

# The Charge of the Light Brigade

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*When interpreting and analysing a poem, we need to first know the poet's background so that we are better able to relate it to what he or she may be trying to convey.*



[http://cultured.com/images/image\\_files/74/1929\\_s\\_alfred\\_\\_lord\\_tennyson.jpg](http://cultured.com/images/image_files/74/1929_s_alfred__lord_tennyson.jpg)

## About the Poet

Born on August 6, 1809, in Somersby, Lincolnshire, England, Alfred Tennyson is one of the most well-loved Victorian poets. Tennyson, the fourth of twelve children, showed an early talent for writing. At the age of twelve he wrote a 6,000-line epic poem. His father, the Reverend George Tennyson, tutored his sons in classical and modern languages.

In 1827, he and his brother Charles published *Poems by Two Brothers* which attracted the attention of the "Apostles," an undergraduate literary club led by Arthur Hallam. The "Apostles" provided Tennyson, who was tremendously shy, with much needed friendship and confidence as a poet. Hallam and Tennyson became the best of friends; Hallam's sudden death in 1833 greatly affected the young poet. The long elegy *In Memoriam* and many of Tennyson's other poems are tributes to Hallam. In 1850, with the publication of *In Memoriam*, Tennyson became one of Britain's most popular poets. He was selected Poet Laureate in succession to Wordsworth. At the age of 41, Tennyson had established himself as the most popular poet of the Victorian era.