## Three Favorites

Some of my favorite foods include pizza, pasta, and panettone. They immediately remind me of my recent vacation in Italy. Italy is known for its culinary expertise and each food has a tradition surrounding it. These world-renowned dishes can be found all over the globe. I had a fabulous experience with these foods. Each one I sampled many times while traveling around this European country.

Unquestionably, Pizza is my favorite Italian dish. Pizza is a light, flat dough that is usually shaped in a circle. There are many different kinds of this unique flat bread. Also, there are different styles of pizza, deep dish, pie style, flat beard etc. A traditional, and my favorite kind, is covered in thick, tasty, tomato sauce, sprinkled with a light amount of white mozzarella cheese, and finally topped with fresh savory basil. This is the traditional Pizza Margherita; it was made with the thought of the Italian flag: red, white, and green. Pizza started out as a Greek flat bread. It was a peasant food. Usually just flat bread but sometimes topped with vegetables or anything that was on hand:

Adding to my list of favorites is pasta. Pasta comes in all different shapes and sizes. Over hundred the mode of pasta exist in the world. It is made out of a heavy clump of semolina wheat dough that them is pressed through a mold and left to dry. I think pasta tastes the best when boiled in a salt brine and then topped with a delicious tomato sauce and a little bit of when boiled in a salt brine and then topped with a delicious tomato sauce and a little bit of basil. I enjoy eating it on cold evenings when I can see the steam delightfully rising from the pasta.

Last, but not least is panettone. Panettone is my favorite Italian desert. This traditional Italian Christmas cake originated in Milan. Its soft buttery texture is beyond description. Baked in a paper cup just like a giant muffin, the chunks of candied orange peel and raisins are

wrapped up in a flaky crust like a gift at Christmas that evenly melts in my mouth. All of that is placed into a cute box that can be purchased at any Italian deli store.

Without a doubt, my holiday in Italy gave me a completely new experience with these appetizing foods. I obtained a true appreciation for how the dishes were made. They have a lot of variety in Italy. Never again did I look at Italian food the same way after we got back from Italy. Whenever I see Italian food, namely, pizza, pasta, and panettone, it instantly reminds me

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## Laziness has its Reward

Laying on the beach with not a care in the world a male harbor seal yawned lazily. He had no intentions of doing anything at that time Nice warm rocks, a beach that was sheltered from predators and wind, he was in the perfect location. The big lazy seal took the food from the other seals and thus didn't need to go into the water to get his own, even though there was lots of food just off his rock down in the water.

While the seal enjoyed his sunbath on the warm rocks, the pod of Harbor seals began, one by one, to slip into the water and come out again with something to eat. The male seal was weak because of not eating enough, but still he didn't move on the rocks, totally unaware of the water spouts shooting into the air some ways off shore.

Finally, hunger overtook the desire to be lazy. The starving seal slipped into the water, and dove down along the underwater cliff. Soon he discovered clams, but they were too hard to open. Next, he found an octopus and he munched on it. Just at that moment he saw, out of the corner of his eye, a large shadow pass by. Quickly he slipped out of the water back to safety on the shore.

A little while later, driven by hunger again, he sliped back into the water. There on the underwater cliff he discovered a sea urchin in a crack spacious enough for him to fit in. He could just fit into the crack. He worked hard at getting the urchin loose. Finally, he started back admiring his bounty as he swam. Unnoticed, the killer whale followed in close pursuit. Still the seal did not notice the orca behind him.

Just then, the killer whale struck and caught the seals tail flipper. Startled, the seal, with the last bit of adrenalin, shot back to the crack. There he waited, heart pounding. When the

(good!)

## Narrow Escape

The blazing sun shone down on several Thomson gazelles grazing on the plains. One of the young gazelles started to drift off the path to munch on the grass where the others had walked through. He started in the direction of the high weeds but quickly scooted away because the scent of a larger territorial male freighted him.

Paying attention was not the Tommie's first priority. There were some slight movements in the grass. So minute were the movements that even if the young gazelle was paying attention, he probably wouldn't have seen it. All of a sudden, the cheetah lunged out of the thick vegetation at his meal. The gazelles started to stott, springing straight up into the air to show how big and fearless they are. But the tommy didn't. He just fled.

In a split second the cheetah knew which tommy was going to be his lunch. The smaller they are the easier they are to catch. The young gazelle took a few steps forward. Just before the beast landed on him, he bolted away. The cheetah missed but kept up the chase.

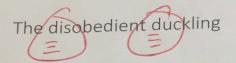
Soon the cheetah ran out of stamina, and the tommy started to lengthen the distance between life and death. But not too soon did he land on the ground because of a ball of grass. The cheetah instantly noticed that this was his only chance to catch his prey. Before the tommy could orientate himself, the cheetah was upon him. Just as the cheetah's canine teeth were about to contact with the gazelle's neck, the tommy exerted that last bit of energy he had and bounded away. The exhausted cheetah did not follow.

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Once upon a time there was a family of ducks. The youngest duckling was very bored of doing nothing. His parents would not allow him to leave the area because it was too dangerous. The young duckling that knew little of the outside world thought it would be okay to go down to the swamp for a little swim. He snuck out that afternoon, and started for the swamp.

(dbladj.)

After a long walk, the duckling made it to the swamp. He wobbled down to the stagnant lifeless water.

the foolish duckling dove in, not caring about the dangers that lurked below the surface. He happily played in the water and searched for bugs. The duckling was so busy, that he didn't notice the slow deadly ripples stalking him.

An alligator was ready for his lunch, and a helpless duckling couldn't be any easier. Right when the predator was close enough, he struck. He quickly snapped for the ducklings unprotected legs. The alligator jerked him under, like a bobber being pulled by a fish. The alligator lost his grip, and the bird lunged for freedom.

The terrified bird dove out of the water. In his attempt to fly, he quickly learned that his wings were not strong enough. He swiftly fell back into the water. The predator want hard this time. The scared duck had to weave and dodge ever attack. After a long battle the alligator finally gave up, because the duckling made it to shore and out of site. The little bird started his long walk home.

He followed his old trail to find his way back home. When he got home he learned that from disobeying he broke his leg and lost a lot of feathers. The little duckling learned to always obey.

L'Triff!

Father of Peace

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Abraham Lincoln was born a poor farm boy, yet somehow he completely preserved the union during the civil war, signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and delivered the amazing Gettysburg Address. Hismoniker was Honest Abe. Even though he was known as a peacemaker he was often at odds with the constitution. Democrats thought Lincoln a terrible tyrant for what he did. Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president. He served from 1861 to 1865 when he was sadly assassinated by confederate sympathizer, John Wilkes Booth. He also did a job that no man on earth wanted to do. He was president during the Civil War and he won. Additionally, he preserved the union.

Honorable Abe once said, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the ax." This proves that Honest Abe did hard work, but he was just smart about it. The Emancipation Proclamation, is the thing Abraham Lincoln interestingly believed to be his greatest achievement. Abe actually made two proclamations The first states, if the people in the south didn't release their slaves he would sign the second which would free all slaves in the south.

"Whatever you are be a good one." This is one of the numerous amazing quotes Lincoln said during his presidency. Then there's the Gettysburg Address, known as Abe's most famous speech. Given in the middle of his presidency, it has been called monumental by many. In it he stated that they are dedicating land to the soldiers who died during the battle at Gettysburg, and he also said the words he spoke that day would not be heard by many and would not be remembered tomorrow, but he was very wrong. The speech was heard by myriads and believed by many to be Lincoln's best speech of his political career.

Do you agree that the Emancipation Proclamation was the biggest accomplishment of Lincoln's or that the Gettysburg Address was the best speech of his political career.

Great Quotes!

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