

# Travelling by Steam

## Fairport Convention

With a steady hand on the lever  
And the signal ready to pass  
Keep the light burning, fireman  
And the water, well up in the glass

With a shoulder to the rail  
There's no better place to be  
Than the right side of the footplate  
When you're travelling by steam

Stand in the bight, look for the green light  
Voices that echo and ring down the line  
One load to shed, then homeward we tread  
Till morning and the coal-boy come singing

Me granddaddy worked in the railway  
A bigwig, so I've heard talk  
Me father, he was a driver  
Travelling pit to port

And there's no better life for a young man  
With them you must agree  
When you're right side of the footplate  
And you're travelling by steam

Stand in the bight, look for the green light  
Voices that echo and ring down the line  
One load to shed, then homeward we tread  
Till morning and the coal-boy come singing

Tomorrow it's off up to Banbury  
A lodging turn for me  
Where I can lay me head on a pillow  
In a room where I can sleep

And it's up and away in the morning  
And wipe the clock-face clean  
And you're right side of the footplate  
And you're travelling by steam

Stand in the bight, look for the green light  
Voices that echo and ring down the line  
One load to shed, then homeward we tread  
Till morning and the coal-boy come singing

So pick up yer traps and yer Tommy-box  
We're reaching the end of the line  
Keep yer eye on your watch, lad  
We'll bring her in on time

And it could have been life on the dole queue  
Or mining for coal at the seam  
But you're right side of the footplate  
And you're travelling by steam

Stand in the bight, look for the green light  
Voices that echo and ring down the line

One load to shed, then homeward we tread  
Till morning and the coal-boy come singing