Garrett Ley

Title: A Celebration of Malcom

Prompt: Tribute to an individual

Plan: Rhyming stanza separated by lyrics from his songs following his work in chronological order.

Background:

You started as a young Malcom James McCormick

Pittsburgh born and raised

Grew up in Point Breeze, played in Frick Park

You became a rapper at a very young age

“This is my biography It’s really something that you gotta read”

In 2009 you were discovered, and in 2010 signed

Your K.I.D.S mixtape was a hit

It really got your career off the ground

The Incredibly Dope Tour sold out, you found a sound

“I feel like a million bucks, But my money don’t really feel like I do, And from the ground I built my own damn buzz, People was amazed I was still in high school.”

You had finally found your passion

Mac was on top of the world

Making hits and feeling good

Rapping for your neighborhood

“No matter where life takes me, find me with a smile, Pursuit to be happy, only laughing like a child, I never thought life could be this sweet, It got me cheesin from cheek to cheek, And I ain’t gonna wait for nothing, Cause that just ain’t my style, Life couldn’t get better, This ‘gon be the best day ever.”

You were growing fast, mixtape by mixtape

Blue Slide Park dropped and people knew your name

You were happy number 1 on the Billboards

But none can avoid the dangers of fame.

“I’ma feed the world you can put it on my tab, Run until my legs go numb. I don’t plan on looking back.”

You went on your second tour Macadelic

Performing not only in the US but Europe too

This album was full of your musings

But it was all overwhelming and as much fun as it was, tough to get through.

“You take away the pain and I thank you for that, If I ever get the chance, bet I’m paying you back.”

The stress of successful was undeniable

Lean became the only way to calm

But you kept making music

And lived life, hoping it wouldn’t explode like a bomb

“Doctor, doctor, please prescribe me something for the pain, Money in machines, those will make you change, If I go tomorrow, I just hope it ain’t in vain, but I can’t complain.”

You lost yourself, didn’t know who you were

So you became someone else and rapped as him

Delusional Thomas was his name

It was dark, but it was who you wanted to be, grim.

“If Satan could accompany a halo, then one day, maybe I could be somebody’s angel.”

You kept putting out music, but now framed with struggle

First you had lost a girl, now you found drugs

Your fans still loved you, you were still growing

You were hurting, but pushed aside feelings with a shrug

“I’m more than what I think of myself, I really have to be, Sit at home and drink by myself, my thoughts harassing me.”

After Faces, things seemed to be getting better

You signed with Warner Brothers, now you were shining

GO:OD AM dropped, rapper became artist

You sang about your dark times and how you were realigning

“Them pills I’m popping, I need to man up, Admit it’s a problem, I need a wake up, Before one morning I don’t wake up.”

Things started looking up, you found the girl of your dreams

Made an album about your love for her

Your artistic skill was on full display

Mac Miller was owning the day.

“Said, you just don’t know how beautiful you are, And baby that’s my favorite part.”

In heartbreaking fashion

Ariana left you

On her you were once reliant

For a year you went silent

Then 2018 came, and the Mac was back

With possibly what was your best work yet

The whole Swimming album was on repeat

Your new music was a real treat.

“Self care, I’m treatin’ me right, yeah, hell yeah we gonna be alright.”

You sounded so ok

Like you had a handle on it all

But then came September 7th

And even those who seem ok, fall.

That day the world lost a true Pittsburgh kid

No one could believe, I know I sure didn’t

How could one of my favorite artists release new music

And then be gone the next minute.

Present:

There would be no concert at the Pete

No more new music for summer nights

But Mac what you meant to the Burgh will go on forever

You created a connection with your fans that can never be severed.

To look back at your music is a heart-breaking thing

When you were young you saw the danger in the choices you made

But it was ok because you were just having fun

You never meant for things to go wrong, but from safety you strayed.

You were truly the most dope kid

You weren’t afraid to rap about your struggles

You made mistakes and tried to fix them

You were struggling like everyone else, you weren’t someone to condemn

You were an incredible artist

Far more talented than people saw

You could play almost any instrument

And your ability to produce songs had no flaw.

Pittsburgh loved you, and that love won’t cease

Your music will always be blasted from speaker on 5th avenue

Everyone loved you

I just hope that you knew.

Blue slide park was full of people jamming to your songs

All of Pittsburgh gathered together as one

To share stories and art about you.

For us here in Pittsburgh, your legend will never be done.

It’s not just Pittsburgh, your influence was wide

In LA all your friends gathered to put on a show in your name

Love was poured out for you

Your impact on people was far more than more than fame.

There’s a reason that this memorial concert was called a celebration of life

It’s because you knew how to live it, just sometimes got lost

But in music you were found

Your life was captured for us in your sound.

Your dedication to your music will always inspire

You were a musical talent like no other

You were carefree and living life to the fullest at the end

And you taught all of Pittsburgh what it means to have love for each other.

“And I know that life is nothing easy, One day I’m a change the world, And they’ll finally believe me.”

Rest in peace Mac, you certainly changed the world