

ODE TO BILLY JOE - Bobbie Gentry (D)

INTRO: D-C-D then D (X4)

^D It was the third of June, another sleepy, dusty Delta day
^D I was out choppin' cotton and my brother was balin' hay
^G And at dinner time we stopped and we walked back to the house to eat
^D And mama hollered at the back door "Y'all remember to wipe your feet."
^G And then she said she got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge
^D Today Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge
^D Papa said to mama as he passed around the black-eyed peas
^D "Well, Billy Joe never had a lick of sense. Pass the biscuits, please."
^G "There's five more acres in the lower forty I've got to plow."
^D Mama said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow
^G Seems like nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge
^D And now Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

GUITAR LEAD/VERSE ^D And brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billy Joe
^D Put a frog down my back at the Carroll County picture show
GUITAR LEAD/VERSE ^G And wasn't I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night?
GUITAR LEAD/VERSE ^D "I'll have another piece of apple pie. You know, it just don't seem right."
^G "I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge."
^D "And now you tell me Billy Joe's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge."
^D Mama said to me "Child, what's happened to your appetite?"
^D "I've been cookin' all morning and you haven't touched a single bite."
^G "That nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today."
^D "Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday. Oh, by the way..."
^G "He said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge."
^D "And she and Billy Joe was throwing somethin' off the Tallahatchie Bridge"

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

GUITAR LEAD (D - Am - D D - Am - D G D G)

OUTRO: D-C-D slow D - C - D STOP