

# Flatt And Scruggs, Ode To Billie Joe

It was the third of June another sleepy dusty Delta day  
I was out choppin' cotton and my brother was bailin' hay  
And at dinner time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat  
And mama hollered at the backdoor you all remember to wipe your feet  
And then she said I got some news this morning from Choctaw Wridge  
Today Billie Joe Macallister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge  
Papa said to mama as he 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  
Seems like nothing ever comes to no good upon Choctaw Wridge  
Now Billie Joe Macallister 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 just don't seem right  
I saw him at sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Wridge  
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 cooking all morning and you haven't touched a single bite  
And nice young preacher brother Tailor dropped by today  
Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday oh by the way  
Said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you upon Choctaw Wridge  
She and Billie Joe was throwin' something off the Tallahatchie Bridge  
Year's 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 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 Chotaw Wridge  
And dropped 'em into the muddy water off the Tallahatchie Bridge