

„Big Bad John“ is the nickname of a mysterious and quiet miner. The strong man came from New Orleans. As they say he had killed someone in a fight over a woman.

One day, a support timber cracked at the mine. The situation seemed hopeless until John replaced a timber by himself and stood there like a giant oak tree. He gave a mighty shove, opening a passage allowing the others to escape. Just as the miners were about to re-enter the mine with the tools necessary to rescue John, the mine collapsed. The mine has never been reopened. A marble stand was placed with the words "At the bottom of this mine lies a big, big man – Big John."

Every mornin' at the mine you could see him

He stood six-foot-six and weighed two-forty-five

Kinda broad at the and narrow at the hip

And knew ya didn't give no lip to big John

..... seemed to where John called home

He just drifted into and stayed

He didn't say much, kinda quiet and

And if you spoke at all, you just said hi to Big John

..... said he came from New Orleans

Where he got in a over a Cajun Queen

And a crashin' blow from a huge

Sent a Louisiana to the promised land, big John

Then came the day at the of the mine

When a cracked and men started cryin'

Miners were prayin' and beat fast

And thought that they'd breathed their last, 'cept John

Through the and the of this man-made hell

Walked a of a man that the miners knew well

Grabbed a saggin' timber, gave out with a groan

And like a giant oak tree he just stood there, big John

And with all of his strength he a mighty shove

Then a miner yelled out "there's a up above!"

And twenty men scrambled from a would-be

Now there's only one left down there to save, big John

With jacks and timbers they started down

Then came that rumble way down in the ground

And then and gas belched out of that mine

Everybody it was the end of the line for big John

Now, they never reopened that worthless pit

They just a marble stand in front of it

These are written on that stand

At the bottom of this mine lies a big, big man, Big John

nickname: Übername
mysterious: geheimnisvoll
quiet: ruhig
support: Stütze
miner: Minenarbeiter
hopeless: hoffnungslos
timber: Balken, Bauholz
giant: Riese
oak tree: Eiche
mighty: mächtig
shove: Ruck, Stoß
passage: Durchgang
escape: entweichen, fliehen
tool: Werkzeug, Hilfsmittel
rescue: retten
collaps: einstürzen
marble: Marmor
bottom: Grund, Tiefe
kinda (slang): ziemlich
hip: Hüfte
ya (slang): du, man
drift: hergetrieben
Cajun: franz. sprechende Bevölkerung in Louisiana
huge: riesig
promised land: Paradies
crack: krachen
pray: beten
cept: except: ausgenommen
dust: Staub
sag: zusammensacken
groan: ächzen
strength: Kraft
yell: schreien
scramble: hastig kraxeln
grave: Grab
jacks: (Wagen)heber
rumble: Rumpeln
belch: ausstoßen
end of the line: das Ende
worthless: wertlos
pit: Grube



Give the opposites. (You can find them in the lyrics of Big Bad John).

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| morning | <i>evening</i> |
| depart | |
| broad | |
| nobody | |
| noisy | |
| cheeky | |
| tiny | |
| left | |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| at the top | |
| slow | |
| first | |
| promised land | |
| dwarf | |
| always | |
| recluse | |
| valuable | |

Translate:

Kannst du sehen, dass er ankommt? ... *Can you see him arrive?*

Niemand schien John zu kennen.

Er blieb ganz alleine und sagte nicht viel.

Sag ihm Hallo!

Kommt er aus New Orleans?

Seine rechte Hand ist riesig.

Ein Balken krachte in der Tiefe der Mine.

Mein Herz schlug schnell.

Sie beteten.

Er ging durch den Staub und den Rauch.

Das war eine menschengemachte Hölle.

Er stand wie eine riesige Eiche dort.

Er brauchte alle seine Kraft.

Über uns hat es ein Licht!

Die zwanzig Mann entkamen ihrem Grab.

Kannst du das Rumpeln hören?

Alle wussten, dass es das Ende für John bedeutete.

.....

Die wertlose Grube öffnete nicht wieder.

Dort liegt unser Kamerad Big John.