

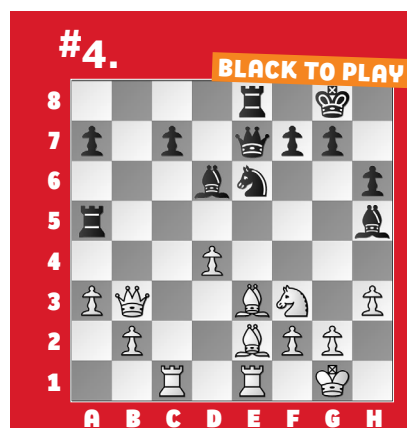
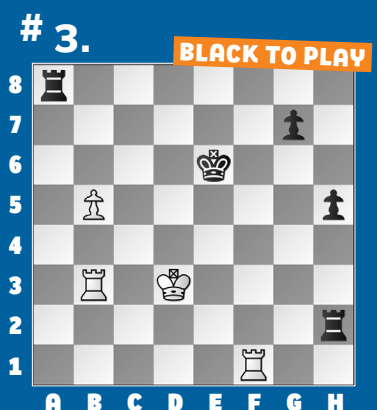
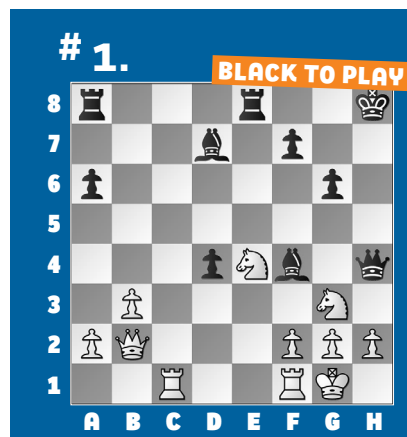
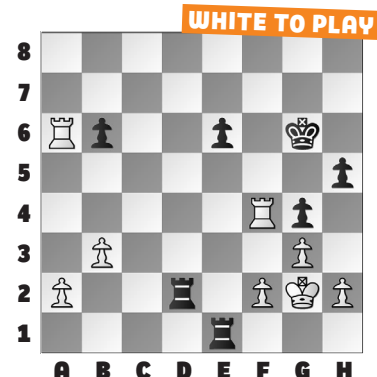
WORLD CADET CHAMPS, PT. 1

This week's puzzles feature the top American finishers from the **2025 FIDE World Cadet Championships**, which ended earlier today in

Kazakhstan. Lacey Wang and WFM Laurie Qiu tied for first in the Under-12 Girls, and the USA delegation finished third overall.

In our **example**, Qiu showed poise in a four-rook endgame. Anticipating Black's ... Rd2-d1 and ... Re1-g1+, she bought herself time with **38. h3** taking away the mate threat. The game continued **38. ... gxh3+ 39. Kxh3 Ree2** going after the f-pawn, but Qiu again showed a correct understanding with **40. a4**

Rxf2 41. Rxf2 Rxb6, when her outside passers won in Qiu – Xue.



SOLUTIONS

1) 25. ... Rxe4 A free piece due to the mate threat on the h2-square. (Begmuratova – Li, Almaty, 2025) **2) 26. R1a6** The queen is trapped! **26. ... b3 27. Qb1 Nb6** The only way to block the threat. **28. Nd7** Winning the Exchange. (Yilanli – Daulet, Almaty, 2025) **3) 45. ... Rh3+** The start of a skewer and deflection combo. **46. Kc2 Ra2+ 47. Kb1** White's best defense! Note 47. Rb2?? Rh2+ wins a rook. **47. ... Rxb3+ 48.**

Kxa2 Rxb5 With two connected passers, Black is winning. (Kireyeu – Shangin, Almaty, 2025) **4) 21. ... Bxf3** A way to stay in the game! After 21. ... Qf6? 22. Qc3 Nf4 23. Bxf4 Bxf4 24. Qxa5, White went on to win. **22. Bxf3 Nxd4** Black regained the pawn and after **23. Qd1 Nxf3+ 24. Qxf3 Qe5** White is the one fortunate to reach an equal endgame with **25. Bf4 Qxe1+ 26. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 27. Kh2 Rf5 28. Qa8+ Kh7 29. Bxd6 cxd6 30. Qxa7** and

equal chances. (Tang – Narymbet, Almaty, 2025) **5) 42. ... Nxe3+** Even 42. ... Rb2 would win, as 43. Bxc7 Rxf2+ 44. Kg1 Bxe3 leads to mate. **43. Kg1** Or 43. fxe3 Rb2+ 44. Kf1 Qxa5 mates shortly. **43. ... Rb1+ 44. Nf1 Qxa5 45. fxe3 Qe1** and **White resigned** soon. (Zhylkozha – Wang, Almaty, 2025) **6) 32. ... Qg5+ 33. Kh3 Rg2!** What an *intermezzo*! **White resigned**, as the only way to stop mate on g3 is f3-f4, allowing mate on g4. (Kudrin – Guo, Almaty, 2025)