

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ MAY 24, 2023

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



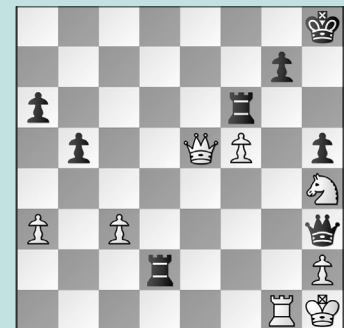
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



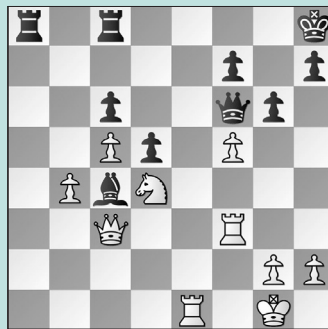
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



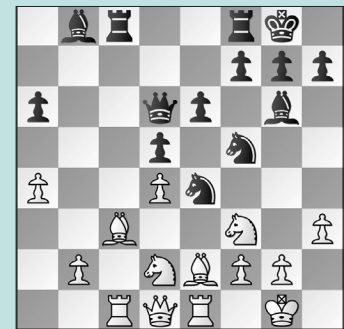
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

All of this week's puzzles come from games played at the National Elementary School Championship, held May 12 through 14 in Baltimore, MD. With the top boards from the Championship sections in K-6, K-5, and K-3 broadcast along with the top board of various "under," sections, the tournament was rich with exciting and instructive moments. This batch of puzzles is a mix of games that impacted the tournament standings (such as a fateful moment in Puzzles 2 and 3) and games featuring positions that are just plain awesome (such as the sacrifices in Puzzles 1 and 6, or the tricky-but-necessary "quiet" moves in Puzzles 4 and 5). Enjoy!

PUZZLE 1. 24. Rxf6! Kxf6 25. Qf5+ Kg7 26. Qh7+ (Yang – Weyman, Baltimore, 2023) **PUZZLE 2.** Black looked to be okay after 27. Bxf8 Qxb7 28. Bxg7 Kxg7 but then White unleashed 29. Rxf7+ going a half-step deeper! 29. ... Kg8 30. Qd4 Qa7 31. Qxa7 Rxa7 32. Ne5 and **White won** on move 52. (Williams – Lee, Baltimore, 2023) **PUZZLE 3.** 37. Ng6+! White had a game after this move. Instead, White played 37. Qe8+?? And lost after 37. ... Kh7 38. Rxg7+ Kxg7 39. Qe7+ Rf7 40. Qg5+ Kf8 41. Qh6+ Ke8 42. Qc6+ Kd8 43. Qb6+ Rc7 44. Qf6+ Kc8 45. Qxa6+ Rb7 46. Qe6+ Kb8 47. Qe5+ Ka8 48. Qe8+ Ka7 and the checks finally ran out. 37. ... Kh7 38. Nf8+ Kg8 39. Rxg7+! Kh8 Black has chances here, but not after 39. ... Kxg7?? 40. Ne6+ Kf7

(or 40. ... Kh7 41. Qc7+! with mate to follow; 40. ... Kg8 41. Qb8+ also mates, while other king moves hang the rook with check) 41. Ng5+ winning. (Williams – Yan, Baltimore, 2023, analysis). **PUZZLE 4.** 25. ... c6 A nice deflection. 26. Qc5 Be4 27. f5 Rxc2+ 28. Rxc2 Rxc2+ 29. Kh1 Rc2+ and **White won** on move 33. (Luo – Thimmasamudram, Baltimore, 2023) **PUZZLE 5.** Black lost after 43. ... Qg7??, and should have played 43. ... g5!. The game continued 44. fxg6 fxg6 45. Re7 When 45. Rf7 Ra3 46. Rxg7 Rxc3 47. Ree7 is even stronger, but **Black resigned** shortly anyways. (Wu – Muthu, Baltimore, 2023) **PUZZLE 6.** What's the first move to look at? Well, make it work! 25. ... Nxf2 26. Kxf2 Qg3+ 27. Kg1 winning. (Vedula – Amrany, Baltimore, 2023)