

## **Billie Jo Spears**

### **"Ode To Billie Joe"**

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It was the third of June another sleepy dusty Delta day  
I was out choppin' cotton and my brother was a bailin'  
hay  
At dinner time we stopped and walked back to the  
house to eat  
And mama hollered at the backdoor y'all remember to  
wipe your feet  
She said I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw  
Wridge  
Today Billie Joe Macallister jumped off the Tallahatchie  
Bridge

Papa said to mama as she passed around the black  
eyed peas  
Billie Joe never had a lick of sense pass the biscuits  
please  
There's five more acres in the lower forty I got to plow  
And mama said it was a shame about Billie Joe anyhow  
It seems like nothing ever comes to no good upon  
Choctaw Wridge  
And now you tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the  
Tallahatchie Bridge

Brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billie  
Joe  
Put a frog down my back at the Carroll County 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 upon Choctaw  
Wridge  
And now you tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the  
Tallahatchie Bridge

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  
That nice young preacher brother Tailor dropped by  
today  
Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday oh by

the way  
He said he saw a girl that's looked a lot like you upon  
Choctaw Wridge  
And she and Billie Joe was throwin' somethin' off the  
Tallahatchie Bridge

One year has come and gone since we heard the news  
about Billie Joe  
Brother married Becky Thompson and they bought a  
store in Tupelo  
There was a virus goin' round and papa caught it and  
he died last spring  
Now mama doesn't seem to want to do much of  
anything  
And me I spent a lot of time pickin' flowers upon  
Choctaw Wridge  
And dropped 'em down into the muddy water off the  
Tallahatchie Bridge

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