

# Dear Mama

by 2Pac

First Chorus            You are appreciated.

## Stanza #1

1        When I was young me and my mama had beef  
          17 years old kicked out on the streets  
          Though back at the time I never thought I'd see her face  
          Ain't a woman alive that could take my mama's place  
5        Suspended from school, scared to go home  
          I was a fool with the big boys, breakin' all the rules  
          Shed tears with my baby sister  
          Over the years we was poorer than the other little kids  
10       And even though we had different daddies  
          The same drama, when things went wrong we blamed mama  
          I reminisce on the stress I caused, it was hell  
          Huggin' on my mama from a jail cell  
          And who'd think in elementary, hey I'd see the penitentiary  
15       One day, runnin' from the police that's right  
          Mama catch me, put a whoopin' to my backside  
          And even as a crack fiend mama  
          You always was a black queen mama  
          I finally understand for a woman it ain't easy tryin' to raise a man  
20       You always was committed, a poor single mother on welfare  
          Tell me how you did it, there's no way I can pay you back  
          But the plan is to show you that I understand.

Second Chorus        You are appreciated.

Lady, don't ya know we love ya. (Dear Mama)  
Sweet lady, place no one above ya. (You are appreciated)  
Sweet lady, don't ya know we love ya.

## Stanza #2

1        Now ain't nobody tell us it was fair  
          No love for my daddy 'cause the coward wasn't there  
          He passed away and I didn't cry  
          'Cause my anger wouldn't let me feel for a stranger  
5        They say I'm wrong and I'm heartless  
          But all along I was lookin' for a father, he was gone  
          I hung around with the thugs and even though they sold drugs  
          They showed a young brother love  
          I moved out and started really hangin'  
10       I needed money of my own so I started slangin'  
          I ain't guilty 'cause even though I sell rocks  
          It feels good puttin' money in your mailbox  
          I love payin' rent when the rent's due  
          I hope you got the diamond necklace that I sent to you

15 'Cause when I was low you was there for me  
You never left me alone because you cared for me  
And I can see you comin' home after work, late  
Your in the kitchen tryin' to fix us a hot plate  
Just workin' with the scraps you was given  
20 And mama made miracles every Thanksgiving  
But now the road got rough, your alone  
Tryin' to raise 2 bad kids on your own  
And there's no way I can pay you back  
But my plan is to show you that I understand.

Third Chorus You are appreciated.

Lady, don't ya know we love ya. (And dear Mama)  
Sweet lady, place no one above ya. (You are appreciated)  
Sweet lady, don't ya know we love ya.

### Stanza #3

1 Pour out some liquor and I reminisce  
'Cause through the drama, I can always depend on my mama  
And when it seems that I'm hopeless  
You say the words that can get me back in focus  
5 When I was sick as a little kid  
To keep me happy, there's no limit to the things you did  
And all my childhood memories  
Are full of all the sweet things you did for me  
And even though I act crazy  
10 I got to thank the Lord that you made me  
There are no words that can express how I feel  
You never kept a secret, always stayed real  
And I appreciate how you raised me  
And all the extra love that you gave me  
15 I wish I could take the pain away  
If you can make it through the night, there's a brighter day  
Everything will be alright if you hold on  
It's a struggle, everyday gotta roll on  
And there's no way I can pay you back  
20 But my plan is to show you that I understand.

Final Chorus You are appreciated.

Lady, don't ya know we love ya. (Dear Mama)  
Sweet lady, place no one above ya. (You are appreciated)  
Sweet lady, don't ya know we love ya. (Dear Mama)

Sweet lady, lady, lady, lady.