

Read the [brief essay on Alfred Noyes](#) and answer the following questions.

7. What clues do you find in this essay that suggest some of Alfred Noyes' beliefs and values?

8. Early in the twentieth century, the modernist movement was challenging tradition by inventing radical new approaches to art and literature; for example, some poets began to write "free verse," which is poetry without traditional forms of meter and rhyme. What was the attitude of Alfred Noyes toward these changes?

Read the brief essay on [Lord Tennyson](#) and answer the following questions.

9. In 1832, some critics said that Tennyson's poems were "obscure." What does that mean?

10. The poem you will soon be reading, "Charge of the Light Brigade," was written by Tennyson in 1864. How had Tennyson's situation changed since 1832, when his *Poems* were published to harsh criticism? How had he changed as a person?

11. "Charge of the Light Brigade" was written to memorialize events of national importance: the bravery of British soldiers in a battle that had occurred ten years earlier. Does that sound "obscure" to you? How might Tennyson's changed circumstances in 1864 have affected the kind of poetry he wrote?

Read the brief essay on the [Crimean War](#) and answer the following questions.

12. Why did England enter a war that was between Russia and Turkey? What persuaded the British public to support the war?

13. What events might have made the war somewhat less popular with the British public by 1864, when Tennyson wrote his poem "Charge of the Light Brigade"?

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As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 401 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 2,118 (approx.)