GRIEF

2020, the year of quarantine,
I was twelve years old
Stuck in home watching on my family PC
People ask what kids were doing while in quarantine
My answer?

  Watching youtube
I had nothing else to do at that time
Scrolling through the recommendation section
Of the weird growing and falling rates
When a video catches my mind

  “The Great Potato War.”
Technoblade.

  My brain thought it looked interesting
And clicked

  I had never had the biggest smile on my face afterwards
And I continued watching different videos
From a Minecraft Youtuber

  Known as Technoblade

  Looking Back
I’m glad I looked at that video.
After all
I wasn’t the only kid who watched him

  But like most,
It doesn't last
It was revealed to millions of fans
That he gained a disease known as cancer
Which affected the tissue and bone of his right arm.

  He updated us a couple more times
Saying that he nearly became an amputee, nearly losing his arm
He was getting better.
He said he was getting better.
He raised $500,000
  Even more
  Even more.

  June 30th, 2022
He hadn't updated us in a few months
He said he was getting better.
Dare I even say he promised.

  I had gotten into other interests
Thirteen years old
Nearly midnight
A notification pops up silently
Dead quiet
My grandma’s tv playing through the muffled walls of her apartment

  Technoblade.
An idol
A friend to many
A son.
A brother

  Was gone,
succumbing to the disease,
eight hours before the video
But his friends found out earlier
But didn't respond until the next morning.

  I ended up not sleeping for months
And when I returned to school
I got bullied and harassed
By people who thought it was funny
Saying that “he deserved it”
Kids would say “get over it.”

  It has been past six months
And nothing has changed. He's still one
And we're still here.

  Many have committed suicide due to harassment
Many are still surfing the waves.

  Words hurt.
Did they for me?
Of course,
 they did

  That's what grief does to people
It's different for everyone
But, here’s what we can do.
Help others.
Yourself after.

  Surfing together
And finding a lifesaver.