

## THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

by *Lord Alfred Tennyson*

I

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

II

“Forward, the Light Brigade!”  
Was there a man dismayed?  
Not though the soldier knew  
Someone had blundered.  
Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die.  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

III

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon in front of them  
Volleyed and thundered;  
Stormed at with shot and shell,  
Boldly they rode and well,  
Into the jaws of Death,  
Into the mouth of hell  
Rode the six hundred.

1. What does ‘the Light Brigade’ refer to?  

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2. Which phrase in stanza 1 shows how far the soldiers were from their destination?  

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3. From stanza 1, what was the soldiers’ means of transportation during the mission?  

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4. In stanza 1, what were the soldiers commanded to do?  

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5. In stanza 1, what was the strength of the Light Brigade in number?  

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6. In stanza 2, why could one lose his courage upon the command given?  

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7. In stanza 2, what was the reason for the predicament that the soldiers were facing?
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8. State a line from stanza 2 which shows that the soldiers were not discouraged by their authority's order?
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9. In stanza 2, state one quality of the Light Brigade reflected in the line '*Theirs but to do and die*'.
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10. In stanza 2, why do you think the poet refers the battleground as 'the Valley of Death'?
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11. In stanza 3, name the weapons used in the battle.
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12. In stanza 3, how can you tell that the soldiers of the Light Brigade were attacked relentlessly by their enemy?
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13. How has the poet portrayed the soldiers of the Light Brigade in this poem? Give one evidence from the poem to support your answer.
- Response : \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason : \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTED ANSWERS : Charge of The Light Brigade :

1. 'The Light Brigade' refers to the army group of six hundred soldiers on horses.
2. 'Half a league onward' .
3. Horses.
4. The soldiers were commanded to dash towards the enemy and attack before they could shoot with their guns.
5. Six hundred soldiers in number.
6. Because the command given to them was actually a blunder.
7. Their predicament is that they could not reply to or argue any command given to them.
8. "Theirs but to do and die".
9. Obedient/ Loyal/ Patriotic.
10. Because it was obvious that most of the soldiers of the Light Brigade would be shot dead by their enemy as they rode their horses into the valley where the enemy was awaiting.
11. Cannons and guns.
12. Because they were continuously attacked from their right, left and front.
13. Response : The soldiers have been portrayed as brave and patriotic.  
Reason : Because they still fought hard and courageously despite knowing that they were at a disadvantage and did not have much chance to defeat the enemy.