

Read the poem and the passage. The answer the question below.

Constellations

They illumine the darkness we float in.
How constantly shines their light.
They revolve through the sky that embraces our globe
As we revolve through our lives day and night.

Such vivid names we've given them:
Andromeda, Perseus, and Crux.
But are they just matter and thin hot air
That someday will shrink or destruct?

No, I think they are steadfast, faithful friends,
Put there as guides to a beckoning door
To point our way to worlds without end,
To summon our minds to soar.

The Stars Up Above

A constellation is a group of stars. The idea of the constellation came from ancient sky watchers who noticed that stars made patterns in the night sky. People soon began to see familiar things in these patterns. Not only did they give these constellations names and invent stories about them, but they also named individual stars, making them part of their **mythology** as well.

Stars are very old. The oldest star that has been discovered is estimated to be 13.2 billion years old. A billion is one thousand million, which makes stars the oldest bodies in the universe. There is one star that almost everyone recognizes, the North Star. Explorers have used this bright star to navigate for centuries. Because stars are so far away, all stars except the Sun, the closest star to earth, appear to twinkle in the night sky. The Sun is so close to earth and so big that it lights the daytime sky.

Now powerful telescopes allow people to see far into the universe. It is possible to see that the stars that make up constellations are not as close to each other as they seem to be. Modern **astronomers** see the constellations from an entirely different point of view. They no longer have to depend on imagination to explain the sky. But myths from ancient times remain, reminding everyone of the ancient sky watchers who first tried to understand the stars.

Write an essay comparing the main idea of "Constellation" and "The Stars Up Above." Use evidence from **both** passages to support your response.