

The universal soldier

- 1 He's five foot two and he's six feet four
2 He fights with missiles and with spears
3 He's all of thirty-one and he's only seventeen
4 He's been a soldier for a thousand years.
- 5 He's a Catholic, a Hindu, an atheist, a Jain
6 A Buddhist and a Baptist and a Jew
7 And he knows he shouldn't kill and he knows he always will
8 Kill you for me, my friend, and me for you.
- 9 And he's fighting for Canada, he's fighting for France
10 He's fighting for the USA
11 And he's fighting for the Russians and he's fighting for Japan
12 And he thinks we'll put an end to war this way.
- 13 And he's fighting for democracy, he's fighting for the Reds
14 He says it's for the peace of all
15 He's the one who must decide who's to live and who's to die
16 And he never sees the writing on the wall.
- 17 But without him how could Hitler have killed people at Dachau
18 Without him Caesar would have stood alone
19 He's the one who gives his body as a weapon of the war
20 And without him all this killing can't go on.
- 21 He's the Universal Soldier and he really is to blame
22 His orders come from far away no more
23 They come from here and there and you and me
24 and brothers can't you see
25 This is not the way we put an end to war.

*words and music by Buffy Sainte-Marie (*1941, Canadian musician and composer)*

Voc.:

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| 1 | five foot two (<i>inches</i>), six feet four (<i>inches</i>) | foot/feet: ca 0.3 metres |
| 5 | Jain | a follower of Jainism, a Hindu religion |
| 13 | the Reds | the Communists |
| 16 | writing on the wall | a warning (of death and destruction) |
| 21 | he is to blame | he is responsible |

Tasks

1. Sum up in two or three sentences what this song is about.
2. Analyse the personality of the "universal soldier" and explain the message of this song.
3. Which means does the author use to present her message?
Analyse the formal aspects of this text **and** the effect on the target group.
4. Can critical songs or poems about wars be in any way effective, in your opinion?
Write a well-balanced comment, please.