



Chess Tactics for Kids: 50 Tricky Tactics to outwit your opponent

Author: Murray Chandler
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Don't let the title mislead you; this stomping sequel is at least as much use for grown-up Chess players as it is for their children.

Sequels are always a tricky project. There have been a few good ones of course. In the literary sphere, fans still argue that Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* is better than *The Hobbit*, just as many in the film world would say that *The Empire Strikes Back* is at least as good as the original *Star Wars*. So, the question here is: has Chandler's previous effort *How to Beat Your Dad at Chess*, a very popular book within Chess circles, set the bar too high for this sequel? Let's find out.

The book's format is a simple one: 50 tactics on the game, each given a number, illustrated with stage-by-stage diagrams of the Chess board and augmented by an introductory paragraph or two. To readers of the author's previous book, all this will be familiar. Yet the beauty of *Tactics* is that though it presumes a decent working knowledge of the game, one does not need to have read the first book to get on well with it. However, the book's title could be seen a tad misleading. Though cleverly written and well researched – Chandler is after all a Chess Grand Master – *Tactics* may be a little too advanced for younger children. Instead it would probably suit a competent teenager or an adult like me, who knows the rules but that's about all. It is worth mentioning however that some of my more competent friends who have read this book did say they have learned from it.

Sadly, good sequels are well-known because they are the exceptions. In the case of this one, I'd say it's drawn about level with the original largely because it is so similar, the overall theme changing from checkmates to tactics in the game as a whole. It even includes (again) a quiz as the culmination. So ultimately, if you like Chess and are in the lower levels of the hierarchy as it were, this book, despite the title, could well be for you. For a genuine volume on Chess for the younger player by Chandler, who is a very good writer on the subject, try his *Chess for Children* (co-written with Helen Milligan).

9 sausages out of 10

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