

# When I Was A Cowboy

Ralph McTell

I was a cowboy out on the prairie.  
Me and my six-gun kept law in the alley.  
I remember my first horse well, he was lean but a fast one  
We travelled miles together, until he got stolen.

And the sheriff said get early to bed  
And always keep your hat screwed on real tight  
Case you get in a fight.  
Well that's one of the tricks that you must employ  
If you wanna be a cowboy.

I travelled far from home, even jumped freight trains  
Threw stones in the ocean, slept out in the cold rain.  
It was down in some southern town, and the music was playing  
And the people were talking so loud, they heard no words I was saying.

And the sheriff said get early to bed  
And always keep your hat screwed on real tight  
Case you get in a fight.  
Well that's one of the tricks that you must employ  
If you wanna be a cowboy.

I dreamed of a mountain, with one lonesome rider  
He was ragged and tattered, and he carried a sabre.  
And all through the canyon you could hear his bones rattle.  
He was dead on a dying horse and he was tied to the saddle.

And the sheriff said get early to bed  
And always keep your hat screwed on real tight  
Case you get in a fight.  
Well that's one of the tricks that you must employ  
If you wanna be a cowboy.

I was a cowboy, out on the prairie.  
My life is easier, back home in the alley.

And the sheriff said get early to bed  
And always keep your hat screwed on real tight  
Case you get in a fight.  
Well that's one of the tricks that you must employ  
If you wanna be a cowboy.