

## Rufus "Haulin' Coal"

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Steamin' down the muddy waters  
Travelin' yonder from bay to bay  
I been workin' on the barge line  
Fourteen years ago today  
Eighteen hours hard labor by the day  
Ain't much pay for a man

Chorus:

Haulin' coal down the down river  
And he won't be comin' home for a long time

Torches burning by the riverside  
Cast their shadows grey as stone  
And the cool October days replacing  
Much warmer thoughts of home  
I can still see grandma sittin' on the porch  
Tellin' the neighbors she's got a grandson

Chorus:

Haulin' coal down the down river  
And he won't be comin' home for a long time  
River's rising up the marker line  
While the willows softly moan  
Sun is rising over the starboard shore  
Paving the golden road back home

I can still see the kids jumpin' rope  
But there ain't much hope for a man

Chorus:

Haulin' coal down the down river  
And he won't be comin' home for a long time

Haulin' coal down the down river  
I'll be gone a long time

Haulin' coal down the down river  
I'll be gone a long while

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