

Spot the Difference Answer Key

1. Better Prompt: B

Underline: "for 3rd graders," "about a shy dog," "who learns to make friends at the park."

Why it's better: It names an audience, character, topic, and setting. Prompt A adds length but no direction-"lots of interesting parts" and "some excitement" are vague.

2. Better Prompt: A

Underline: "for a 5th-grade science project," "using clear steps and examples."

Why it's better: It specifies audience, purpose, and structure. Prompt B ("in detail... completely") sounds elaborate but provides no useful focus or limit.

3. Better Prompt: A

Underline: "the planets in our solar system," "short, factual paragraph," "for a 6th-grade science report."

Why it's better: It defines topic, format, and audience. Prompt B ("include lots of good information") is vague and unfocused.

4. Better Prompt: B

Underline: "short, funny rhyming poem," "for kids," "about how it feels when school starts again after summer break."

Why it's better: It provides tone, audience, and subject. Prompt B ("has rhyming and emotions") sounds descriptive but lacks a specific purpose or focus.

5. Better Prompt: A

Underline: "ten rainforest animals," "one surprising fact about each."

Why it's better: It gives clear limits, topic, and task. Prompt B uses vague filler ("gives information... readers can learn more") without direction.

6. Better Prompt: B

Underline: "in a paragraph," "uses sensory details," "explains why it's special to you."

Why it's better: It tells format, technique, and purpose. Prompt B uses soft generalizations ("make it sound good") that don't help focus the writing.