



Ode To Billy Joe

Key: D7

D7
 It was the third of June
Am7 D7
 Another sleepy, dusty Delta day
D7
 I was out choppin' cotton
Am7 D7
 And my brother was bailin' hay
G7
 And at dinner time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat
D7
 And Mama hollered at the back door
Am7 D7
 "Y'all remember to wipe your feet
G7
 Then she said, "I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge
D7
 Today Billy Joe McAllister
C7 D
 Jumped off the Tallahatchee Bridge

Chord Progression the same:

Papa said to Mama, as he passed around the black-eyed peas
 "Well, Billy Joe never had a lick o'sense, pass the biscuits please
 There's five more acres in the lower forty I've go to plow."
 And Mama said it was a shame about Billy Joe anyhow
 Seems like nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge
 And now Billy Joe McAllister's jumped off the Tallahatchee Bridge.

Brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billy Joe
 Put a frog down my back at the Carrol Country picture show
 And wasn't I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night
 I'll have another piece of apple pie, you know, it don't seem right
 I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge
 And now you tell me Billy Joe jumped off the Tallahatchee Bridge.

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

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