Name _____

Assumptions At Play Answer Key

1. **Unstated knowledge about pre-game events:**
    - The author assumes the reader knows that fans often cheer, teams have colors and chants, and the national anthem is sung before a game.
2. **Why "kickoff" isn't explained:**
    - The author assumes the reader knows it's the starting play in sports like football or soccer. It suggests the audience has at least basic familiarity with games.
3. **Fans' behavior and assumptions:**
    - The text doesn't explain why fans wear team colors, wave foam fingers, or chant; the author expects readers to know these are common fan traditions.
4. **Possible misunderstandings without background knowledge:**
    - A reader might not know what "kickoff" is, why the national anthem is sung, or what foam fingers symbolize.

Teacher Note:

This exercise highlights how authors often **leave things unsaid**, assuming the audience shares cultural or situational knowledge. Point out that good readers recognize these gaps and fill them in with prior knowledge.

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