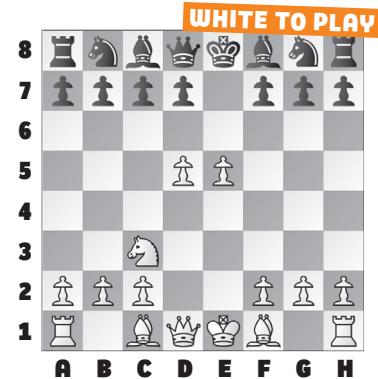


This week, we'll take a sneak peek!
 The Halloween Gambit begins with **1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nxe5?! Nxe5 5. d4**. White sacrifices a piece for initiative, and this week's exercises show how this initiative can win back the material (and more!).

In our **example**, we see White gain an objective advantage without even winning back the material: **5. ... Nc6 6. d5 Nb8?! 7. e5! Ng8** when White has a great grip on the center.

As a **bonus**, how should White keep pushing for a positional advantage?



SPOOKY, SCARY GAMBITS

The October issue of *Chess Life Kids* magazine gives a spooky resource against the “copycat” opening that is common in scholastic tournaments.

1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. BLACK TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 10. Bxc6+ bxc6 11. Qxc6+ Qd7 12. Qxa8 winning. (Detlev – Markus, *Playchess.com*, 2004) **2) 13. Qd5!** Black cannot save the rook without losing the queen. **13. ... Rb8 14. Bg5** winning. (Snigurov – Nepeyvoda, *Lichess.org*, 2021) **3) 13. dxe6!** On first glance, Black's ... Qe7-c5+ looks like a clever way to “trade” light-squared bishops. But, it's a fake threat! Instead, 13. Be3?? was played, when Black could have

untangled with 13. ... 0-0-0! **13. ... Qc5+ 14. Kh1 Qxc4 15. exf7+!** (Navalgund – Comsa, *Chess.com*, 2020, analysis) **4)** White does not worry about the knight, as after **8. Qxg7 Rf8 9. Bd3!**, White meets **9. ... Nxc3** with the very important resource **10. a3! Ba5 11. Bd2** When White wins back the piece. (Belenkaya – Styazhkinda, Sochi, 2017, analysis) **5) 7. Qg4! Nxc3 8. Qxb4 Nd5 9. Qg4! g6 10. Bg5!** Black's king is caught in the center.

(Belenkaya – Styazhkinda, Sochi, 2017) **6) 10. ... Qf6!** The only way to save the piece. **11. Qe2+ Qe6 12. Nb5 Qxe2+ 13. Bxe2 Kd8** preserving the material. (Ivanov – Lenkova, Primorsko, 2016, analysis) **Bonus) 8. d6! cxd6 9. exd6** White is better, for instance, after **9. ... Qf6 10. Nb5 Na6 11. Bc4** The computer says “plus five,” despite Black's extra piece. After **11. ... g6 12. Be3 Bh6 13. Bd4 Qf5 14. Qe2+**, Black resigned. (Klepaczka – Jacek, Chotowa, 2009)