

Somewhere in America
on Thanksgiving Day . . .

The cast:

- Grandpa
- Grandma
- Dawn (the mom)
- Dale (the dad)
- Victor (the 14-year-old son)
- Jamie (the 5-year-old daughter)



(Mom is making the stuffing² for the turkey in the kitchen. Grandma is sitting at the kitchen table. Dad, Grandpa and Victor are watching a football game on TV. Jamie is playing with her dolls in her room.)

- Dawn: *(yells into the living room)* Dale, could you come and help me? This turkey is really heavy.
- Grandma: *(slowly getting up from the table)* I can help you. I don't have anything to do. Just let the men watch their football game.
- Dawn: Mom, they have been watching TV for an hour. I think Dale could come and help me for ten minutes.
- Grandma: Well, honey, I don't think he even heard you. What else are you going to cook?
- Dawn: Well, this turkey and the chestnut³ stuffing. Then I have to get the sweet potatoes ready.
- Grandma: Are you going to bake them with marshmallows on top or are you going to fry⁴ them?
- Dawn: I thought I'd bake them. Jamie just loves the marshmallow crust they get. Let me see ... I've got some fresh cranberries for the cranberry sauce and I was planning on making mashed potatoes, peas and a salad. So, you'll have to get to work in a minute.
- Grandma: What about dessert? You didn't say anything about it.
- Dawn: Mom, you know I couldn't forget your favorite ... pumpkin pie! I made two pies yesterday. We'll have pumpkin pie and apple pie. Where is that husband of mine? If he doesn't get in here soon, we won't eat until midnight. *(yells towards the living room a bit louder)* Dale?! Could you get in here?!

(Dale, Grandpa and Victor are still sitting in front of the TV. Nobody reacts or even moves towards the kitchen.)

- Dale: *(sitting on the edge of the couch)* Go! Go! Go! YEAH!
- Victor: Touchdown⁵!
- Grandpa: What's the score?
- Dale: Wait a minute! Did you see that? They say he was out of bounds⁶!
- Victor: Oh man ... that referee sucks⁷!

- Grandpa: Young man! You shouldn't talk like that.
- Jamie: *(walks into the room)* Daddy, can we change the channel? I want to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- Victor: Jamie! Move! You're standing right in front of the TV!
- Grandpa: Would somebody tell me what the score is?
- Victor: Grandpa, it's 18 to 10 for the Miami Dolphins.
- Grandpa: OK. You could have said so earlier.
- Jamie: Daddy, you told me I could watch the parade. Santa Claus is in it!
- Dawn: *(sticks her head into the room)* Dale! I've called you twice now! It's time to get the turkey into the oven. If you don't come in and help me, we'll have to go out for dinner. How does Burger King sound?
- Dale: Burger King? No thanks, I'm not hungry.
- Dawn: Dale, you didn't listen to a word I said.
- Jamie: I did. You said we can eat at Burger King if you don't get the turkey in the oven.
- Dawn: I'm getting a bit mad here. Dale, I need your help now. Stop acting like a couch potato and get into the kitchen.
- Dale: Oh honey, can't it wait until half time?
- Grandpa: Half time? Do you mean to tell me that you're going to miss out on the cheerleaders? The Dallas cheerleaders are famous for their long legs.
- Dawn: *(glares at Dale)* Now would be a good time. *Right* now.
- Dale: *(gets up)* I'm coming. BUT: Nobody's allowed to change the channel.

(They go into the kitchen.)

- Grandma: If I were you, I'd turn that oven down. You're going to burn the turkey before it even gets into the oven.
- Dawn: Mom, why don't you help Jamie write a letter to Santa Claus. Then you'll have something to do.
- Grandma: I don't mind helping you here in the kitchen. Do you want me to cut those onions for you? If I cut them, they'll be nice and small. You know you always cut them too big.
- Dawn: Mom, please! Jamie wanted to write her letter to Santa Claus yesterday but I didn't have time to help her.
- Grandma: All right, all right, I'm going! You've got a bad attitude towards help, Dawn. Do you know that? It's not good for your health. Remember to cut those onions small so that I don't choke⁸ on them.

(Grandma walks into the living room. Grandpa and Victor are watching the cheerleaders.)

- Grandpa: Would you look at those legs!!! If I were twenty years younger ...
- Grandma: *(walks into the living room)* ... you would still be an old man. So stop dreaming. Besides that – you're married!
- Victor: But *I'm* not married. If I were ten years older, I would ask her out.

Jamie: And she'd turn you down. You don't honestly think that one of those girls would go out with *you*, do you?

Victor: Oh, be quiet! Who asked you anyway?

(Grandma goes to Jamie)

Grandma: OK, dear. Let's get away from the tube⁹ and do something worthwhile. Let's write your letter to Santa Claus.

Jamie: Oh goodie! I've got a very long list. Grandma, what if his sleigh¹⁰ won't hold all of my things? Do you think I'll only get the small toys?

Grandma: Let's see what you want. OK, I'll write and you dictate ... *(She is holding a pen and a piece of paper in her hand.)*

Jamie: Dear Santa Claus,
How are you doing? I hope that you aren't sick so close to the holidays. How is Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer? Is he looking forward to leading the sleigh at Christmas? And how is Mrs. Claus doing? Has she baked lots of Christmas cookies?

Grandma: Honey, when are you going to ask for your presents?

Jamie: Grandma, that would be impolite. You have to ask how he is doing before you can ask for lots of presents.

Grandpa: Jamie, would you ask Santa if he could bring me one of those cheerleaders?

Grandma: You'll get a new tie, as usual, this year.

Victor: Then Santa Claus can bring me a new computer. Right, Grandma? I've been waiting for my new computer since March. Santa's elves are probably good technicians¹¹.

Jamie: I'M writing this letter, not you.
OK ... where was I ...

Grandma: Has she baked lots of Christmas cookies?

Jamie: Right ... Mommy and I are going to bake some peanut butter cookies again. You ate all of them last year. So I think you probably still like them.
I've been very good all year. That's why I'd like a few extra presents this year. May I have a new Barbie doll, a Ken doll and a Barbie camper? If I had more time, I might read more. So, you could give me a good book.

Grandma: Dear, I think maybe you should leave some presents for your aunts and uncles. Maybe they want to give you something, too.

Victor: Yeah, like some new socks.

Grandma: Victor, you're not being very nice today, are you?

Victor: Sorry, Grandma.

Jamie: Let me finish my letter ...
I'm looking forward to spending the holiday with my family. I hope you'll get some free time after you deliver all of the presents.
Yours faithfully,
Jamie Smith

Victor: Lovely. Did you mention my computer like I asked you to. NO! Now I'll have to write a letter, too.

Grandma: Victor, please just go and watch the football game.

Grandpa: I'm getting hungry. When's dinner going to be ready?

Victor: Should I go ask Mom?
 Grandpa: Naw, I'll go ask her. Maybe she'll have a little snack for you.

(Someone carries a sign across the room.) Three hours later ...

Dawn: Victor, would you come and help me set the table, please?
 Victor: Just a minute.
 Dawn: Come on, you haven't had to work all day. Now get in here and set the table.
 Victor: Where are the knives?
 Dawn: What do you mean, where are the knives? You live here. You should know where the knives are.
 Jamie: He's just trying to bother you so that you'll set it yourself and he can go watch TV.
 Victor: Well, it is FOOTBALL day. *Everyone* in America is watching the football games today.
 Jamie: Daddy has been cooking for over an hour. You could help, too.
 Mommy, I'll fold the napkins for you.
 Dawn: Thanks, dear.

(The kids set the table and they all sit down.)

Grandma: Soup's on! Grandpa, it's time to eat.
 Grandpa: Well, that's good because I'm still hungry.
 Victor: Grandpa, you're always hungry.
 Dale: Should I carve¹² the turkey now?
 Grandma: No, we have to say grace¹³ first.

(They all sit down and say grace.)

Dawn: Victor, fold your hands.
 EVERYONE: Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive in Thy bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen*.
 Dawn: Well, enjoy your meal!
 Dale: Honey it looks wonderful.
 Grandpa: Let's hope it tastes wonderful because I'm hungry.
 Grandma: (turns to the audience) Excuse us, folks. We've got to eat now. We hope you enjoyed our Thanksgiving Day skit!

*This is one of the most popular and traditional ways to say grace before a meal, esp. on special occasions. But different families have different traditions: Many families use religious blessings for saying grace, others prefer non-religious blessings, while still others don't say grace at all.

¹skit [skɪt] = a short play • ²stuffing ['stʌfɪŋ] = a filling for a roast (*Braten*) that is usually made with nuts, bread and hamburger meat • ³chestnut [tʃɛsnʌt] = Kastanie • ⁴to fry [fraɪ] = braten • ⁵touchdown ['tʌtʃdaʊn] = This is what fans yell when a player scores a *touchdown* (worth six points) in a game of American football. • ⁶out of bounds [aʊt_ɒv_ˈbaʊndz] = outside of the playing area on a field • ⁷That sucks! [ðæt 'sʌks] = This is an American slang expression to say that you're not happy with sb/sth, or that you think they're/it's totally stupid. But it's an impolite expression. • ⁸to choke on sth [tʃoʊk] = To choke on sth means that food gets caught in your throat. • ⁹tube [tu:b] = a slang word for 'TV' • ¹⁰sleigh [sleɪ] = This is the thing that Santa Claus sits in while his reindeer pull it. • ¹¹technician [tek'nɪʃn] = sb who works with and/or makes technical things like computers • ¹²to carve [kɑ:v] = to cut pieces of meat from the turkey roast • ¹³to say grace [seɪ 'ɡreɪs] = to give thanks (to God) before a meal