

# WORLD RAPID AND BLITZ, PT. 1

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JANUARY 03, 2024

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



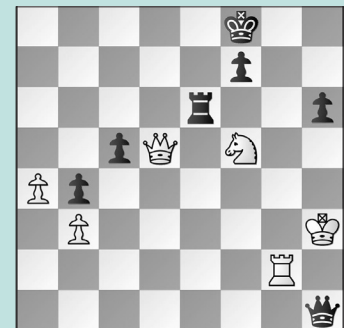
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



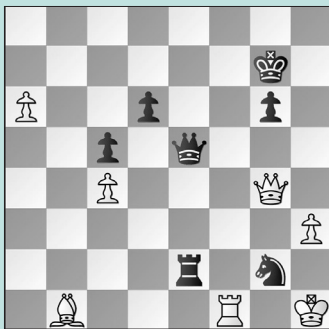
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



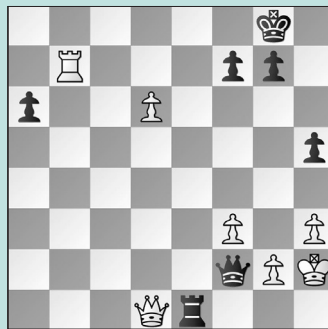
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



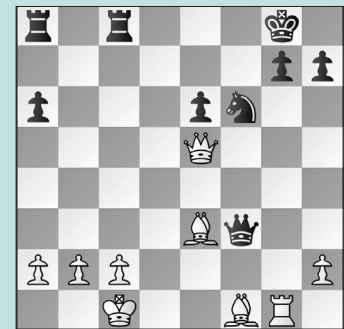
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

## SOLUTIONS

**PUZZLE 1.** 22. Ne6! fxe6 23. Bxc5 Qc7 24. b4! was stronger than the game continuation of 24. Bxf8 Neg4! 25. g3, when White was still better, but things were sharp. 25. fxg4 also preserved an advantage, but only after 25. ... Nxg4 26. g3 Qb6+ 27. Kg2 Bxc3 when White must find 28. Qf4! to preserve an advantage. After 25. ... Bxf8 26. Ra4 Bh6 27. Qd3 Ne5 28. Rxe5 Qxe5 29. f4 when 29. ... Qd6!, would yield compensation. (Caruana – Makarian, Samarkand, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 2.** 23. ... Qd5! Eye on the prize! 24. f3 If 24. Ne3, then 24. ... Rxe3! was the point. 24. ... Qxf3 25. Rd2 Re2 26. Rxe2 Qxe2 and White had to give up a piece with 27. Ne3 Qxe3+ Black went on to

win on move 45. (Zvjaginsev – Artemiev, Samarkand, 2023) **PUZZLE 3.** 47. Kg3! The only winning move. Alternatives: 47. Kg4?? Rg6+ 48. Kf3 Qxg2+ loses; 47. Rh2?? Qxd5 is no better. 47. ... Rg6+ Or 47. ... Qe1+ 48. Kf4 Qf1+ 49. Qf3 wins. 48. Kf2 Black had to trade into a losing endgame: 48. ... Rxg2+ 49. Qxg2 Qxg2+ 50. Kxg2 c4 51. a5 when Black resigned. (Caruana – Tari, Samarkand, 2023) **PUZZLE 4.** 49. ... Nh4!! holds. Instead, 49. ... Qh5 lost swiftly to 50. Qxh5 gxh5! 51. Rg1. Here, White must play: 50. Qf4 Qxf4 51. Rxf4 when 51. ... Re1+ 52. Kh2 Rxb1 53. Rxh4 Ra1 holds. (Pourkashiyev – A. Muzychuk, Samarkand, 2023) **PUZZLE 5.** 30. Rb8+ White lost the advantage with 30. Qd3?? Qg1+! (not 30. ... Re8?? 31. Re7!

Rf8 32. d7 winning) 31. Kg3 Re8 with an equal position. The point is White no longer wins with 32. Re7 due to 32. ... Rxe7 33. dxe7 Qe1+ 34. Kh2 Qxe7 with equality. 30. ... Kh7 31. Qd3+ Kh6 Or 31. ... g6 32. Qc3 Qg1+ 33. Kg3 h4+ 34. Kxh4 Qf2+ 35. g3 g5+ 36. Kg4 winning. 32. Rh8+ Kg5 33. d7 winning. (Niemann – Petrov, Samarkand, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 23. Bd4 White applies the squeeze. The point is to anticipate 23. ... Rxc2+ when after 24. Kxc2 Rc8+ 25. Bc3! White returns material with 25. ... Rxc3+ 26. bxc3 Qf2+ and a winning endgame after several options. White chose 27. Kb3 Qxg1 28. Qxe6+ Kf8 29. Bc4 when the checks run out, the a-pawn drops, and White won on move 46. (Caruana – Savchenko, Samarkand, 2023)