**Uncle Mark's Family Recipe**

**1** Lenore jumped off the school bus and hurried up the front sidewalk toward her house. Today was the day she and Uncle Mark would start planning next week’s big family dinner. Every June the De Luca family held a citywide reunion. It was the perfect start to summer break. Uncle Mark was the chief chef, whipping up all sorts of traditional Italian foods, especially his homemade ravioli. Ever since she had been a little girl, Lenore had been Uncle Mark’s main assistant. It was something she looked forward to every year.

**2** Lenore hurried through the front door and then stopped abruptly. Uncle Mark stood in the middle of the room, stuffing his favorite kitchen utensils into an already full suitcase. His hat lay on the couch, and his car keys were on the table.

**3** “Uncle Mark, where are you going?” Lenore asked in surprise.

**4** “Hello, Lenore. I have to go out of town for a few days. You remember my best friend, Freddie?” Lenore nodded. Freddie and Uncle Mark had been friends since they were little boys, growing up in Italy together. “He’s throwing a celebration for his parents’ 50th wedding anniversary; he asked me to cook a special meal for the party. Freddie’s parents taught me how to cook, and they consider me a part of the family.”

**5** Lenore’s heart fell. “But, Uncle Mark, it’s time to start planning and cooking for the family feast!” she cried.

**6** Uncle Mark shook his head as he shut and locked the suitcase. “I’m sorry I can’t help this year. This is a special occasion, but I’ll be back as soon as I can.” He kissed Lenore and her mother, who was watching the scene from the doorway. Then Uncle Mark rushed out the front door and disappeared.

**7** Lenore sank down onto the sofa. “What are we going to do, Mom? Uncle Mark’s the only one who knows the recipe for the ravioli filling. We’ll have to reschedule the reunion.”

**8**Mom shook her head. “I don’t think we can. Everyone is planning to come next week, and they can’t all change their plans at the last minute. We’ll go ahead and have the party anyway. You and I know how to cook, and we can ask everyone to bring a dish. It won’t be like the other parties, but at least we’ll be together.”

**9** Mom and Lenore created the menu and assigned various appetizers, entrees, and desserts to different family members. Lenore decided she would make the ravioli. She spent days searching the Internet for recipes and found a surplus of them. Her head was dizzy with the overload of information, but she finally found two that she could combine to make her own secret recipe.

**10** The following Saturday was a whirlwind of activity. Mom and Lenore spent hours cooking in the kitchen; the smell of simmering sauces and roasting meats filled the house. Finally it was time to make the ravioli.

**11** Lenore made the pasta dough by combining eggs, oil, water, and flour in a bowl. She then spread the dough over the kitchen table in a large lump. Clouds of flour flew around her hands as she worked to flatten the dough with a rolling pin. Next, Lenore sectioned the dough into precise squares using a pizza cutter.

**12** “I’m ready for the filling,” Lenore called. Dad carried a pot full of chopped meat and thick ricotta cheese. Working quickly, she placed a scoop of the mixture exactly in the middle of each square. When finished, she brushed the edges with water, folded the corners of each square, and pinched the edges to seal the meat and cheese inside. Mom slid the ravioli into a large pot of boiling water to cook for a few minutes. Lenore wiped her hand across her forehead, leaving a trail of flour and stuffing.

**13** “Great job!” Dad cheered.

**14** Soon all the ravioli was finished. “Dinner’s ready!” Dad announced. Everyone gathered around the table. Lenore and her family bustled around, serving, eating, and laughing. “Did Uncle Mark make the ravioli before he left?” asked one of Lenore’s cousins.

**15** “No, I made it,” Lenore said, beaming with pride.

**16** Suddenly she heard a familiar laugh. Uncle Mark was back! Lenore rushed to hug him. “I made it back in time,” Uncle Mark said. “I couldn’t wait to come home and see what my little chef put together.” Lenore quickly served a plate of ravioli and anxiously watched as Uncle Mark ate.

**17** “This is wonderful, Lenore,” Uncle Mark said. “You've been paying close attention over the years. Now I know the De Luca family tradition will live on!”

**Otto Lilienthal**

**1** “To invent an airplane is nothing. To build one is something. But to fly is everything.” These words were written in honor of Otto Lilienthal, a man credited with making major contributions to the field of aerodynamics, or the study of the way air moves around things. Otto Lilienthal invented and built many glider aircraft. He was also the first person to successfully fly in one of them. Before 1891 there had not been many attempts to develop machines of this kind. In fact, most people did not think that such machines were possible. But with determination and creativity, Lilienthal proved that human flight could be a reality. During his life, he completed more than 2,000 successful gliding flights. He also logged more than five hours of flying time. Lilienthal did what others thought was impossible, which made him an inspiration to future inventors.

**2** From a young age Lilienthal seemed destined to be a pioneer in human flight. Born May 23, 1848, in Anklam, Germany, Lilienthal was the first child of a very large family. As a child he became fascinated with the flight of birds. He was especially interested in the white stork. He watched the stork’s wing movement and its body structure as the stork seemed to sail effortlessly through the air. While he didn’t realize it at the time, Lilienthal was actually conducting research for the future creation of flying machines.

**3** Lilienthal’s uncle saw that his nephew had an interest in the science of flight. He encouraged Lilienthal to get an education in mechanical engineering. Lilienthal followed this advice and enrolled in a school in Berlin. Throughout his schooling Lilienthal continued to study the flight of birds. He applied what he learned as an engineer and the data he collected from his research on birds to build large-scale wing models.

**4** Scientists around the world began taking note of Lilienthal’s detailed research on the features of birds’ wings. In 1873 Lilienthal joined some highly respected organizations, such as the Aeronautical1 Society of Great Britain and the German Club for Promotion of Aviation. In 1889 Lilienthal published a book on bird flight that summarized his findings. The book served as the groundwork for future aviation pioneers. The book also helped guide important inventors, such as the Wright brothers.

**5** For the next six years, Lilienthal performed a series of experiments in his pursuit of a suitable flying machine. On his first attempt with a glider, he was able to make a successful “jump.” After a few adjustments to the glider and his takeoff position, he was able to fly 80 feet. Lilienthal ended up building a total of 18 gliders. Of these, 15 were monoplanes and 3 were biplanes. Monoplanes have one wing on each side of the plane, while biplanes have two stacked wings on each side. Lilienthal constructed a flight station near his home where he could test the planes and make adjustments. Despite many setbacks, Lilienthal persisted and was eventually able to fly for a distance of 800 feet.

**6** Lilienthal’s flights were not always successful, and his final flight ended with an accident. While on a typical flight in 1896, the wind was too strong for Lilienthal to control the glider, which he steered by shifting his body in the desired direction. He crashed in the field near his home and died the next day. While Lilienthal made great strides in the progress of flying machines, his accident proved that gliders still had many limitations. More research and development needed to be done.

**7** Lilienthal was a leader in the area of aeronautics. He continually looked for ways to make a better flying machine. He was the only person in the world who was able to fly repeatedly and reliably during this time in history. His contributions to the field of aeronautics gave others the courage to follow in his footsteps and beyond.

**1** aeronautical - related to flight