Spoken introduction:
G (1 strum on 1st beat of each bar)
Now, this here's the story about the Rock Island line
The Rock Island line she runs down into New Orleans
An' just outside o' New Orleans is a big toll gate
An' all the trains that go through the toll gate
Why, they gotta pay the man some money
But of course, if you got certain things on board
You're okay, you don't have to pay the man nothin’
And just now, we see a train
She comin’ down the line
And when she come up near the toll gate
The driver, he shout down to the man
He say, “I got pigs, I got horses
I got cows, I got sheep
I got all livestock
I got all— live—stock”
And the man say, “Well, you alright, boy
Just get on through
You don’t have to pay me nothin’”
And the train go through
And when he go through the toll gate
G (steady shuffle rhythm from here)

The train got up a little bit of steam
And a little bit of speed
And when the driver think he safely on the other side
He shout back down the line to the man
He said, “I fooled you, I fooled you
I got pig iron, I got pig iron
I got all— pig iron
Now, I'll tell you where I'm goin', boy”

G
Down the Rock Island line

She's a mighty good road
D7
The Rock Island line is the road to ride
G
Yes, the Rock Island line

She’s a mighty good road
C
An’ if you want to ride
G
You gotta ride it like you find it
C
Get your ticket at the station
D7
G
On the Rock Island line
G I may be right, I may be wrong
D7 You know you're gonna miss me when I'm gone
G

CHORUS

G Hallelujah, I'm saved from sin
D7 The good Lord comin' for to see me again
G

CHORUS

G A B C W X Y Z (Z should rhyme with "me")
D7 G Cat's in the cupboard, but he don't see me
G

Down the Rock Island line
She's a mighty good road
D7 The Rock Island line is the road to ride
G Yes, the Rock Island line
She's a mighty good road
C An' if you want to ride
G You gotta ride it like you find it
C Get your ticket at the station
D7 G On the Rock Island line
G Down the Rock Island line
She's a mighty good road
D7 The Rock Island line is the road to ride
G Yes, the Rock Island line
She's a mighty good road
C An' if you want to ride
G You gotta ride it like you find it
C Get your ticket at the station
D7 G On the Rock Island line