



Student Handout

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# False Assumptions

Your challenge is to solve each of the following mysteries. You will work as a group and can only ask your teacher questions which can be answered with a "yes" or "no." Your teacher will answer all your questions truthfully – listen carefully to the other groups' questions – they may help you. Be sure to think out-of-the-box, keeping in mind the title of this assignment!

For each story, write down the answer and the false assumption.

## STORY #1

There is a cabin on the side of a mountain. Three people are inside and they are dead. How did they die?

Answer:

False Assumption:

## STORY #2

It is a hot August afternoon. The location is the living room in an old Victorian mansion. The 7-foot window is open and the curtains are blowing in the breeze generated by the thunderstorm that just passed. On the floor lie the bodies of Bill and Monica. They are surrounded by puddles of water and broken glass. Please close your eyes and picture the scene. Now change the picture. Neither Bill nor Monica has any clothing on. How did they die?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #3

A man is walking down the street, sees a bar and enters. He asks the bartender for a glass of water. The bartender pulls out a gun and points it at him. The man says "Thank you" and leaves the bar.

What happened?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #4

A woman leaves home and makes three left turns. She returns home again. On the way, she passed two women with masks.

Who were the two women?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #5

A man and his son were rock climbing on a particularly dangerous mountain when they slipped and fell. The man was killed, but the son lived and was rushed to a hospital. The old surgeon looked at the young man and declared, "I can't operate on this boy: he is my son."

How can this be?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #6

Preston and his men searched the frozen tundra for escaped convict Ben Barker. Just as they were about to give up, one of Preston's men spotted a body. Barker was found lying dead in the snow. There were no tracks leading to or from the body. The cause of death was partially due to the unopened pack on his back. Barker did not die of thirst, hunger, or cold. What was in Barker's pack that led to his death?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #7

Two train tracks run parallel to each other, except for a short distance where they meet and become one track over a narrow bridge. One morning, a train speeds onto the bridge. Another train coming from the opposite direction, also speeds onto the bridge. Neither train can stop on the short bridge, yet there is no collision. How is this possible?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #8

Justin Summers owns a vacation house in northern Ontario which has an A-shaped roof. One side of the roof faces north and the other side faces south. The prevailing winds from the north are usually quite strong. The strange thing is that the stronger the north wind blows, the stronger the resulting updraft on the south side of the roof. Therefore, if a rooster was to lay an egg on the peak of the roof during a strong northerly wind, on which side should the egg fall most of the time?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #9

There is an ancient invention still used in some parts of the world today that allows people to see through walls. What is it?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #10

Sly Hand, the famous magician, claims he can tell the score of any football game before it even starts. Many think he is psychic and possesses supernatural powers. How is it that he can be accurate about the score 99 percent of the time?

Answer:

False Assumption:

### STORY #11

It is a stormy, snowy day.

There is a man dead inside a shack. There are no windows and the only door is locked from inside. There is no way in or out. The man has a stab wound. There is a puddle of water and blood next to him.

How did he die?

Answer:

False Assumption: