Sixteen Tons
Merle Travis
as performed by Tennessee Ernie Ford

D\(^m\) C B\(^b\) A\(^7\)
steady swing rhythm

\(\text{X2}\)

Some people say a man is made out of mud

But a poor man's made out of muscle and blood

Muscle and blood and skin and bones,

A mind that's weak and a back that's strong

CHORUS:

D\(^m\) B\(^b\) A\(^7\)

You load sixteen tons and what do you get,

A-noon other day older and deeper in debt

Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go,

I owe my soul to the company store

End With: D\(^m\) A\(^7\) D\(^m\)

I was born one morning when the sun didn't shine,

I picked up my shovel and walked to the mine

I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal;

And the straw boss said "well, a bless my soul."
CHORUS:

\[\text{D}^m \quad \text{B}^b \quad \text{A}^7\]
I was born one morning, it was drizzling rain.

\[\text{D}^m \quad \text{B}^b \quad \text{A}^7\]
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name.

\[\text{D}^m \quad \text{G}^m\]
I was raised in a cane break by an old mama lion,

\[\text{B}^b \quad \text{A}^7 \quad \text{NC}\]
Ain't no high-toned woman make me walk the line

CHORUS:

\[\text{D}^m \quad \text{B}^b \quad \text{A}^7\]
If you see me comin', better step aside;

\[\text{D}^m \quad \text{B}^b \quad \text{A}^7\]
A lot of men didn't and a lot of men died.

\[\text{D}^m \quad \text{G}^m\]
One fist of iron and the other of steel,

\[\text{B}^b \quad \text{A}^7 \quad \text{NC}\]
If the right one don't get you, then the left one will

CHORUS: