

Sixteen Tons - Tennessee Ernie Ford

1. Some people say, a man is made out of mud,
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:

You load sixteen tons, and what do you get ?
Another day older and deeper in debt.
St. Peter, don't you call me, 'cos I can't go.
I owe my soul to the company store.

2. I was born one mornin', when the sun didn't shine,
I picked up my shovel, and I walked to the mine.
I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal,
And the straw boss said: "Well, a-bless my soul !" + CHORUS

3. I was born one mornin' it was drizzlin' rain,
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name.
I was raised in a canebrake by an ol' mama lion,
Ain't no high-toned woman gonna make me walk the line + CHORUS

4. If you see me coming, better step aside,
A lot of men didn't, a lot of men died.
One fist of iron, the other of steel,
if the right one don't get you, then the left one will ! + CHORUS