3. One of the most significant themes in “Nighttime Sky Surprises” is that a shooting star is not actually what people think it is. Which sentence from the passage directly supports this conclusion?
A. A shower of silver dust streaks across the inky cloak and somewhere below someone makes a wish.
B. It is dumbfounding to think that each piece of detritus in a shooting star could be the size of a small rock, otherwise known as a meteoroid.
C. If any particle of space dust reaches the surface of any planet, that piece of dust or rock is called a meteorite.
D. Earth’s atmosphere causes friction against the traveling dust, which in turn creates intense heat.

4. The main purpose of this passage is to
A. entertain
B. inform
C. compare
D. express opinion

5. The author’s use of words such as “dumbfounding” and “unbelievable” create a/an ________ tone.
A. judgmental
B. indifferent
C. awe-inspiring
D. critical

6. Which of the following best summarizes the author’s attitude toward the nighttime sky?
A. confused about the many activities that go on
B. intrigued by its phenomena
C. intimidated by its size
D. indifferent to the scientific data

7. What does catalyst mean in this sentence from the passage?
Have you ever heard about people wishing upon a shooting star, or wondered what the catalyst for this fascinating sight really is?
A. sequence
B. mechanism
C. vehicle
D. change

8. How does the author’s inclusion of shooting stars add to the development of the text?
A. The inclusion of shooting stars helps develop the sentiment of making wishes.
B. The inclusion of shooting stars helps develop the idea that some meteoroids are visible from Earth.
C. The inclusion of shooting stars helps develop the idea that witnessing a meteor shower is an excellent experience.
D. The inclusion of shooting stars helps develop the idea that people are making wishes upon space dust.

9. How does the author develop the concept of meteor showers over the course of the text?
A. The author explains that meteor showers are really shooting stars that are visible to the naked eye.
B. The author explains that meteor showers are composed of meteoroids that come from comets.
C. The author explains what meteor showers are and how they relate to the Earth’s atmosphere.
D. The author explains what meteor showers are and why a person cannot see a meteor shower in outer space.