

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Half a league,¹ half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.
5 “Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!” he said:
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred. **A**

“Forward, the Light Brigade!”
10 Was there a man dismay’d?
Not tho’ the soldier knew
 Some one had blunder’d:²
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
15 Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,

A RHYTHM AND METER

Reread lines 1–4, tapping your desk with each stressed syllable. How many stressed syllables are in each line?

ANALYZE VISUALS

How well do the **images** in this painting match the scene described in the poem? Explain your answer.

1. **league**: a distance of three miles.

2. **blunder’d**: made a mistake.