

Source E: Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong, lyrics from a 1960s pop song, “War,” 1969

Note: Several clips of this music video, as well as other protest songs & videos can be found at the YouTube link below. Please preview any videos before showing to students.

WAR

By Norman Whitfield & Barrett Strong

War, huh, yeah

What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing, oh hoh, oh

War, huh, yeah

What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing, say it again, y'all

War, huh, good God

What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing, listen to me

Oh, war, I despise

'Cause it means destruction of innocent lives

War means tears to thousands of mothers' eyes

When their sons go off to fight and lose their lives

I said

War, huh, good God y'all

What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing, just say it again

War, whoa Lord

What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing, listen to me

War, it ain't nothin' but a heartbreak

War, friend only to the undertaker

Oh war, is an enemy to all mankind

The thought of war blows my mind

War has caused unrest within the younger generation

Induction, then destruction, who wants to die?

War, good God y'all

What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing, say it, say it, say it

War, uh huh, yeah, huh

What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing, listen to me

War, it ain't nothin' but a heartbreaker
War, it's got one friend, that's the undertaker
Oh, war has shattered many young man's dreams
Made him disabled, bitter and mean
Life is much too short and precious to spend fighting wars these days
War can't give life, it can only take it away, ooh
War, huh, good God y'all
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing, say it again
War, whoa, Lord
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing, listen to me
War, it ain't nothin' but a heartbreaker
War, friend only to the undertaker
Peace love and understanding tell me
Is there no place for them today?
They say we must fight to keep our freedom
But Lord knows there's got to be a better way
War, huh, good God y'all
What is it good for?
You tell 'em, say it, say it, say it, say it
War, good Lord, huh
What is it good for?
Stand up and shout it, nothing
War, it ain't nothin' but a heartbreaker

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