

Ode to Billy Joe

D7 Am D7
Twas the third of June another sleepy dusty delta day
D7 Am D7
I was out choppin cotton and my brother was balin' hay

G7
And at dinner time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat

D7
And Mama hollered out the back door "y'all remember to wipe your feet

G7
And then she said "I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge"

D7 C7
"Today Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the
D7
Tallahatchie Bridge"

D7 Am
And Papa said to Mama as he passed around the blackeyed
D7
peas

D7 A7
"Well, Billy Joe never had a lick of sense, pass the biscuits,
D7
please"

G7
"There's five more acres in the lower forty I've got to plow"

D7
And Mama said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow

G7
Seems like nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge

D7 **C7**
And now Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the
D7
Tallahatchie Bridge"

D7 **Am** **D7**
Brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billie Joe
D7 **Am** **D7**
Put a frog down my back at the Carroll County picture show
G7

And wasn't I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night?
D7

"I'll have another piece of apple pie, you know it don't seem
right"

G7
"I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge"

D7 **C7**
"And now you tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the
D7
Tallahatchie Bridge"

D7 **Am**
And Mama said to me "Child, what's happened to your
D7
appetite?"

D7 **Am**
"I've been cookin' all morning and you haven't touched a
D7
single bite"

G7
"That nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by
today"

D7
"Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh, by the
way"

G7

"He said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on
Choctaw Ridge"

D7

C7

"And she and Billy Joe was throwing somethin' off the
Tallahatchie Bridge"

D7

Am

A year has come 'n' gone since we heard the news 'bout
Billy Joe

Billy Joe

D7

Am

And Brother married Becky Thompson, they bought a store
in Tupelo

There was a virus going 'round, Papa caught it and he died
last Spring

G7

And now Mama doesn't seem to wanna do much of anything

D7

And me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choctaw
Ridge

And drop them into the muddy water off the Tallahatchie
Bridge

D7

C7

And drop them into the muddy water off the Tallahatchie
Bridge