

Christmas Competition Winner

Dear Santa,

I've asked for so many things throughout the years, I know, I'm sorry. Barbie dolls, a computer, a reindeer, the latest phones.... I could give you a list! But I already have – and so my list this year will be a short one.

This Christmas I would like you to grant the world a present. Over the years we've dealt with so many hardships, we've struggled and stumbled, yet we always find a way, right? This following year I want you to lead the way. I want you to come out and take a look at the world with all its flaws and imperfections and for you to say, 'Let's do something about it!' You've seen people, you've known if they're *bad or good* so make Christmas this year about taking a step! Travel around the world, see what's going on and make a difference.

You're probably sitting in the North Pole, cosy and warm, wondering what could possibly be so terrible going on outside your home. Well, you'd be surprised! I'll be your news reporter for now...

There are many terrible things happening around the world in various places. Some problems are recurring constantly, no matter how hard we've tried to stop them. For example, can you imagine that men simply get paid more than women because they're....men? Or that sometimes you can't even drink water without wondering if it's dirty or clean? Or is it even safe to go back home when somewhere only twenty miles from you is being bombed? How about equality? I'm sure your elves are all from different ethnicities. That must be so wonderful to have in your workplace. It's sad that we will probably never have that out here. There are still places where you can't even be friends with someone who doesn't have the same colour skin as you.

There are too many problems to just write down, Mr Claus. I would love for you to come and see. It's not that expensive, I promise!

Please do something, Santa. Make it a better place, this world. If I were you I wouldn't want to leave the North Pole either. But just this once, just this once!

Yours hopefully,

Noor

Year 9