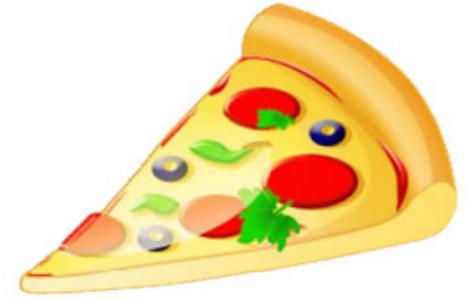


# What's on Your Pizza?

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Robbie needed something to eat. He was at the mall, looking hungrily at all the signs and different restaurants in the food court. He finally settled on the Italian Eatery, reluctantly moving away from the Sandwich Shoppe, and the Asian Buffet. The tempting smells of cheese and pepperoni led him to the pizza, but that just compounded the problems.



Once there, he had to decide on toppings. Behind the glass there were at least a dozen kinds of pizza, practically a rainbow of pizzas, each with unique toppings. What would he eat? He was so hungry, but the wrong slice wouldn't go down quite as nicely as the right slice!

He looked first at the cheese. Basic, trusty cheese sounded alright, but he could do better. How about pepperoni? It was nice, greasy, and a touch spicy. Still, he wanted something more, but what? He wanted to try something more exciting.

Next, as he moved down the case, he pressed his hands to the glass and peered at a colorful veggie pizza. The reds, greens, and yellows of the peppers and other vegetables looked delectable. It seemed lacking in the meat department, though. Similarly, the super salty and greasy meat lover's pie just had too much meat without clean, juicy vegetables to balance them out.

Then next two pizzas had different sauces, and he wasn't sure about them. He liked regular pizza sauce, and the alfredo chicken would be creamy instead. The BBQ feast had a sweet and tangy barbecue sauce instead of pizza sauce, so that was out, too. He moved on.

Now he was into some specialty pizzas. The first was a Hawaiian style. He liked the combination of sweet and salty that pineapple and ham offered. He was tempted to give that a go. Then there was a special cheese pizza that had seven different cheeses. He could smell it from where he stood, and it really got his saliva dripping.

The final two pizzas were the best, he thought. One was a Supreme Combo pizza, which had next to everything on it. He loved the meats, the cheeses, the veggies, and the pineapple, but he was worried it would be doughy. Sometimes, too many toppings kept the dough from cooking right. The last was a Classic Italiano pizza, with basil leaves, a pesto sauce, fresh mozzarella, and tomato slices. It was different, but interesting. He ordered up the plate-sized slice of that without any hesitation.

Back at his table, with a large Coke in one hand and his slice in the other, he went to town. He'd ordered right. He knew from the first bite that this was what he'd been waiting for. Still, window shopping is always fun, even if it's for pizza.