DUE- APRIL 24TH

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“**Ode to Billie Joe”**

*It was the third of June, another sleepy dusty Delta day. I was out chopping cotton and my brother was bailing hay. At dinnertime, we stopped and walked back to the house to eat.*

*Mama hollered at the backdoor, “Y'all remember to wipe your feet! I got some news this morning from Choctaw Ridge. 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.”  
 Mama said it was a shame about Billie Joe anyhow. It seems like nothing ever comes to no good upon Choctaw Ridge, 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 talking' 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 Ridge, 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 cooking all morning, and you haven't touched a single bite. That nice young preacher, brother Tailor, dropped by today and 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 Ridge and she and Billie Joe was throwing something 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 going 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 picking flowers upon Choctaw Ridge and dropped them down into the muddy water off the Tallahatchie Bridge.*

**1. Briefly, in one or two sentences, what is the song about?**

**2. What sad and upsetting event has happened?**

**3. What exact words does the writer use the first time that the subject of the song is involved with Billie Joe?**

**4. What is happening that shows for the first time the subject is upset about what happened to Billie Joe?**

**5. What does the subject of the song do to remember Billie Joe after he was gone?**