

John Henry

www.singing-bell.com

John Henry was a little baby, sitting on his papa's knee
And he picked up a hammer and little piece of steel
Cried "Hammer's gonna be the death of me, Lord, Lord
Hammer's gonna be the death of me"

Now the captain he said to John Henry, "I'm gonna bring that steam drill around
I'm gonna bring that steam drill out on the job
I'm gonna knock that steel on down, down, down
I'm gonna knock that steel on down".

John Henry told his captain "Lord, a man ain't nothing but a man
But before I let your steam drill beat me down
I would die with a hammer in my hand,
I would die with a hammer in my hand".

John Henry said to his shaker "Shaker, why don't you sing?
'Cause I'm swigin' thirty pounds from my hips on down
Just listen to that cold steel ring,
just listen to that cold steel".

Now the captain he said to John Henry, "I believe that mountain's cavin' in!"
John Henry said right back to the captain,
"Ain't nothin' but my hammer suckin' wind!
ain't nothin' but my hammer suckin' wind!"

Now the man that invented the steam drill, he thought he was mighty fine
But John Henry draw fifteen feet
And the steam drill only made nine, Lord, Lord
The steam drill only made nine

John Henry hammered in the mountains, his hammer was striking fire
But he worked so hard, he broke his poor heart
And he laid down his hammer and he died,
He laid down his hammer and he died,

Now John Henry had a little woman, her name was Polly Ann
John Henry took sick and had to go to bed
And Polly Ann drove steel like a man, Lord, Lord
Polly Ann drove steel like a man

Well every Monday morning, when the bluebirds begin to sing
You can hear John Henry a mile or more
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring,
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring.