

# John Barleycorn - Mr Walter 'Skipper' Debbage



John Bar - ley - corn was a wend - ling weed; a far - mer lived - close by; - the



old far - mer swore by all that was good John Bar - ley - corn - should die.



Ah poor boy, ah poor boy - John Bar - ley - corn - should die. - -

1

John Barleycorn was a wending weed;  
a farmer lived close by;  
the old farmer swore by all that was good  
John Barleycorn should die.  
Ah poor boy; ah poor boy,  
John Barleycorn should die.

2

So he hired land and he ploughed it,  
spread clods all over his head,  
and there they left John Barleycorn  
until they thought he was dead.  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
until they thought he was dead.

3

They left him there for a week or more  
'til showers of rain did fall,  
but John Barleycorn sprang up again  
and he soon surprised them all.  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
he soon surprised them all.

4

Then he hired men with reapers;  
they cut him down to his knees,  
and there was poor John Barleycorn  
left lying there at his ease.  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
left lying there at his ease.

5

Then he hired men with pitchforks;  
they pricked him into his heart,  
and then they took John Barleycorn  
and lashed him onto a cart.  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
they lashed him onto a cart.

6

Then they took John Barleycorn up the road;  
they placed him into a barn,  
and there they thrashed John Barleycorn  
but they couldn't do him no harm.  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
they couldn't do him no harm.

7

Then they took him to a malt kiln  
and beat him shin from bone,  
but the grinder it proved the worst of all,  
it ground him between two stones.  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
it ground him between two stones.

8

Then they put him into a mash tub  
all for to scald him there,  
but John Barleycorn sprang out again  
and he soon became brown beer.  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
he soon became brown beer.

9

So it's wine you drink out of glasses  
and cider out of a can,  
but John Barleycorn in an old pint pot  
he will prove the noblest man.  
he will prove the noblest man.

10

He will make a boy as big as a man,  
a man as big as an ass,  
and if you don't mind John Barleycorn  
he will topple you onto your  
Ah poor boy, ah poor boy,  
he will topple you onto your ah!