

**Mama Tried** (traditional)

Verse: |D-G-|D-G-|D---|A7--|D-G-|D-G-|D-A7-|D---|

Chorus: |D---|C-D-|Bm--|A---|D---|G-D-|D-A-|D---|

The first thing I **(D)** remember **(G)** knowing was a **(D)** lonesome whistle  
**(G)** blowing and a **(D)** young one's dream of growing up to **(A7)** ride. On  
a **(D)** freight train leaving **(G)** town not **(D)** knowing where I'm **(G)**  
bound. And no **(D)** one could change my **(A7)** mind but Mama **(D)** tried.

One and **(D)** only rebel **(G)** child from a **(D)** family meek and **(G)** mild  
My **(D)** mama seemed to know what lay in **(A7)** store. Despite **(D)** all my  
Sunday **(G)** learning towards the **(D)** bad I kept on **(G)** turning til **(D)**  
Mama couldn't **(A7)** hold me **(D)** anymore.

**Chorus:**

And I turned **(D)** twenty-one in prison doing **(C)** life without **(D)** parole  
No **(Bm)** one could steer me right but Mama **(A)** tried Mama tried  
Mama **(D)** tried to raise me better but her **(G)** pleading I **(D)** denied  
That leaves only me **(A)** to blame cause Mama **(D)** tried.

Dear old **(D)** Daddy rest his **(G)** soul left my **(D)** mom a heavy **(G)** load  
She **(D)** tried so very hard to fill his **(A7)** shoes. Working **(D)** hours  
without **(G)** rest. Wanted **(D)** me to have the **(G)** best. She **(D)** tried to  
raise me **(A7)** right but I **(D)** refused.

Chorus