

The Engineer's Dying Child

[Johnny Cash](#)

A little child on a sickbed lay
And death was very near
He was the pride and the only child
Of a railroad engineerHis duty had called him from those he loved
And seeing that hope was dim
While a tear he shed to his wife, he said
Just have two lanterns trimmed" Just hang a light when I pass tonight
Hang it where it can be seen
If the baby's dead then show the red
If he's better then show the greenIn a little shack by the railroad track
A mother with watchful eyes
Saw a gleam of hope in a tender smile
As the train went rushing byJust one short look was his only chance?
To see the light a gleam
In the midnight air, there rose a prayer
Thank God the light was greenJust hang a light when I pass tonight
Hang it where it can be seen
If the baby's dead then show the red
If he's better then show the green

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