

## Momma Tried

Written & performed by Merle Haggard  
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D G D G  
 The first thing I remember knowin' was a lonesome whistle blowin',  
 D G A7  
 And a youngun's dream of growin' up to ride,  
 D G D G  
 On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' where I'm bound.  
 D A7 D  
 And no one could change my mind but Momma Tried.  
 D G D G  
 One and only Rebel child from a fam'ly meek and mild  
 D G A7  
 My momma seemed to to know what lay in store,  
 D G D G  
 'Spite all my Sunday learnin' towards the bad I kept on turnin',  
 D A7 D  
 'Til momma couldn't hold me anymore.

### Chorus

N.C. D G D  
 And I turned twenty-one in prison doin' life without parole,  
 Bm A7  
 No one could steer me right but Mamma Tried, Momma Tried  
 D G D  
 Momma Tried to raise me better but her pleading I denied  
 A7 D  
 And that leaves only me to blame, cause Momma Tried

### Verse 3:

D G D G  
 Dear ole' daddy, rest his soul left my mom a heavy load,  
 D G A7  
 She tried so very hard to feel his shoes,  
 D G D G  
 Workin' hours without rest, wanted me to have the best  
 D G A7  
 She tried to raise me right but I refused.

### Chorus