The Charge of the Light Brigade
The Charge of the Light Brigade

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.  
Thyrs not to make reply,  
Thyrs not to reason why,  
Thyrs 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.

IV
Flashed all their sabres bare,  
Flashed as they turned in air  
Sabring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while  
All the world wondered.  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right through the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reeled from the sabre stroke  
Shattered and sundered.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

V
Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
Volleyed and thundered;  
Stormed at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell.  
They that had fought so well  
Came through the jaws of Death,  
Back from the mouth of hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred.

VI
When can their glory fade?  
O the wild charge they made!  
All the world wondered.  
Honour the charge they made!  
Honour the Light Brigade,  
Noble six hundred!
Year 6 Reading Assessment
Poetry Answer Booklet

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Questions 15 to 23 are about ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’

15. How many soldiers ‘rode’ in verse I?

16. ‘Half a league, half a league, / Half a league onward’
These lines use the repetition of a phrase for effect.
Find and copy two more phrases that are repeated in verse I.
1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________

Look at verse II

17. Find and copy a phrase which suggests a mistake had been made.

18. Which word is used to rhyme with brigade?
19. Look at these lines:
‘Their not to make reply,
Their not to reason why,
Their but to do and die.’
What does this tell you about the attitude of the soldiers?

20. Look at these lines:
‘Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death’
What do you think is meant by this?

21. Find and copy a word which suggests the poet believes we should admire the soldiers and regard them with great respect.
22. Order these events from the poem. The first one has been done for you.

- The brigade rode back but some men had been killed.
- The soldiers all followed the order and rode forward.
- The order was given to charge forward.  
  1
- The enemy were waiting and shot at the soldiers.

23. Look at these lines:
‘Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volleyed and thundered’

Which of these statements best summarise the situation being described? Tick one.

- The soldiers did not have any cannons.
- The brigade did not know about the enemy cannons.
- The soldiers were surrounded by enemy cannons.
- There was a storm with thunder and lightning.

End of questions about ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’

**END OF TEST**