Both the reading and the lecture are discussing about ongoing debates around the main cause of a major explosion in the Tunguska, Russia, 1908. However, while many people believe that it was kind of a nuclear explosion the author of the passage states that it was a methane gas explosion. The professor casts doubt on the claims made in the article. He thinks that the cause must be an asteroid which struck the ground there.

First of all, the writer mentions that no asteroid rocks or materials related to an asteroid have been found there. These rocks are made from Nickle and Iridium which can be easily detected with scientific examinations. The lecturer on the other hand, besides mentioning a light in the sky and strong wind followed by as signs of an asteroid entrance to the Earth's atmosphere asserts that there was no asteroid kind of rock existed there because they should be either washed away or were too small to be recognized.

Secondly, the author believes that there would be large impact craters left on the ground if an asteroid had hit the ground, but Tunguska has none. the writer thinks that the mentioned lake was appeared 5000 years ago due to the scientists’ observations from mud silt of the lake, and the trees devastation was because of the methane gas explosion. The professor rebuts this claim. He mentions the unique pattern of trees for 50 km, standing there without their branches and barks observed by laboratory tests.

Finally, the writer states the special characteristics of the environment, increasing the chance of methane gas explosion after a high level gathering of this gas underground, but the lecturer is of the opinion that the largeness of the ground of the area does not support that amount of gas gathering under the ground. Additionally, if the massive explosion was because of (the?) methane gas, it should be followed by large fires and incineration of the plants and trees.