

## **First State Chess Camp**

### **Book recommendations and other suggestions for future study**

The world of chess is a fascinating one, and for many different reasons! The game is simple enough that just about anyone can grasp its essence. At the same time it is almost infinite in its depth, and so can be a challenge and delight to any age and any skill level.

We have tried to challenge the children this week with the game that we love. There are many benefits to studying a mental game like chess ... not the least of which is fun! To fully reap the seeds sown this week, continual exposure and practice is encouraged! If you are looking for a club - even if only for the summer – let us know. In fact, we are eager to assist you in any way we can! You can get in touch with us at [FirstStateChessClub@yahoo.com](mailto:FirstStateChessClub@yahoo.com).

Here are the books that we have for sale this camp (generally from simplest to most complex):

**Chess Tactics for Kids**, by Murray Chandler

**How to Beat Your Dad at Chess**, by Murray Chandler

Both these books are aimed at the somewhat accomplished beginner. The first deals strictly with tactics, and is a nice introduction to the many “tricks” that are available. The second is more well-rounded, and is also a good book to start with.

**A World Champion’s Guide to Chess**, by Susan Polgar

Rick has described this as an excellent book to learn from, because it not only explains the moves, but the ideas behind the moves. You actually get a glimpse of what leads up to the great moves, and so it teaches you how to apply these ideas to your own games.

**Learn Chess Tactics**, by John Nunn

Written for slightly older students by one of the best chess writers of all time. Tactics are those situations where smaller groups of pieces can work together to achieve great things. They should be studied by all improving chess players, because that is how you learn the ways that two or more pieces can work together. Practically, tactics forms the foundation that accounts for most of the chess wins you have (and most of the losses as well!)

**Unbeatable Chess Lessons for Juniors**, by Robert Snyder

A book that explains every single move of over 20 chess games. You will learn tactics, strategy, openings, and endings better!

**64 Things you Need to Know in Chess**, by John Walker

I think this is going to become a favorite of mine. Learn a little bit of everything!

**Test Your Chess IQ: First Challenge**, by August Livshitz

A book of practice test, that measures and strengthens your ability to solve tactical problems. This book is highly recommended.

**Chess Endings Made Simple**, by Ian Snape

At first glance this is a very readable introduction to playing endgames well (that means winning games at the end!). It's hard to recommend an endgame book, but I'll go out on a limb with this one!

**The Amateur's Mind**, by Jeremy Silman

One of the best (early) middlegame planning and strategy books. Silman set off a revolution in the publishing world when he released his "How to Re-Assess your Chess" twenty some years ago. This is a pre-cursor to prepare you for that book.

**Chess Training Pocket Book**, by Lev Albur

The idea is simple and compelling – learn these 300 positions well, and you will be a better player. My students aren't allowed to buy this book – I get too many good ideas from it!

**Test Your Chess IQ: Master Challenge**, by August Livshitz

I love these books because they helped add 300 points to my rating the last time I re-discovered chess! This one is a real challenge, but one that will make you grow!

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Books not for sale yet:

At this level you have to mention:

**Chess Tactics for Students**, by John Bain

**Winning Chess Strategy for Kids**, by Coakley

**Chess Tactics Workbook**, by Woolum

Beginning tactical exercises, even more elementary than the above. Privately published, but you can order through Amazon.com. Any time you order sets or books (even non-chess books!) please consult our links at <http://bear.delawarechess.org/shop.htm> – if you order after going through our link you support our club and camp!

**Chess: 5,334 Problems, Combinations, and Games**, by Laszlo Polgar

Too much practice to be ignored! The encyclopedia of beginner's tactics!

**Logical Chess: Move by Move**, by Irving Chernev

A classic mentioned in every Grandmaster's top three list (just about). Explains every move ... in a way that teaches us to avoid a LOT of bad moves early on!

## Online material

There is a LOT of free instruction out there! Try [www.professorchess.com](http://www.professorchess.com) and [www.chessville.com](http://www.chessville.com). (The packets we sent home on Wednesday have material from Professor Chess in them)

[www.delawarechess.org](http://www.delawarechess.org) is the web site of your local Delaware Chess Association. They have a local forum where you can ask questions and get expert answers from the best in the state!

[bear.delawarechess.org](http://bear.delawarechess.org) is our Bear Scholastic Chess Club web site. An ever expanding collection of material is available there! We've brought for World Women's Champion Susan Polgar, and former US Women's Champion Jennifer Shahade to Delaware for lectures and an exhibition. Help us help chess grow!

Bob's email is [mvsgru@yahoo.com](mailto:mvsgru@yahoo.com) ... Rick's email is [pilgrim19701@yahoo.com](mailto:pilgrim19701@yahoo.com). For help, questions, advice on book or computer purchases – anything chess related – contact one of us!

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's life this week!

Bob Wilder