

**2026 Elie Wiesel Competition**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place (Tie) Senior Poetry**

Joshua Cornell, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

San Jacinto Leadership Academy, Tori Gorosave

*Life With Questions*

Have you ever hovered  
over a headline  
like a loose floorboard,  
wondering if it would hold  
or drop you through?  
I have.

It starts small —  
a sentence sharpened for speed,  
wrapped in certainty  
like a gift you didn't ask for.  
Confidence loads faster than doubt.

A cropped photo.  
A quote without a mouth.  
Comments nodding  
like history just settled itself.

Scroll or stay.  
Believe or investigate.  
Belief asks nothing.  
Questioning asks time,

patience,  
the nerve to stand alone.

So I opened new tabs.

Dates slipped.

Sources echoed—

mirrors posing as doors.

Truth wasn't found.

It was shaped.

Misinformation doesn't always lie.

Sometimes it edits.

Repeats until repetition

feels like a fact.

Wars become slogans.

Movements lose their roots.

The present turns into content.

I think about the future—

broken archives,

Students asking if we knew.

Sometimes we did.

Sometimes certainty felt better.

Because misinformation is comforting.

It tells you you're already right.

It draws clean lines

In a messy world.