

Submission from Sienna (17 – SA)

Every day,
I open my phone
and I'm given a hundred different versions of the world.

One person says one thing.
Another says the opposite.
Both sound certain.
Both have thousands of people agreeing.

And I sit there wondering
who am I supposed to believe?

A photo can be edited.
A voice can be copied.
A video can show something that never happened.

Sometimes I don't know
if I'm looking at someone's life
or something someone created.

The hardest part isn't that everything is fake.

It's that sometimes
I can't tell what's real anymore.

I miss when a story was just a story.
When a photo was just a photo.
When I didn't have to question
every screen in front of me.

AI can create amazing things,
but it can also make the truth feel further away.

Maybe the challenge of growing up now
is learning how to pause.

To ask:

Who made this?
Why was I shown it?
Is this actually true?

Because in a world full of information,
the hardest thing to find

Is certainty.

And maybe being human
means admitting that sometimes,

we are all just trying to figure out
what is real.