

Imagery & Sound Devices

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

Essential Question #1

How do effective writers use imagery in their poetry?

Imagery helps the reader create mental pictures based on the content/word choice in the poem. Therefore, it aids in the visualization of the written description and assists the reader's understanding of the poem.

Imagery

How would you best describe the scene in this picture? Choose words that produce imagery.



Courage and Honor

In this selection, we are going to examine the concepts of courage and honor.

In your opinion, what is courage?

What is honor?

How are they alike?

Can you have one without the other?

Write your answers to these questions in your notes.

Essential Question #2

How does the sound device, repetition, contribute to the poem's overall impact?

Repetition refers to sounds, words, phrases, or lines that are stated or used more than once in a poem. Poets use repetition to emphasize an idea or convey a certain feeling.

Overview

- ▶ The poem tells the story of a brigade consisting of 600 soldiers who rode on horseback into the “valley of death” for half a league (about one and a half miles). They were obeying a command to charge the enemy forces that had been seizing their guns.
- ▶ Not a single soldier was discouraged or distressed by the command to charge forward, even though all the soldiers realized that their commander had made a terrible mistake: “Someone had blundered.” The role of the soldier is to obey and “not to make reply...not to reason why,” so they followed orders and rode into the “valley of death.”

As you read...

Look at the lines that Tennyson repeats. Why does he repeat those specific lines? What does the repetition do for the poem's meaning?

Visual of the Poem – Post Reading

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r9Ck9WtrZg&feature=fvwrrel>

From *The Blind Side*

In the movie *The Blind Side*, Sean Tuohy attempts to help Michael Oher write an English paper. He uses a football analogy to help Michael understand the subject of the poem.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVbSQpoFDb0>

SOAPS

Title of Poem: "The Charge of the Light Brigade"

Author & Facts: Alfred, Lord Tennyson

- ▶ British poet

- ▶ Buried in Westminster Abbey; Poet's Corner

Subject: describing the brave heroes of the Light Brigade

Occasion: read about the battle in a newspaper article

Audience: general audience

Purpose: to honor the brave soldiers who died in the battle

Speaker: unknown narrator; possibly the poet

Survival and the Concept of Honor and Duty

Looking at your survival handout, write a summary of the content of this poem.

What textual evidence from the poem supports that sometimes people will choose honor and duty over their own survival?
Why?