Mama Tried  Merle Haggard

\[D \quad A^7 \quad D \quad D\]
\[I / / I / / I / / I / \ldots\]

\[D \quad G \quad D \quad G\]
The first thing I remember knowin', was a lonesome whistle blowin'

\[D \quad G \quad A^7\]
And a young-un's dream of growing up to ride

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

\[D \quad A^7 \quad D\]
And no one could change my mind but Mama tried

\[D \quad G \quad D \quad G\]
One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild

\[D \quad G \quad A^7\]
My mama seemed to know what lay in store

\[D \quad G \quad D \quad G\]
'Spite of all my Sunday learning, towards the bad I kept on turnin'

\[D \quad A^7 \quad D \quad D\]
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore  / \ldots

\[D \quad G \quad D \quad D\]
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole

\[G \quad D \quad A^7\]
No one could steer me right but Mama tried, Mama tried

\[D \quad G \quad D\]
Mama tried to raise me better but her pleading I denied

\[A^7 \quad D\]
That leaves only me to blame cause Mama tried
D G D G
Dear old daddy rest his soul, left my mom a heavy load
D G 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 D
She tried to raise me right but I refused

D G D G
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole
G D 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 A7 D
That leaves only me to blame cause Mama tried