

## Mama Tried (Merle Haggard)

The first thing I remember knowing was a lonesome whistle blowin'  
And a young un's dream of growin' up to ride  
On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' where I'm bound  
And no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild  
My Mama seemed to know what lay in store  
'Spite of all my Sunday learnin', toward the bad I kept on turnin'  
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore

### CHORUS

And I turned twenty-one in prison doin' life without parole  
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried  
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I den ied,  
That leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

### SOLO (verse chords)

Dear old Daddy, rest his soul, he left my mom a heavy load  
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes  
Workin' hours without rest, wanted me to have the best  
She tried to raise me right, but I refused

### CHORUS (repeat last line)