

**Standards:**

- W.11-12.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- RL.11-12.1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Directions: Read and annotate the following poem/song by the artist Passenger. Then write a constructed response in which you address the prompt. Be sure your responses 1) are as complete and focused as possible, 2) are well thought out and go beyond simply a list of the questions, and 3) **are supported with specific text from the selection.**

### Analyzing “Staring at the Stars”

And beer bloats our spoilt guts  
And [crap] jobs keep us in ruts  
And keep us eyeing up the what’s and if’s and but’s and maybe’s and  
Falling over in the street  
Is just a part of every week  
And we lie drunkenly just staring at the stars

Remember when they were in reach  
And all the teachers used to teach  
You can do anything if you put your mind to it  
We put our minds to it all  
But disappointment crashed the ball  
We could’ve done anything  
We just never quite knew it

So tie your scarf on tight  
Its to be a cold night  
Tie your scarf on tight  
Its to be a cold night  
Tie your scarf on tight  
Its to be a cold night  
Tie your scarf on tight  
Its to be a cold night

—Passenger

Analyze the song above and write a short, argumentative constructed response giving your interpretation of the song’s message. In your response, consider the following questions: 1) What message, or theme, is the singer trying to convey? 2) Do you agree or disagree with the message? Why? 3) What, if any, significance does the refrain have? 4) What is the mood or tone of the song? What references in the song lead you to this conclusion?