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

1. About which war was “The Charge of the Light Brigade” written?
2. According to the first stanza, how many British forces rode into the battle?
3. In stanza one, to what does the phrase “the valley of death” allude and what purpose does this phrasing serve in the narrative?
4. Why did the soldiers ride to their deaths? What were the soldiers ordered to do?
5. What kinds of weapons did the Light Brigade have?
6. What kinds of weapons did their opponents have?
7. In stanza 2, what does the word “dismayed” suggest?
8. Did the British soldiers feel discouraged? Why?
9. In stanza 2, what does the line “Someone had blundered” suggest?
10. Write the meanings of the following lines:
    1. Theirs not to make reply:
    2. Theirs not to reason why:
    3. Theirs but to do and die:
11. Who won the battle?
12. Give two adjectives to describe the 600 men.
13. If you were in the army and the commander told you to fight in a battle where you would most likely die, what would you do? Why?
14. Do you believe that war is sometimes necessary?
15. Is it noble to follow orders without questioning? Why or why not?