TACTICS TUESDAY
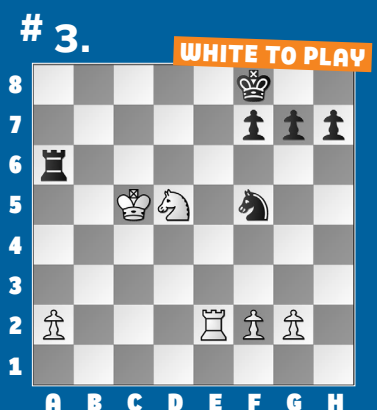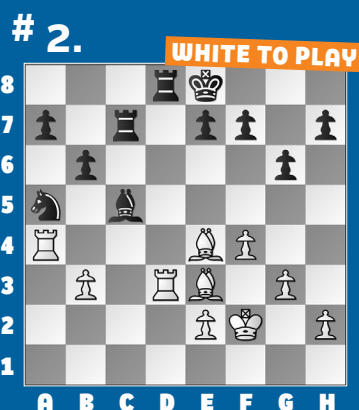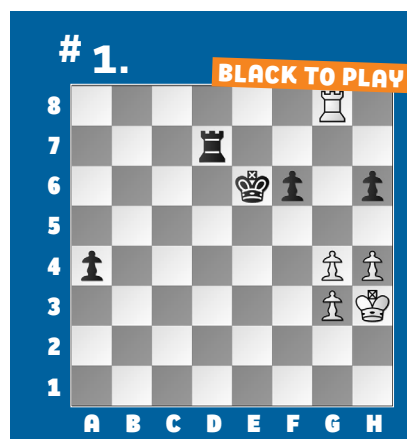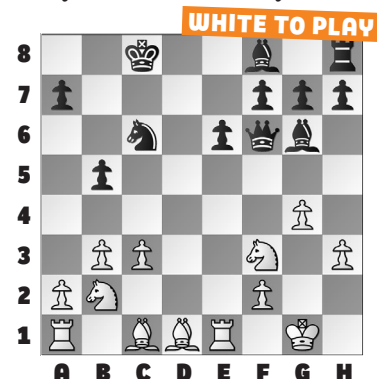
CHESS LIFE Kids ONLINE

2025 FIDE GRAND SWISS, PT. 1

We begin our series on the **FIDE Grand Swiss**, with two Candidates spots up for grabs in each of the Open and Women's events. WGM

Sabina Foisor curated a number of fantastic puzzles, so let's get to it!

In our **example**, White showed the importance of king safety with **19. Bg5 Qxc3 20. Rc1!** Forcing **20. … Qxb2 21. Rxc6+ Kb7 22. Ne5** when White's king hunt would continue with Bd1-f3, so Black played **22. … Qxe5 23. Rxe5 Kxc6** to remove some attackers. And yet, despite being pawn-up without queens, Black's king is still too exposed. Play continued **24. Bf3+ Kb6 25. Bd8+**

Ka6 26. a4! and the attack raged on in Suleymanli – Karthikeyan.

WHITE TO PLAY

 # 1.   **BLACK TO PLAY**

 # 2.   **WHITE TO PLAY**

 # 3.   **WHITE TO PLAY**

#4.   **WHITE TO PLAY**

 # 5.   **WHITE TO PLAY**

 # 6.   **BLACK TO PLAY**
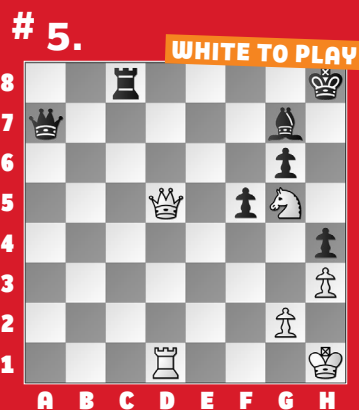
SOLUTIONS

1) 52. … Ra7 One of the most important endgame techniques! White can stop the a-pawn, but only by pacifying the rook. After 53. Re8+ Kf7 54. Re2 a3 55. Ra2 Ra4, **White resigned**. (Kollars – Pranav, Samarkand, 2025) **2) 32. Bxc5** Overload! Not 32. b4 Bxe3+ when Black escapes the fork. **32. … Rxc5** If 32. … bxc5 33. Rxa5 was the point. **33. b4** With the fork, **Black resigned**. (Praggnanandhaa

– Zemlyanskii, Samarkand, 2025) **3) 37. Nc7!** Forking the rook and back rank mate. **37. … Rc6+** But did you see this? **38. Kxc6** The resulting pawn-and-knight endgame wins for White after … Nf5-d4+, but you only get credit if you saw this resource. (Balabayeva – M. Muzychuk, Samarkand, 2025) **4) 25. Qf5! g6 26. hxg6 fxg6** Or 26. … hxg6 27. Qh3 threatens mate. **27. Qe6+** and **Black resigned**, due to **27. … Rf7 28. Rxh7**. (Assaubayeva – Narva,

Samarkand, 2025) **5) 61. Qe6!** A fork on the rook and the g6-square! **61. … Qc5 62. Qxg6 Kg8 63. Qh7+** and **Black resigned** due to Ng5-e6+. (Wafa – Danielian, Samarkand, 2025) **6) 39. … Rg1+** A bizarre case of a rook forking a king and rook! But it's immune to capture! **40. Kh2** Not 40. Rxg1 Qxg1 mate. **40. … Bxf4+** and White resigned, as **41. Qxf4 Rxf1** puts Black piece-up after 42. Be4+ fxe4 43. Qxf1. (Kuzubov – Yakubboev, Samarkand, 2025)

US CHESS