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So Much Dark from the Light Brigade

Alfred Lord Tennyson was a Victorian Era poet whose many different writing styles inspired many generations of poets and poem lovers alike. Many generations and thousands of people later, Lord Tennyson's poems are still read in the classroom by students or at home by the average everyday person. Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade" contains many of the aspects of writing from metaphors to different of tone and diction that everyone has come to adore. With an analysis of "The Charge of the Light Brigade" readers will be able to understand more about Alfred Lord Tennyson as a poet.

Alfred Lord Tennyson lived during the Victorian Age between the years of 1809 and 1892. He started writing early on in his life but his best selling works were after 1850 (Reidhead 1156). He was the fourth child out of twelve in his family. He quickly gained the interest in writing and poetry. After many quarrels with his father, Alfred was sent off to Cambridge University because his father expected much more from his son (Reidhead 1156). During college Alfred and his brother published a work, *Poems by Two Brothers*, which was noticed by a group of undergraduates who helped to encourage him to dedicate himself to poetry. Alfred's social interactions at Cambridge helped to increase his confidence and intellect as a poet and also break him away from his shy personality. Alfred became engaged to one of his greatest influences, Arthur Hallam, sister Emily (Reidhead 1156). Alfred Lord Tennyson's years as a college man

came to an end in 1831 when his family got into financial trouble. He returned home and continued his studies of poetry. He was criticized on his first few volumes in the years 1830 to 1831. It wasn't until 1842 that Alfred's volumes started to take the stage and spotlight. His marriage was postponed for twenty years until he was finally married in 1850 (Reidhead 1157). Alfred was more popular than Lord Byron and was making around £10,000 a year. Many critics said that Alfred's success was bad for him and it made his poetic power decline (Reidhead 1157). Alfred Lord Tennyson helped prompt many readers and many new poets on the rise. His work as a poet greatly influenced many and some of his poems are still enjoyed today like "The Charge of the Light Brigade".

"The Charge of the Light Brigade" is a poem about a league of calvary. "Half a league, half a league, Half a league onward" (Reidhead 1235). In this moment it is easy to picture men charging around a corner into battle. Alfred Lord Tennyson continues to paint the scene in the first stanza. "All in the valley of death, Rode the six hundred" (Reidhead 1235). Alfred continues to tell the story of the brigade. 600 men are riding to their death in a valley. In the third stanza Alfred writes, "Cannon to the right of them, Cannon to the left of them, Cannon in front of them" (Reidhead 1235). This line gives the reader a sense of the tone and a theme in the poem. The reader can assume that the 600 men are surrounded and are going to die. This is where the themes of the poem starts. The themes are death and bravery. The theme of death is very prominent throughout the entire poem. "Boldly they rode and well, Into the Jaws of death" (Reidhead 1235). This line from the third stanza is talking about the men riding to their deaths boldly and with pride.

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Work Cited

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