The reading and the lecture are both about the reasons of one of the largest explosions in history occurred in 1908 at east of Russia. The power of this explosion was as enormous as a large nuclear weapon. The reasons of this explosion is still a controversial issue. The reading claims that a massive methane gas explosion is the main reason, while the lecture insists that an asteroid collision happened at the explosion area.

The reading states that no evidence of asteroid collision has ever been found by scientists at the region of the explosion. In fact, asteroid rocks are highly made up of nickel and iridium should be easily detected due to any asteroid strike. However, the lecture has totally different opinion. The lecture claims that since the location of explosion was not under examination until 1927, may be during about 20 years the rocks and materials of the asteroid were washed away and scientists were not able to reveal the small quantity of the evidences had been existed at the area.

Secondly, the reading states that a forest located 50 kilometers far from the explosion area was destroyed. this kind of destruction can be happened only by a powerful gas explosion. In addition, the eyewitnesses assert that before explosion they saw a light among the sky and then a massive explosion with great wind took place. The lecture insists the light was because of entrance of asteroids into atmosphere and the great wind after the collision is the reason, by which the branches of trees were destroyed while trees were still standing. This type of destruction by asteroid collision has been proved by a laboratory simulation.

Finally, the reading says that due to possibility of high concentration of methane gas beneath the forest, the light before explosion could be because of methane gas detonation. However, the lecture claims that the concentration of methane gas under the forest was not enough to cause this huge explosion and if the gas explosion occurred, the evidences of fire burning would be detected.