Ode to Billy Joe
by Bobbie Gentry (1967)

Intro: D7 . . . | . . .

It was the third of June, another sleepy, dusty, deltoid
ay-ay-ay-ay—

I was out choppin’ cotton and my brother was bal—in’ hay-ay-ay-ay—

And at dinner-time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat.

And momma hollered at the back door, “Y’all remember to wipe your feet.”

And then she said, “I got some news this mornin’ from Choc-taw Ridge—

Today, Billy Joe Mc-Allister jumped off the Talla-hach-ee Bridge—"
And drop them in
And now
There was a virus
Brother married
D7
A year has come and
I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choc-taw Ri--i--i--idge--
And now you tell me Billy Joe's jumped off the Talla-hach-ee Bri--idge.”

Momma said to me, “Child, what's happened to your ap-pe--ti--i--ite?
I've been cookin' all morning' and you haven't touched a single bite.
. | G7 . . . . . . | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
That nice young preacher Brother Taylor dropped by to--day--ay--ay.
. | D7 . . . . . . | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh, by the way--ay--ay--ay--
. | G7 . . . . . . | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
He said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ri--i--i--idge--
. | D7\ . . . . . . | C7\ . . . . . . | D7 . . . . . . .
And she and Billy Joe was throwin' somethin' off the Talla-hach-ee Bri--idge.

A year has come and gone since we heard the news a-bout Billy Joe-o-o--oe--.
Brother married Becky Thompson, they bought a store in Tup-el--o.
. | G7 . . . . . . | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
There was a virus goin' 'round, Papa caught it and he died last sprin--ing--ing
. | D7 . . . . . . | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
And now Momma doesn't seem to want to do much of any--thing--ing--ing
| G7 . . . . . . | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
And me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choc-taw Ri--i--i--idge--
. | D7\ . . . . . . | C7\ . . . . . . | D7 . . . . . . .
And drop them in-- to the muddy water off the Talla-hach-ee Bri--idge.

San Jose Ukelele Club
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