Sixteen Tons
Written by Merle Travis

1. Some people say a man is made outta mud,
   A poor man's made outta muscle and blood,
   Muscle and blood and skin and bones,
   A mind that's a-weak and a back that's strong.

chorus: You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
   Another 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.

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 store 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 the canebrake by an ol' mama lion,
   Ain't no-a high-toned woman make me toe the line.

chorus:

4. If you see me comin', better step aside,
   A lotta men didn't, a lotta men died,
   I’ve got one fist of iron, the other of steel,
   If the right one don't a-get you, then the left one will.

chorus: