!
(RINGS) BANANAS!

Through it all, Spike struggles to keep up, sweating as he adds more and more points to Twilight's score.

END MONTAGE

SC. 14 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - RESUMING

Pinkie stares at their score, tied with Maud and Mudbriar, then looks to Twilight, a panting, mane frazzled mess.

139 PINKIE PIE
Wow, Twilight. You really might win
this thing!

Twilight side-eyes her as Granny picks up another card.

140 GRANNY SMITH
The category is: Sticks and Stones!

Maud and Mudbriar share a knowing glance and Twilight starts to hyperventilate.

141 TWILIGHT
(freaking out) I don't know
anything about those! That's not
any kind of category!?

142 MUDBRIAR
Technically, it's a kind of
category where we know the answers
and you don't.

Pinkie hands Twilight a paper bag to breathe in.

Everypony stares at Pinkie in shock.

151 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
What?

152 GRANNY SMITH
You can't go and ask another player
about rocks when that's the
category. It's in the rulebook--
somewheres. Sorry, Pinkie, but
you're disqualified.

153 PINKIE PIE
WHAT!? I'm disqualified? From a
GAME?!

Off of Pinkie's UTTER SHOCK as we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 15 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - RESUME

Pinkie stares, stunned and distraught. Twilight looks on
still in a state.

154 PINKIE PIE
I can't believe I'm disqualified.

155 TWILIGHT
(nervous laugh) I'm sorry Pinkie. I
guess I forgot about that rule.

156 PINKIE PIE
(realizing) Oh, no! If I'm out you
don't have a partner! You won't be
able to get your third win!

157 TWILIGHT
Actually, since there's another
player who also had his teammate
disqualified...

Sunburst ZIPS over to the table, instantly sitting beside
Twilight.

158 SUNBURST
Rule 19.7b. Players whose teammates
were disqualified may form a new
team.

Pinkie stares at Twilight and Sunburst, who are clearly
excited to be playing together.

159 PINKIE PIE
Oh. Okay. (then) I'll just cheer
you on from... over there.

As Pinkie heads to the gallery, Spike walks up to her.

160 SPIKE
I'm sorry, Pinkie. It's not your
fault; Trivia Trot has a lot of
rules... Are you okay?

161 PINKIE PIE
(hiding sadness) Oh, sure. I know
how important winning this is to
Twilight. So... Go team Twipie!
(correcting herself) Or, err, Twi-
burst! (feeble) Yaaaay!

Off Pinkie forcing a big, supportive smile...

SC. 16 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight and Sunburst sit up straight, confidently facing
front as Granny reads from the next card.

162 GRANNY SMITH
The next category is: Ancient
Legends!

Twilight is ecstatic! Giddily, she leans to Sunburst.

163 TWILIGHT
Oh, we are going to crush this
round!

164 SUNBURST
(unsure) I don't know, Twilight.
You seem out of the zone today. But
don't worry. I can pick up the
slack.

165 TWILIGHT
WHAT? I am the reigning Trot champ.
If there's any slack that needs
picking, I'll be doing the up--
Wait. I mean...

166 SUNBURST
I'm just saying. You seem a little
frazzled and I do have a correct
answer percentage to maintain.

Suddenly self-conscious, Twilight tries to smooth her frizzed
out mane as Granny dives into the next question.

167 GRANNY SMITH
Who traveled to Equestria from a
distant land seeking to steal the
magic from its pony inhabitants?

Twilight reflexively RINGS IN. Giving Sunburst a "told you
so" look as she answers.

168 TWILIGHT
(supremely confident) That would be
Lord Tirek.

Silence. Twilight turns to Granny who slowly shakes her head
as Mudbriar RINGS in.

169 MUDBRIAR
Technically, that answer is
incomplete. The answer is Lord
Tirek and Scorpan.

Spike walks over and adds a point to Maud and Mudbriar's
score then, hesitantly takes one away from Twilight and
Sunburst.

170 TWILIGHT
(nervous fumfering) PFFT! But
Scorpan tried to convince Tirek not
to do it! So, technically, he
wasn't a part of it, even if he
started out... Ugh. Nevermind.

Twilight trails off and looks over to see Sunburst staring at
her coolly. He pulls the bell a bit closer to himself.

IN A QUICK SERIES OF SHOTS:

--Twilight moves to ring in but the bell is gone. We hear the
RING as Twilight looks up to see Sunburst is levitating the
bell over her head.

--Twilight reaches for the bell, but Sunburst uses his tail
to tap her on the shoulder. She turns, distracted, just as
Sunburst RINGS in.

--Twilight finally beats Sunburst to the punch but when she
slams her hoof down there's no RING sound, just a muffled
CLICK. PULL WIDE to reveal Sunburst's hat sits on top of the
bell. He lifts it off and RINGS in.

Off Twilight staring at him, gritting her teeth we... END
MONTAGE.

SC. 17 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - RESUME

Twilight looks around the room. All of the teams are close, but she and Sunburst are tied with Maud and Mudbriar for first. She turns to Sunburst.

171 TWILIGHT
Look, Sunburst, I realize I may
have been a little off earlier, but
I'm really good at this game.

Clearly not listening, Sunburst gets his hoof ready to ring in. Frustrated, Twilight grabs the bell away just as Granny reads the question.

172 GRANNY SMITH
How many holes are there in Daring
Do's hat!

Rainbow Dash insta-RINGS in!

173 RAINBOW DASH
Twenty! (to Sunburst) HA!

174 GRANNY SMITH
Corr-ect!

Sunburst looks up at Twilight, livid.

175 SUNBURST
Twilight! I knew that one! You just
cost us a point and the correct
answer I needed to boost my
percentage!

176 TWILIGHT
Well, I knew it too. You're not the
only pony to ever read a book, you
know.

Suddenly, an idea pops into Sunburst's mind and he puts on a smile.

177 SUNBURST
You're right Twilight. I'm sorry,
but now that I think about it, I'm
not so sure about Dash's answer.
Could you do a quick fact check?

178 TWILIGHT
Oh, I know it's twenty! But if you
want proof--

With that, Twilight rushes over to a bookshelf, pulls out a book, and comes back. Just as she's about to open it on the table, she stops herself, putting it together.

179 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Wait. According to rule 18.3 I can't check outside reference material. (with a shocked look to Sunburst) Are you trying to get me disqualified?! What kind of pony would do that to their own teammate?!

Twilight's shocked gaze shifts past Sunburst to Pinkie behind him in the gallery and her expression drops as she realizes.

180 SUNBURST
(caught, embarrassed) You're right Twilight! I don't know what got into me! I was so focused on my correct answers, I wasn't thinking straight. Can you forgive me?

Twilight drops her head, embarrassed, herself.

181 TWILIGHT
It's okay, Sunburst. I understand. And I have a teammate of my own to apologize to. Lucky for you Cranky's awake and according to rule 57.6b...

Sunburst smiles at Twilight, thankful for her graciousness.

182 SUNBURST
...players previously disqualified for sleeping may rejoin the game, provided they are well rested.

On Cranky, looking around, confused.

183 CRANKY DOODLE
Where am I? What time is it? Where are my morning hay cakes?

As Sunburst ushers Cranky back to his table, Twilight <SIGHS> and heads over toward Pinkie.

SC. 18 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

Twilight walks up to Pinkie who's still looking out at the other players.

184 TWILIGHT
Pinkie, you were the best teammate
I could ask for, but I let wanting
to win keep me from seeing that.

185 PINKIE PIE
Pfft'. I knew you wanted to win,
but I probably could have helped a
little. And even if I couldn't--

186 TWILIGHT
--we still could have had fun. I am
so sorry for not realizing it. I
got so obsessed with one thing, I
forgot what really mattered.

187 PINKIE PIE
(sarcastic) What!? That doesn't
sound like you at all!

Twilight gives her a sheepish grin.

188 TWILIGHT
Well, win or lose, nothing is more
important than my friend.. or my
team. TwiPie forever?

Twilight holds out her hoof. Pinkie looks down at it and
screws up her face.

189 PINKIE PIE
I don't know...

190 TWILIGHT
(sad) I understand. I guess even
the Princess of Friendship can mess
things up with her friends.

191 PINKIE PIE
Oh, it's not that.

Pinkie pulls a SHEET CAKE out from under her chair.
Twilight's face is drawn in frosting on one half. On the
other half Pinkie's face has been replaced with a hastily
drawn depiction of Sunburst.

192 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
It's just that I already changed it
to Team TwiBurst, and now I guess I
should change it to SunDoodle?

Twilight looks down at the cake and smiles.

193 TWILIGHT
Actually, I have a better idea.

Off Pinkie's intrigued expression...

SC. 19 - INT. PONYVILLE CAFE - GAME CIRCLE - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight and Pinkie sit back at a table with the other players.

194 TWILIGHT
According to rule 13.2, players can join the game at any time, provided they start from zero.

195 PINKIE PIE
Wow. These rules are really convoluted. But doesn't starting from zero mean we'll lose?

196 TWILIGHT
Well our chances aren't good, but the odds of having fun on team TwiPie are 100%!

Twilight and Pinkie smile as the other players lean in, listening intently as Granny asks the next question.

197 GRANNY SMITH
What's the name of the Ponyville Day Spa's most popular candle?

Pinkie and Twilight immediately RING in together!!

197A PINKIE PIE
Candle-licious Melty Wax!

197B TWILIGHT
Competitive Library Musk!

Everypony just stares at them, confused.

198 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
Um... no.

Pinkie and Twilight exchange smiles, then LAUGH and high hoof as we FREEZE FRAME and...

FADE OUT

END