ODE TO BILLIE JOE – BOBBY GENTRY D7 D7 Am7 Twas the third of june another sleepy dusty delta day D7 Am7 **D7** I was out choppin cotton and my brother was balin' hay **G7** And at dinner time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat **D7** And Mama hollered out the back door "y'all remember to wipe your feet **G7** And then she said "I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge" **C7 D7 D7** "Today Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge" **D7** Am7 **D7** And Papa said to Mama as he passed around the blackeyed peas **D7** Am7 **D7** "Well, Billy Joe never had a lick of sense, pass the biscuits, please" **G7** "There's five more acres in the lower forty I've got to plow" **D7** And Mama said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow **G7** Seems like nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge **D7 C7 D7** And now Billy Joe MacAllister's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge **D7 D7** Am7 And Brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billie Joe **D7 D7** Am7 Put a frog down my back at the Carroll County picture show **G7** And wasn't I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night? **D7** "I'll have another piece of apple pie, you know it don't seem right" **G7** "I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge"

D7 **C7 D7** "And now you tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge" **D7** Am7 D7 And Mama said to me "Child, what's happened to your appetite?" D7 Am7 **D7** "I've been cookin' all morning and you haven't touched a single bite" **G7** "That nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today" **D7** "Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh, by the way" **G7** "He said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge" **D7 C7 D7** "And she and Billy Joe was throwing somethin' off the Tallahatchie Bridge" **D7** Am7 **D7** A year has come 'n' gone since we heard the news 'bout Billy Joe **D7** Am7 **D7** And Brother married Becky Thompson, they bought a store in Tupelo **G7** There was a virus going 'round, Papa caught it and he died last Spring **D7** And now Mama doesn't seem to wanna do much of anything **G7** And me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choctaw Ridge **D7 D7 C7** And droppin them into the muddy water off the Tallahatchie Bridge

(Am7 is no fingers on the strings , entirely open)