

20 Cannon in front of them  
    Volley'd and thunder'd;  
    Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
    Boldly they rode and well,  
    Into the jaws of Death,  
25 Into the mouth of Hell  
    Rode the six hundred.

Flash'd all their sabers<sup>3</sup> bare,  
Flash'd as they turn'd in air  
Sabring the gunners there,  
30 Charging an army, while  
    All the world wonder'd:  
Plunged in the battery<sup>4</sup> smoke,  
Right thro' the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
35 Reel'd from the saber-stroke,  
    Shatter'd and sunder'd.<sup>5</sup>  
Then they rode back, but not,  
Not the six hundred. **B**

Cannon to right of them,  
40 Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
    Volley'd and thunder'd;  
    Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell,  
45 They that had fought so well  
Came thro' the jaws of Death.  
Back from the mouth of Hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred. **C**

50 When can their glory fade?  
O, the wild charge they made!  
    All the world wonder'd.  
Honor the charge they made!  
Honor the Light Brigade,  
55 Noble six hundred!

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3. **sabers**: heavy, slightly curved swords.

4. **battery**: related to guns and cannons used together.

5. **sunder'd**: broken apart; split into pieces.

**B READING A  
NARRATIVE POEM**

Since narrative poems have a plot, they also have a **climax**, or point of greatest excitement. What is the climax of this poem?

**C RHYTHM AND  
METER**

Reread lines 39–42 aloud. What is happening to the 600 soldiers? Explain how the meter of these lines matches the events being depicted.