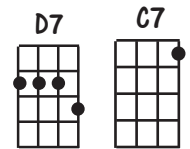


ODE TO BILLIE JOE



D7 **Am7** **D7** **Am7** **D7**
it was the third of June, another sleepy dusty delta day I was out choppin cotton and my brother was balin hay

G7 **D7**
and at dinner time we stopped & walked back to the house to eat & mama hollered out the back door, y'all remember to wipe your feet

G7 **D7** **C7** **D7**
and then she said, I got some news this mornin from Choctaw Ridge today Billie Joe MacAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

D7 **Am7** **D7** **Am7** **D7**
and papa said to mama as he passed around the black-eyed peas well Billie Joe never had a lick o' sense, pass the biscuits please

G7 **D7**
there's five more acres in the lower forty I got to plow and mama said it was a shame about Billie Joe anyhow

G7 **D7** **C7** **D7**
seems like nothin ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge and now Billie Joe MacAllister's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

D7 **Am7** **D7** **Am7** **D7**
and brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billie Joe put a frog down my back at the Carroll County picture show

G7 **D7**
and wasn't I talkin to him after church last Sunday night? I'll have another piece-a apple pie, y'know it don't seem right

G7 **D7** **C7** **D7**
I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge and now ya tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

D7 **Am7** **D7** **Am7** **D7**
and mama said to me, child what's happened to your appetite I've been cookin all mornin and you haven't touched a single bite

G7 **D7**
that nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh by the way

G7 **D7** **C7** **D7**
he said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge & she & Billie Joe was throwin somethin off the Tallahatchie Bridge

D7 **Am7** **D7** **Am7** **D7**
a year has come & gone since we heard the news 'bout Billie Joe & brother married Becky Thompson, they bought a store in Tupelo

G7 **D7**
there was a virus going 'round, papa caught it and he died last spring and now mama doesn't seem to want to do much of anything

G7 **D7** **C7** **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