

„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:** familiar name  
**mysterious:** strange  
**quiet:** still  
**support:** hold  
**miner:** excavator, digger  
**hopeless:** helpless  
**timber:** log, beam, mast  
**giant:** huge (man)  
**oak tree:** type of tree  
**mighty:** very big  
**shove:** push  
**passage:** way, tunnel  
**escape:** run away  
**tool:** instrument  
**rescue:** save  
**collapse:** breakdown  
**marble:** granitelike stone  
**bottom:** lowest part  
**kinda (slang):** fairly  
**ya (slang):** you  
**drift:** be moved by air / water  
**Cajun:** French speaking folks of Louisiana  
**huge:** very big  
**promised land:** paradise  
**crack:** break with noise  
**pray:** beg, wish strongly  
**cept:** except: excluding  
**dust:** dirt powder  
**sag:** drop  
**groan:** moan  
**strength:** force  
**yell:** cry  
**scramble:** climb fast  
**grave:** tomb  
**jacks:** tool for the car  
**rumble:** sound  
**belch:** vomit, throw out  
**end of the line:** the end  
**worthless:** of no value  
**pit:** mine, ditch

