1. I was born one mornin',
The rain was pourin' down,
Heard my mammy say to my pappy,
"Let's call him John Henry Brown."

chorus: Walk on, boy,
Walk on down that road,
Ain't nobody in this whole wide world,
Gonna help you carry your load.

2. I left my mammy and pappy,
Just about the age of ten,
I got me a job a-workin' on the levee,
Totin' water for the hard workin' men.

chorus:

3. One day my pappy told me,
"Some advice I wanna give to you,
Son, find a good woman, be good to her,
An' she's gonna be good to you'.

chorus:

4. If anyone should ever ask you,
"Just who is that fella Brown?"
You can tell him I'm the boy who left his hammer smokin',
Where he beat that steam drill down.

chorus: