

“Tess, feel how soft he is!”
Mom says, taking a giant teddy bear in her arms.
“And look over there, that little doctor’s bag!
Or that toadstool, what a cute lamp!”

Tess shrugs. She already knows what
she’s going to ask Santa to bring her.





“Granny, will you write my letter to Santa?”

“Of course!” Grandma says.

“Dear Santa,” Tess starts. “You don’t have to bring me any toys this year.”

Grandma lays down her pen. “Did I just hear that right?” she asks.

But Tess continues: “The only thing I want is *a real gnome.*”

“Gosh,” says Grandma. “That’s *the best wish ever!*”