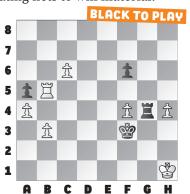


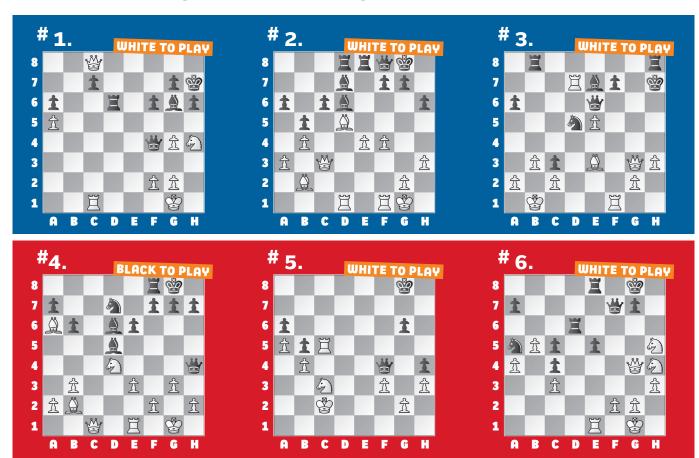
GRENKE OPEN HIGHLIGHTS

This week's puzzles all come from the **Grenke Chess Open** played earlier this month in Germany. **GM Hans Niemann** won the open section, and many other Americans performed well. Enjoy some of their tactical highlights below!

In our **example**, from Krastev – Kamsky (analysis), Black is down roughly a billion pawns, but could have forced a draw with the very cool **120.... Kf2!** using the threat of ... Rg4xh4 mate to force a draw: **121. Rh5** is the only way to stop mate, but it allows a perpetual check with **121.... Rg1+ 122. Kh2 Rg2+.** In the below puzzles, we use

some similar themes of creating mating nets to win material.





SOLUTIONS

1) White wins a piece in style with 41. Qh8+ and Black resigned due to 41. ... Kxh8 42. Nxg6+ Kg8 43. Nxf4 when White is up a knight. (Yoo – Kurmangaliyeva, Karlsruhe, 2024) 2) White creates a mating net with 32. Rxh6+ Kg8 The rook is invincible: 32. ... Kxh6 33. Qg6 mate; 32. ... gxh6 33. Qg6 mate. 33. Rg6 There is no defense: 33. ... Qb3 34. Rxg7+ Kf8 35. Rxe7 Qxd1+ 36. Re1 and Black resigned. (Svane – Hong,

Karlsruhe, 2024) 3) White wins via constructing a mating net: 28. Rxe7! Nxe7 No better was 28. ... Qxe7, as after 29. Rf5, the rook is coming into the h-file. 29. Rf6 The rook again finds a way onto the h-file. (Yoo – Cukrowski, Karlsruhe, 2024, analysis) 4) 18. ... Bxg3! 19. fxg3 Not 19. hxg3 Qh1 mate.19. ... Qe4 20. Re2 Nc5! Cold-blooded. 21. Bc4 If 21. Kf2, then 21. ... Nxa6 simply wins. 21. ... Qh1+ 22. Kf2 Ne4 mate. (Backhaus – Mishra, Karlsruhe,

2024) **5)** White came close to making a fortress with **37. Ne4! Qe3 38. Rg5!** And the rook comes to g4, defending the b-pawn. (Dobrikov – Mishra, Karlsruhe, 2024, analysis) **6)** White breaks through with **32. Nxg7 Rf8** and **Black resigned** before White could move. Note that 32. ... Qxg7 lost to 33. Qxg7+ Kxg7 34. Nf5+ Kf6 35. Nxd6. After the text, White's cleanest win was **33. Ne6+ Kh8 34. Ng6+ Kg8 35. Nxe5+** winning. (Kamsky – Kilic, Karlsruhe, 2024)

