# SOCIAL COMMENTARY

- Soldiers are the true victims and true heroes of war
- Job of the soldier was to “do and die,” not to “reason why”
- Blindly motivated by loyalty and a sense of duty
- Winning was not what mattered - it was about how well they fought and how they were courageous

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### SETTING

- Crimean War fought between Russia and Turkey, France, and Great Britain (1854-56)
- October 25, 1854 at the Battle of Balaclava
- Light Cavalry Brigade (horseback with sabers) charge the Russian guns and cannons
- 670 soldiers charge into battle, but almost half die because of a commander’s mistake

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### POETIC DEVICES

**Repetition** - “half a league” to show the difficult physical and mental journey; “rode the six hundred” to show the small number of brave soldiers

**Allusion** - “valley of Death” connects to a quote from the Bible which shows the fearlessness of the soldiers, even in the face of death

**Personification** - “jaws of Death” and “mouth of Hell” shows the battle as a monster about to consume or kill the troops

**Rhyme scheme, rhythm, imagery, metaphors, etc.**

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### THEMES

- Loyalty
- Pride
- Responsibility
- Heroes/ Glory
- Courage/Honor
- Death

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### “Charge of the Light Brigade”

**By Alfred, Lord Tennyson**

Pg 198 in Lit Book