

Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson

The structure throughout this **revolutionary poem** proves to stand the test of time, instantly throwing us into the scene of blood and gore at the battle of Balaklava with the opening line, "half a league, half a league, half a league onwards." In this moment we are introduced to **dactylic dimeter**, stressed and face paced, conveying the action and **galloping military rhythm** held by the soldiers on their horses. Furthermore, this repetition is motivational and portrays the nature of war being consistent, happening quickly and often, almost so often that it is a **meaningless normalcy**.

Yet, **contrastingly**, the poet is clearly determined to remember the soldiers in light of their nobility, made obvious through a **shift in focus with the catalyst** "blunder'd" - a theme of duty and glory introduced, a more violent tone of extreme heroism. This is reinforced by the **altering tone** in stanza 5, where a **reminiscent retrospect** ensues to mourn the deaths of so many soldiers, supported by "horse and hero fell / they had fought so well / all that was left of six hundred."

To conspire, it is suggested through a **continuous theme of infantilisation** that reality is juxtaposed with war, how the death of thousands- never diminishing through histories of endless dark conflict- is **glorified and sought after**. This is made clear with a **cyclical motion** at the end of the poem similarly with the beginning: "six hundred." The obvious repetition mirrors the boldness and bravery Tennyson conveys the soldiers to have as they blindly ride into their inevitable deaths. To add, the line in the opening stanza that is similarly repeated, "valley of Death," is clearly important and heightened by it's capital letter, portraying **inevitability and insignificance**: furthermore, the fate of the soldiers, demanded to fight by anonymised authority.