

Ode To Billy Joe

Was the [D7]third of June, another [D7/A]sleepy, dusty Delta [D7]day
I was out choppin' cotton, and my [D7/A]brother was balin' [D7]hay
And at [G7]dinner time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat
And Mama [D7]hollered out the back door "Y'all [D7/A]remember to wipe your [D7] feet!"
And then she [G7]said, "I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge
Today, [D7]Billie Joe MacAllister jumped [C]off the Tallahatchie [D7]Bridge"

And [D7]Papa said to Mama, as he [D7/A]passed around the black-eyed [D7]peas
"Well, Billie Joe never had a lick of sense. [D7/A]Pass the biscuits, [D7]please
There's [G7]five more acres in the lower forty I got to plow"
And Mama [D7]said it was shame [D7/A]about Billie Joe, [D7]anyhow
Seems like [G7]nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge
And now [D7]Billie Joe MacAllister's jumped [C]off the Tallahatchie [D7]Bridge

And [D7]brother said he recollected when [D7/A]he, and Tom, and Billie [D7]Joe
Put a frog down my back at the [D7/A]Carroll County picture [D7]show
And wasn't [G7]I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night?
"I'll have [D7]another piece-a apple pie; you [D7/A]know, it don't seem [D7]right
I [G7]saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge
And now you [D7]tell me Billie Joe's jumped [C]off the Tallahatchie [D7]Bridge"

Mama [D7]said to me, "Child, what's [D7/A]happened to your [D7]appetite?
I've been cookin' all mornin', and you [D7/A]haven't touched a single [D7]bite
That [G7]nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today
Said he'd be [D7]pleased to have dinner on [D7/A]Sunday, oh, by the [D7]way
He said he [G7]saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge
And she and [D7]Billie Joe was throwin' somethin' [C]off the Tallahatchie [D7]Bridge"

A [D7]year has come and gone since we [D7/A]heard the news 'bout Billie [D7]Joe
Brother married Becky Thompson; they [D7/A]bought a store in [D7]Tupelo
There was a [G7]virus goin' 'round. Papa caught it, and he died last spring
And now [D7]Mama doesn't seem to want to [D7/A]do much of [D7]anything
And me, [G7]I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choctaw Ridge
And drop them [D7]into the muddy water [C]off the Tallahatchie [D7]Bridge