



John Henry, Mighty Steel Driving Man *(cont.)*

- Foreman:** I am the foreman overseeing the railroad. John Henry can swing a hammer harder than an Alabama mule could kick. He is a mighty, steel-driving man.
- The Crowd:** We are the steel drivers who work alongside of John Henry. John Henry swings two 20-pound sheep-nose hammers at a time, one in each hand. He is a mighty, steel-driving man.
- Narrator 1:** John Henry was the champion of them all and could beat any challenger at driving steel.
- Narrator 2:** One dark day, a salesman from the city came around when a tunnel was being bored through the mountains. The tunnel was to be a mile and a quarter long through solid rock.
- Salesman:** Step right up! See the invention that can drive through this mountain faster than any man can! Step right up!
- Foreman:** John Henry is leading a crew hammering, driving, and blasting the tunnel through the mountain. A machine would be cheaper! Easier! Safer!
- Salesman:** Step right up! This steel-driving machine is made of steel and driven by a steam engine. This machine is cheaper! Easier! Safer!
- John Henry:** I vow to drive a steel drill deeper into rock than any machine "even if I have to die with a hammer in my hand." I challenge this steel-driving machine to a contest.
- The Crowd:** A challenge! A challenge! Man against machine.
- Foreman:** The contest will last just one hour. Man against machine.
- Salesman:** The one that drills deepest into the rock wall of the tunnel wins. Man against machine.

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