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Problem Set 1
www.professorchess.com

Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr.

By the time someone has played their first dozen games of chess, they've had many chances to think ...

If only it was my turn to move, not hers!

**Or** ...

I was so close to winning when he ...

**Or** ...

I had a great plan, but didn't get a chance to try it!

## A game of chess is a race where speed is measured by MOVES not minutes!

The victor of a chess game is the player whose moves were most POWERFUL. That is, the player who **delivered checkmate in fewer moves** than his opponent could.

You're probably already familiar with the word guessing game called *Hangman*. In *Hangman*, like in chess, you try to save your neck by making every move count.

You're likely to be hung before you reach the finish line if you move quickly but without much thought or planning.

#### Remember,

# 5 well-planned moves are always <u>SPEEDIER</u> than 25 reckless ones!

The exercises in this book will help you improve your use of time. By practicing delivering checkmates **efficiently**, you'll learn to make better use of every move.

Just like a careless guess can cost you your neck in *Hangman*, reckless moves in chess will shorten your life on the board!

So get out your chess set or fire up your chess computer to see if you can beat

#### THE CHESS HANGMAN!

#### Overview -- Part I

- There are 20 Chess Meets Hangman problems in this collection. Each problem gives a chess position in which White has a <u>large</u> advantage over Black:
  - In problems 1-5, White has the advantage of a queen.
  - In problems 6-10, White has 2 rooks against a lone king.
  - Black's lone king faces a rook in problems 11-15.
  - White can win by **promoting a pawn** in problems 16-20.
- In all problems, it is White's turn to move. Your task is to learn to play the White pieces in these positions with enough skill to deliver checkmate in a specified number of moves.
- The number of moves that you're allowed to use to give checkmate varies. You're always given more than enough moves to force checkmate against a strong opponent.
- Every time White makes a move, Black (The Executioner) should cross off a number on the form, and may (just like in *Hangman*) draw an item on the gallows. On the score forms is information about how to declare a winner!

#### Overview -- Part II

- Practice playing both the White and Black positions against strong opponents or a chess computer. If you think a problem's too easy, pick a lower number for your allowable number of moves, or a tougher opponent!
- Even though computers can be tough opponents, they play differently than humans.
   For example, a computer will usually not set a weak trap to "trick" you into stalemate, like your "friends" might!
- Some of these problems can take many more moves than a traditional game of Hangman. If you run out of things to add to your gallows artwork, consider these ideas: contact lenses (!), wristwatches, tattoos, socks, bandaids, freckles, pagers, designer shoes, braces, pockets, rings, body piercings, eye brows, bow ties, fingernails, moustaches, toupees, necklaces, headphones, body casts, logos.
- These exercises are ideal for working on chess when time is limited (recess, between games, when mom called for dinner 6 minutes ago!)





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)	16 17	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
	18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
•	19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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•	23	Phyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
•	center	• Black: A king fighting by itself nearly always does best by moving toward the of the board at every opportunity. In a losing position, don't give up too early s an get into stalemate or other type of draw.

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#### Chess Meets HANGMAN!



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	18	White had not checkmated Black.
)	19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	22	– Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr.
	23	(Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)  Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an
	24	open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of draw

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#### Chess Meets HANGMAN!



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	16	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
	17	After the allowed number of moves,
	18	White had not checkmated Black.
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<i></i>		ght © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. ocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	Hints to Black	: A king fighting by itself nearly always does best by moving toward the poard at every opportunity. In a losing position, don't give up too early so

if you can get into stalemate or other type of draw.





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		gright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr.
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	23	Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
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	17	After the allowed number of moves.
	18	White had not checkmated Black.
	19	— White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	22	— Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	23	<ul> <li>Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of drawn and the stalemate.</li> </ul>
	_ 24	Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture you may catch your opponent off guard





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	_ 19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	_ 23	(Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)  Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an
	_ 24	open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of dra Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture – you may catch your opponent off guard

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## Chess Meets HANGMAN!



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	16	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
	17 18	After the allowed number of moves
	19	— White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
	20	——————————————————————————————————————
	21	<u> </u>
	22	— Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	23	<ul> <li>Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of dra</li> </ul>
	24	Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture you may catch your opponent off guard





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	15 16	<ul> <li>White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!</li> </ul>
	10	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS!
	18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
	19	- White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	21	-
	22	- Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr.
	23	(Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)  - Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an
	24	open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of dra Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture you may catch your opponent off guard

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#### Chess Meets HANGMAN!



White:	Date:
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	• White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!
	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
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	White had not checkmated Black.
	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	(Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of dra 24.  Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture you may catch your opponent off guard





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	18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
	19	— White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	22	— Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	23	Hints to Black: A king fighting by itself nearly always does best by moving toward the center of the board at every opportunity. In a losing position, don't give up too early
·	24	if you can get into stalemate or other type of draw.

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#### Chess Meets HANGMAN!



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	15 16	<ul> <li>White May Go Free!</li> <li>White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!</li> </ul>
	15	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS!
		After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
	19	— White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	22	— Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
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	24	Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture you may catch your opponent off guard





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	16	allowed number of moves. Congratulations!
		WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS!
	18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
	19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	22	——————————————————————————————————————
	23 24	Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of dra Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture you may catch your opponent off guard





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·	16	allowed number of moves. Congratulations!
•	17	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
•		After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
•	19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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•	22	Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	23	Hints to Black: A king fighting by itself nearly always does best by moving toward the center of the board at every opportunity. In a losing position, don't give up too early s
<u> </u>	24	if you can get into stalemate or other type of draw.





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	14 15	• White May Go Free! • White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!
	16	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS!
	18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
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	22	- Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
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•	13	And the Verdict Is
	14	White May Go Free!
	15	<ul> <li>White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!</li> </ul>
	16	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
	17	After the allowed number of moves,
	18	White had not checkmated Black.
		White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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•		Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
•		Hints to Black: When defending against a single charging pawn, it's usually best for a kir to try to stay directly in front of the pawn. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into
	24	stalemate or other type of draw.





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1		MOVES
	13 14 15 15	And the Verdict Is  Thite May Go Free!  • White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!
)	16	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
	17 18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
	19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	22	Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr.
	23	(Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)  Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an open board. Bather than take a loss see if you can get into stalemate or other type of dra
	24	open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of dra Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture – you may catch your opponent off guard

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#### Chess Meets HANGMAN!



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	13 14	And the Verdict Is  This May Go Free!
	15 16	<ul> <li>White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!</li> </ul>
	17	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS!
	18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
		- White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
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	21	_
	22	- Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	23	<ul> <li>Hints to Black: To avoid being trapped, try to keep your king away from the edge on an open board. Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of drawn.</li> </ul>
	24	_ Threaten unprotected white pieces with capture - you may catch your opponent off guard

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## Chess Meets HANGMAN!



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	13	And the Verdict Is  White May Go Free!
	15 16	<ul> <li>White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!</li> </ul>
	17	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS
	18	After the allowed number of moves, White had not checkmated Black.
)	19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
	20	Black somehow managed to checkmate White!
	21	_
	22	Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
	23	Hints to Black: Rather than take a loss, see if you can get into stalemate or other type of draw. Consider pushing your pawns when not in check. If your opponent isn't alert, you
	24.	may be able to gain a queen by promotion.



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	13	And the Verdict Is
	14	White May Go Free!
	15	<ul> <li>White successfully checkmated Black in the allowed number of moves. Congratulations!</li> </ul>
	16	WHITE GOES TO THE GALLOWS!
	17	After the allowed number of moves,
	18	White had not checkmated Black.
	19	White allowed a drawn position to be reached.
	20	Black somehow managed to checkmate White!
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	22	Copyright © 1997-2002 Prof. Chester Nuhmentz, Jr. (Photocopying this form for instructional use is permitted.)
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board first has a huge advantage.