Name _____



Assumptions At Play

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Look for ideas, terms, or references that the author uses without fully explaining. Identify what background knowledge or assumptions the author expects the reader to already understand. Write your answers in complete sentences, explaining how you figured them out.

When Mia finally walked into the crowded stadium, she could hear the roar of the fans long before she saw the field. People wearing the team's blue and gold colors waved foam fingers and shouted chants she immediately recognized. Vendors hurried up and down the aisles carrying trays of popcorn and sodas, calling out their prices. As the announcer's voice boomed through the speakers, the crowd suddenly rose to its feet for the national anthem. Mia clutched her ticket and found her seat just as the referee blew the whistle to start the game. She grinned, knowing she had made it in time for kickoff.

Questions:

1. What unstated knowledge does the author expect the reader to already have about what happens before a game starts?
2. Why does the author not explain what "kickoff" means? What does this suggest?
3. How does the description of the fans' behavior (chants, foam fingers, team colors) rely on reader assumptions?
4. If someone had no background knowledge of sporting events, what might they misunderstand in this passage?

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