

Ode to Billie Joe

Songwriters: Bobbie Gentry

Key = D

D7 It was the third of June, another sleepy, dusty Delta day
I was out choppin' cotton, and my **Am** brother was balin' hay **D7**
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, remember to wipe your feet
And then she **G7** said, I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge
Today, **D7** Billy Joe MacAllister jumped **C7** off the Tallahatchie Bridge **D7**

And **D7** papa said to mama, as he **Am** passed around the blackeyed peas **D7**
Well, Billy Joe never had a lick of sense; **Am** pass the biscuits, please **D7**
There's **G7** five more acres in the lower forty I've got to plow
And mama **D7** said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow
Seems like **G7** nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge
And now **D7** Billy Joe MacAllister's jumped **C7** off the Tallahatchie Bridge **D7**

And **D7** brother said he recollected when **Am** he, and Tom, and Billie Joe **D7**
Put a frog down my back at the **Am** Carroll County picture show **D7**
And wasn't I **G7** talkin' to him after church last Sunday night?
I'll have **D7** another piece-a apple pie; you know, it don't seem right
I **G7** saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge
And now **D7** ya tell me Billie Joe's jumped **C7** off the Tallahatchie Bridge **D7**

D7 And mama said to me, child, what's **Am** happened to your appetite? **D7**
I've been cookin' all morning, and you **Am** haven't touched a single bite
That **G7** nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today
Said he'd be **D7** pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh, by the way
He **G7** said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge
And she **D7** and Billy Joe was throwing somethin' **C7** off the Tallahatchie Bridge
D7

D7 A year has come and gone since we **Am** heard the news 'bout Billy Joe **D7**
And brother married Becky Thompson; they **Am** bought a store in Tupelo
There was a **G7** virus going 'round; papa caught it, and he died last spring
And now **D7** mama doesn't seem to want to do much of anything
And **G7** me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choctaw Ridge
And drop them **D7** into the muddy water **C7** off the Tallahatchie Bridge **D7**