Charge of the light brigade – questions

Structure

There are 6 stanzas in the poem. In the first 3 stanzas, the poet describes the charge, in the battle in the 4th, and the retreat in the 5th. The final stanza focuses on the heroism of the light brigade. It is a narrative poem, and has features of a ballad. The structure is similar from stanza 1 to 3. In stanza four, the structure starts to vary. Here, the rhythm is broken by four shorter lines. Stanza five makes it emphasises the desperate attempt to retreat by using mostly longer lines, to give a sense of breathlessness. The final stanza is shorter to focus on heroism.

Language

Throughout the poem, Tennyson uses language techniques. Rhythm is very important in this poem because it represents the sound of galloping horses. By making the poem sound like this, the reader feels more involved in the poem. The poem also uses anaphora. “Cannon to the right of them, / Cannon to the left of them, / Cannon in front of them" creates a sense of ruthless assault. It also makes the reader cound the cannons, like the soliders would have done. Tennyson also uses ongoing personification throughout the poem. "Into the jaws of Death, / Into the mouth of Hell". This describes the valley as a place of death using personifcation. The use of the capital 'H' in 'Hell' is effective because it makes 'Hell' look like a person