

Life After Death

Every single day, at the break of dawn
 he woke up
And he started the same routine
 everyday single day
He would brush his teeth, eat his Froot Loops
And holler for his Dad
 and they played for hours
They'd go out into the backyard
 and entertain themselves with hide-and-go-seek
His mom would stand nearby watching
Smiling with a twinkle in her eye
 and she'd always say "I love you" to them both
At school, he'd play with his classmates
 and raised his hand in class at every chance
For his Birthday he received a dog
 and named her Speranza
At night his Dad would read him a bedtime story
 and it was different everyday

Every single day, at the break of dawn
 he woke up
And he started a different routine
 because that's part of growing up
He would brush his teeth, eat his waffles
And holler for his Mom
 and they prayed for hours
He clinged on to her in the backyard
 and hoped his Father would return home
His mom wore a faint line on her face
 and scolded him to behave
At school, he kept to himself during class
 and didn't bother to know the answers
For his Birthday he received a verbal acknowledgement
 and he would play with Speranza everyday
At night his Mom would read him a bedtime story
 and it was always the same

Every single day, at the break of dawn
 he woke up
And he had no routine
 because routine meant there was order
He usually brushed his teeth, skipped breakfast
And sat quietly in bed
 and went back to sleep
He dreamed of wild chases and adventures
 and a familiar man would always appear
His mom spilled tears sporadically
 and talked to her son a couple times a day
At school, he ditched altogether
 and didn't know what classes he was taking
For his Birthday, he sat next to Speranza's grave
 and wanted a different animal, a bear of sorts
At night he read to himself a bedtime story
 and it was always the same letter with the salutation, "Sorry..."

That's why he enlisted in the armed forces
 he tried a different routine
He woke up, brushed his teeth, and got ready for combat
He hollered at his soldiers
 and took revenge on the enemy
And he read to himself everyday
 because it was a story with a character
 that resembled Speranza