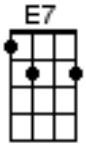
Ode To Billy Joe Bobbie Gentry

Intro: [E7] [E7] [E7] [E7]



It was the **[E7]** Third of June another sleepy dusty delta day
I was **[E7]** out choppin cotton and my brother was balin' hay
And at **[A7]** dinner time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat
And Mama **[E7]** hollered out the back door "y'all remember to wipe your feet"
And then she **[A7]** said "I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge"
"Today **[E7 !]** Billy Joe MacAllister
jumped **[D7 !]** off the Tallahatchie **[E7]** Bridge"

And **[E7]** Papa said to Mama as he passed around the black-eyed peas
"Well, Billy **[E7]** Joe never had a lick of sense, pass the biscuits, please"
"There's **[A7]** five more acres in the lower forty I've got to plow"
And Mama **[E7]** said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow
Seems like **[A7]** nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge
And now **[E7 !]** Billy Joe MacAllister
jumped **[D7 !]** off the Tallahatchie **[E7]** Bridge

And **[E7]** brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billie Joe
Put a **[E7]** frog down my back at the Carroll County picture show
And wasn't **[A7]** I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night?
"I'll have an **[E7]**-other piece of apple pie, you know it don't seem right"
"I **[A7]** saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge"
"And now you **[E7 !]** tell me Billie Joe's
jumped **[D7 !]** off the Tallahatchie **[E7 !]** Bridge"

And **[E7]** Mama said to me "Child, what's happened to your appetite?
Well I've been **[E7]** cookin' all morning and you haven't touched a single bite
That **[A7]** nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today
Said he'd be **[E7]** pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh, by the way"
He **[A7]** said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge
And she and **[E7 !]** Billy Joe was
throwing somethin' **[D7 !]** off the Tallahatchie **[E7]** Bridge"

A **[E7]** year has come 'n' gone since we heard the news 'bout Billy Joe
And **[E7]** brother married Becky Thompson, they bought a store in Tupelo
There was a **[A7]** virus going 'round, Papa caught it and he died last Spring
And now **[E7]** Mama doesn't seem to wanna do much of anything
And **[A7]** me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choctaw Ridge
And drop them **[E7 !]** in to the muddy water
[D7 !] off the Tallahatchie **[E7]** Bridge

[Don't sing] And drop them **[E7]** in to the muddy water
[D7] off the Tallahatchie **[E7]** Bridge **[E7 !]**