The Pizza Crook By Hazel Dyer

Age 8

Once there was a guy named Mario. He owned a pizza shop. He had an assistant named Mike. One day a policeman came in and showed them a picture. The policeman said, "Have you seen this guy?" "What is his name?" said Mario. "His name is Nate," said the policeman. Mike said he didn't know the guy. The policeman said, "Okay." "Wait!" said Mario, "What's your name?" "It's Jake," said the policeman. "Bye!"

One day a customer came in and said "Hi! I'm looking for my brother. He's been gone for two days now. His name is Nate." "Nate!" said Mike. "Yea," said the customer. "Yesterday a policeman came in and was looking for a guy named Nate," said Mario. The customer looked worried. "Why?" he said. Mike and Mario said they didn't know. Then the door opened. It was Officer Jake. He was eating a donut. "I forgot to tell you that Nate has been stealing pizzas all over the town," he said. Mike and Mario looked scared! And the customer was surprised. "Have a good day, you two, and be on the lookout for Nate," said Officer Jake. They all said goodbye.

That night they locked up the doors real tight. And they were very scared. They went home. Later that night, Nate snuck into the pizza shop and stole all the pepperoni and a little bit of the sausage. Mario and Mike came in the next morning. They looked around the shop to see if anything was stolen. They went to the toppings room, and they saw all the pepperoni and a little bit of sausage stolen! They were very surprised. They went to the phone and called Officer Jake. "Police, police! Nate stole all our pepperoni and a little bit of sausage," said Mike. "How do you know it was Nate?" said Officer Jake. Jake told them he'll be there to check if it was Nate. "Nate leaves all kinds of fingerprints," said Jake. "I'll be there in 15 minutes!"

Fifteen minutes later Officer Jake was there, and he checked everywhere. "Yep, it was Nate," he said, "I have a plan to catch him tonight. I'll leave you a security camera. When the camera sees him, an alarm will go off, and a giant cage will come down. Then I'll be here to catch him."

That night Nate came in to get the rest of the sausage and some cheese. The alarm on the camera went off and the giant cage came down on Nate. Officer Jake came and put him in jail. The next morning, Mike and Mario were happy. Jake came in, and Mario and Mike thanked him and gave him a slice of pizza.