

## John Henry

Leadbelly

John Henry was a little bitty boy sittin' on his mommy's knee  
When he picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel  
This hammer'd be a death of me Lord Lord this hammer'd be a death of me  
John Henry was a little bitty boy no bigger than a palm of your hand  
When his mommy looked at him proudly and said  
My Johnny'll be a steal drivin' man Lord lord hey Johnny'll be a steal drivin' man  
[ fiddle ]  
John Henry was a steel drivin' man drove steel all through the land  
Before he would let that steam drill beat him down  
He'd die with the hammer in his hand Lord lord he'd die with the hammer in his hand  
John Henry went to the tunnel drive steam drill was by his side  
Before he would let that steam drill beat him down  
He laid down his hammer and he cried Lord Lord he laid down his hammer and he cried  
[ steel ]  
John Henry went up on the mountain and he looked down on the other side  
And the last words I heard poor old John Henry said  
A cool drink of water before I die Lord Lord cool drink of water before I die  
John Henry had a little woman and her name was Polly Ann  
And the last words I heard poor old John Henry said  
Polly drive that steel like a man Lord Lord Polly drive that steel like a man