

MAMA TRIED (MERLE HAGGARD, 1968)

D G D G
The first thing I remember knowing, was a lonesome whistle blowin'

D A7
And a young un's dream of growing up to ride

D G D G
On a freight train leaving town, not knowing where I'm bound

D A7 D
And no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

D G D G
One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild

D A7
My Mama seemed to know what lay in store

D G D G
'Spite of all my Sunday learning, toward the bad I kept on turning

D A7 D
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore

Chorus:

D G D
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole

Bm A7
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried

D G D
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,

A7 D
that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

(Optional Instrumental)

D G D G
Dear old Daddy, rest his soul, he left my mom a heavy load

D A7
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes

D G D G
Working hours without rest, wanted me to have the best

D A7 D
She tried to raise me right, but I refused (Chorus)

(Outro) **D**