

**c5 2. c3 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. d4 Nc6 5. Nf3 Bf5 6. Be2 cxd4 7. cxd4 Bxb1 8. Rxb1 Qxa2 9. 0-0 Qxb1? 10. Qb3!** (see **diagram**) claiming White is better after d4-d5, as the knight has no moves (see puzzles **4** and **5**).

One model game Ovod - Parol, Warsaw, 2021, continued with **10. ... 0-0-0 11. d5! Qg6 12. dxc6 Qxc6 13. Bf4!** when Black is already lost: she is underdeveloped and her king is exposed. After **13. ... Rd5 14. Ne5 Qe6**, White won with **15. Bg4** but

faster was **15. Rc1+ Kd8 16. Qxb7 Rxe5** and puzzle **6** picks up here.



### THEORETICAL ALAPIN TRAPS!

In the February issue of *Chess Life Kids*, we recommend the Alapin as an aggressive anti-Sicilian. We even endorse a rook sacrifice with **1. e4**

**# 1. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 2. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 3. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 4. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 5. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 6. WHITE TO PLAY**

### SOLUTIONS

**1)** In 2. ... d5 lines with an early ... Nb8-c6, Black comes close to winning the d4-pawn if they play ... Bc8-g4-xf3, but here it loses the queen: **8. Bxf3 Qxd4??** While **8. ... Qc4** is far better, but now Black's play makes no sense. **9. Na3! Qb4+ 10. Bd2 Qxd4 11. Qb3! Qd7 12. 0-0-0** with initiative. **9. Bxc6+ bxc6 10. Qxd4** **2)** An important idea in several variations will be exposing Black's under-developed back rank,

specifically the fact that only the king currently defends the queen. **10. Nxe5!** wins a piece, as **10. ... dxe5? 11. Bxf7+! Kxf7 12. Qxd8** wins the whole queen. **3)** By far the best way to get out of this check is the shocking **8. Be3** when Black cannot play **8. ... dxe3??** Instead **8. ... Nh6!** secures a playable game, but nothing special for Black. **9. Bxf7+ Kxf7** Or **9. ... Kf8 10. Qd8+ Kxf7 11. Ng5+** is the same. **10. Ng5+** The point! **10. ... Ke8 11. Nxe4** GG.

**4)** Black's king is drafty, especially after removing the knight before it can block on d7. **12. Nxe5 Qxe5 13. Qxb7** and there's no way to defend the rook and **Be2-b5+**. **5)** The knight is no safer on the edge: **12. Qb5+ Qd7 13. Qxa5** and the threat of **Be2-b5** is still strong. **13. ... a6 14. Ne5** But the knight is powerful, too. Black is lost: **14. ... Qd6 15. Qa4+ b5 16. Bxb5 Kd8 17. Nxf7+** cleans house. **6)** Fastest is **17. Qb8+ Kd7 18. Qc8+ Kd6 19. Qc6** is quite a mate.