

# John Henry

Bruce Springsteen version

Well, John Henry was a little baby  
Sittin' on his daddy's knee  
He pick up a hammer and a little piece of steel,  
And 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 these tracks  
I'm gonna knock that steel on down, God, God  
I'm gonna knock that steel on down"

John Henry told his captain,  
"Lord, man ain't nothin' but a man  
But before I let that steam drill beat me down  
I'm gonna die with a hammer in my hand, Lord, Lord  
I'll die with a hammer in my hand"

John Henry driving on the right side  
That steam drill driving on the left  
Says, "'Fore I'll let your steam drill beat me down  
I'm gonna hammer myself to death, Lord, Lord,  
I'll hammer my fool self to death"

Well, captain said to John Henry,  
"What is that storm I hear?"  
John Henry said, "That ain't no storm Captain  
That's just my hammer in the air, Lord, Lord  
That's just my hammer in the air"

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

John Henry, he hammered in the mountains  
His hammer was striking fire  
But he worked so hard; it broke his heart  
John Henry laid down his hammer and died, Lord, Lord  
John Henry laid down his hammer and died

Well, now John Henry, he had him a woman  
By the name of Polly Ann  
She walked out to those tracks  
Picked up John Henry's hammer  
Polly drove steel like a man, Lord, Lord  
Polly drove that steel like a man

Well every, every Monday morning  
When the blue bird he begin to sing  
You could hear John Henry from a mile or more  
You could hear John Henry's hammer ring, Lord, Lord  
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring  
I say, You can hear John Henry's hammer ring, Lord, Lord  
You can hear John Henry's hammer ring