Tactics Tuesday

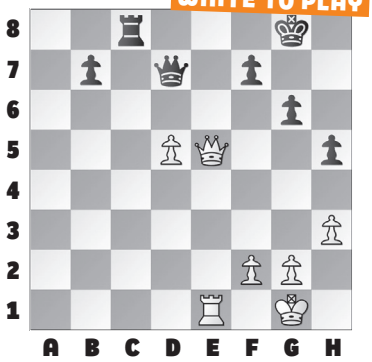
CHESSLIFE Kids ONLINE

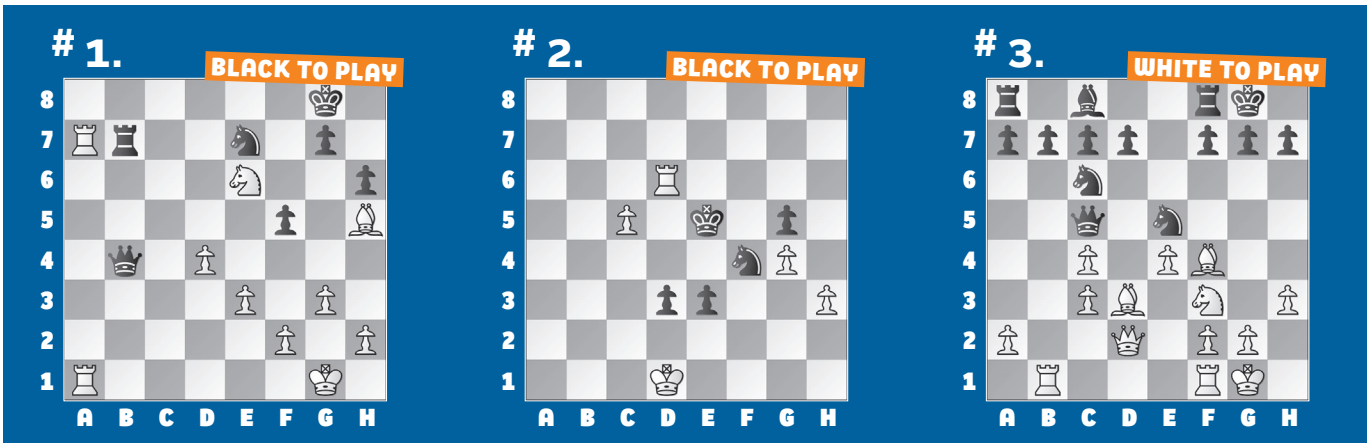
REMEMBERING IM SILMAN

Long before the days of ChessKid.com and Gotham Chess videos, most of us had to learn chess from books and articles. One of America's most beloved teachers, IM Jeremy Silman, passed away on September 21, 2023, at the age of 69. To honor the legendary author, this week's puzzles all highlight important tactical themes from his games.

In this **example**, Silman combines several themes to force a win with **35. d6! Rd8 36. Qf6** When the clever point is that the rook is overloaded after **36. ... Qxd6?? 37. Re8+** removes the defender with a decoy. As a **bonus**, after **36. ... Rf8 37. Re7 Qd8 38. d7 b5**, can you find White's knockout blow?

WHITE TO PLAY





SOLUTIONS

(1) 35. ... Rxa7 An equal trade? No! A deflection! **36. Rxa7 Qb1+** Just a check? No! Forcing a double attack! **37. Kg2 Qe4+ 38. Bf3 Qxe6** Black went on to win. (Gilbert – Silman, Los Angeles, 1991) **2) 56. ... e2+!** Promotion tactics do not always involve forcing moves. **57. Kd2** Note: 57. Ke1 Ng2+ 58. Kf2 e1=Q+ is no different. **57. ... Ng2!** After **58. Rxd3 e1=Q+** Black won shortly. (Peters – Silman, Santa Monica, 1990) **3) 16. Nxe5** White sets up a skewer, as 16. Rb5 fails to 16. ... Nxf3+! **16. ... Nxe5 17. Rb5 Nxd3 18. Rxc5 Nxc5** and White went on to win. (Silman – Zavodnick, Los Angeles, 1988) **4) 26. Rxg6+! hxg6 27. Qxg6+** A nice use of the pin! **27. ... Kf8** After 27. ... Kh8, I like 28. Qh5+ Kg8 29. Rf3! with Rf3-g3 to follow. **28. Qh7!** There is no way to stop mate. (Silman – Allen, Portland, 1985) **5) 30. Qxf5!** A nice *intermezzo*. Not the greedy 30. dxc7?? (or *30. Rxf5?? Ra1+*, mating), losing to 30. ... Rxf1 mate. **30. ... gxf5 31. dxc7** Winning. (Silman – Syrett, Monterrey, 1977) **6) 15. Bb6!** Sneaky! **15. ... Qxb6 16. Bxd7** regains the piece, with interest! **16. ... Qc7 17. Bxc8 Rxc8 18. Rc1** White went on to win. (Silman – Thompson, Phoenix, 1990) **Bonus) 39. Rxf7! Qxf6 40. Rxf6!** forces **40. ... Rd8** when White wins the endgame with extra pawns after **41. Rxg6+ Kf7 42. Rb6**. (Silman – Lawless, San Francisco, 1982)

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