

“The Charge of the Light Brigade”  
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

1.

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.

2.

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"  
Was there a man dismay'd?  
Not tho' the soldiers knew  
Someone had blunder'd:  
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.

3.

Cannon to the right of them,  
Cannon to the left of them,  
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,  
Into the mouth of Hell,  
Rode the six hundred.

4.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,  
Flash'd as they turn'd in air,  
Sab'ring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while  
All the world wonder'd:  
Plunged in the battery-smoke,  
Right thro' the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke  
Shatter'd and sunder'd.  
Then they rode back, but not--  
Not the six hundred.

5.

Cannon to the right of them,  
Cannon to the left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
Volleyed and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell,  
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.

6.

When can their glory fade?  
Oh, the wild charge they made!  
All the world wonder'd.  
Honor the charge they made!  
Honor the Light Brigade,  
Noble Six Hundred!

*Discuss the poem's movement and rhythm. How do the style and the form of the poem convey its meaning?*

*FCA: The essay effectively establishes and discusses movement, rhythm, style and form in the context of the poem. 10 p.*

*FCA: The argument is effectively supported with relevant textual evidence. 10 p.*

*FCA: Essay structure/organization/conventions/mechanics. 20 p.*