



# Teaching Notes & Resources

Key Stage 2 / 3

Themes: Family Relationships | Dementia | Hope

Purchase



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# Character Study - Zak

Text © Onjali Q. Raúf, 2025 Illustrations © Pipa Curwick, 2025

While reading *The Game I Will Never Forget* by Onjali Q. Raúf, gather information about the main character, Zak. You should add to each category as the story develops, and you learn more about him.

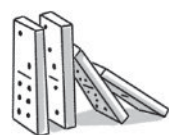


What do you know about Zak?



How would you describe Zak's personality?

What is Zak's relationship with Nani like?  
How does it change?



How does Zak change throughout the story?



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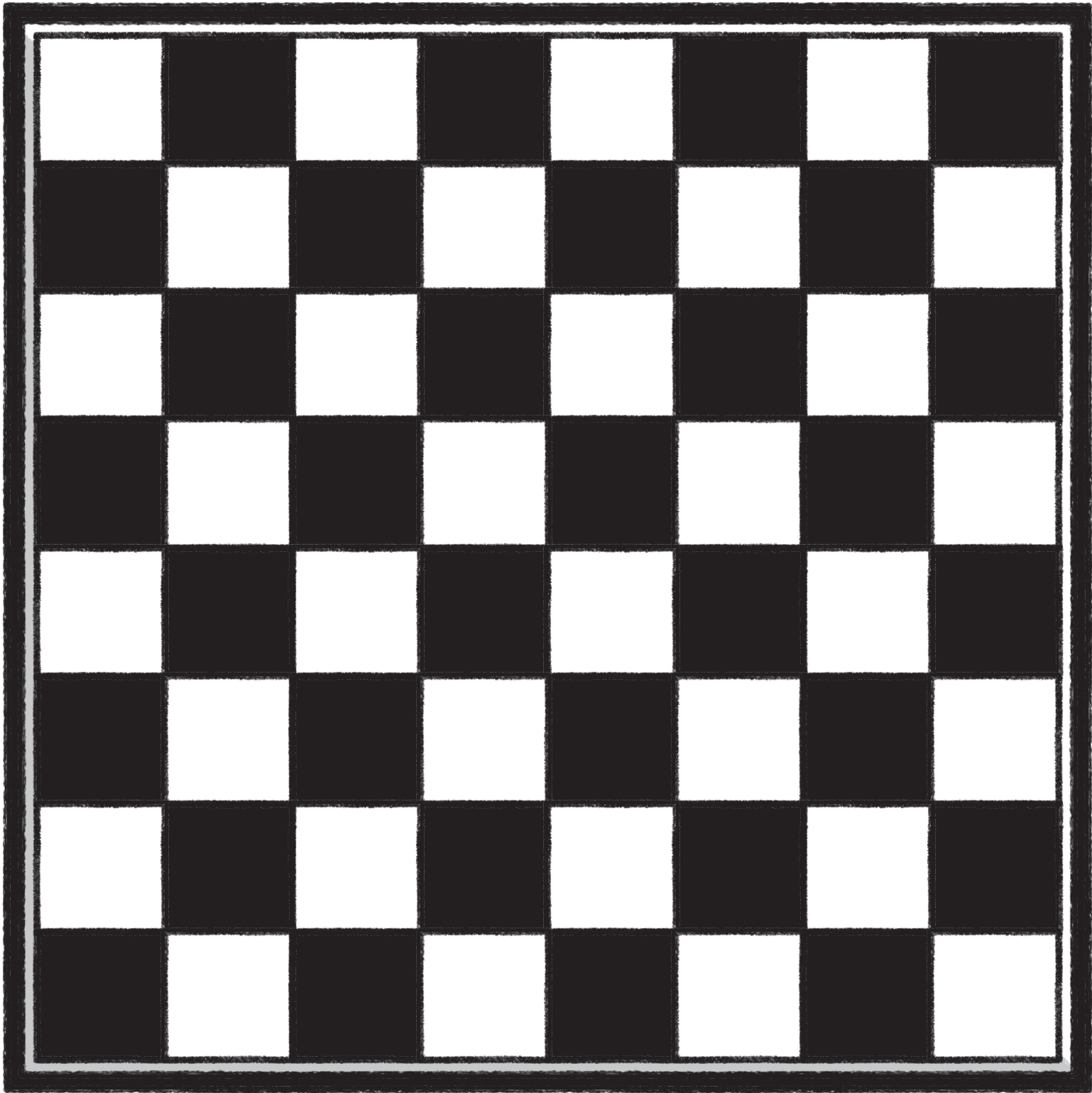




# Chess Game

After reading *The Game I Will Never Forget* by Onjali Q. Raúf, have a go at playing chess using the chess board and pieces below.

Cut out the board and the pieces.



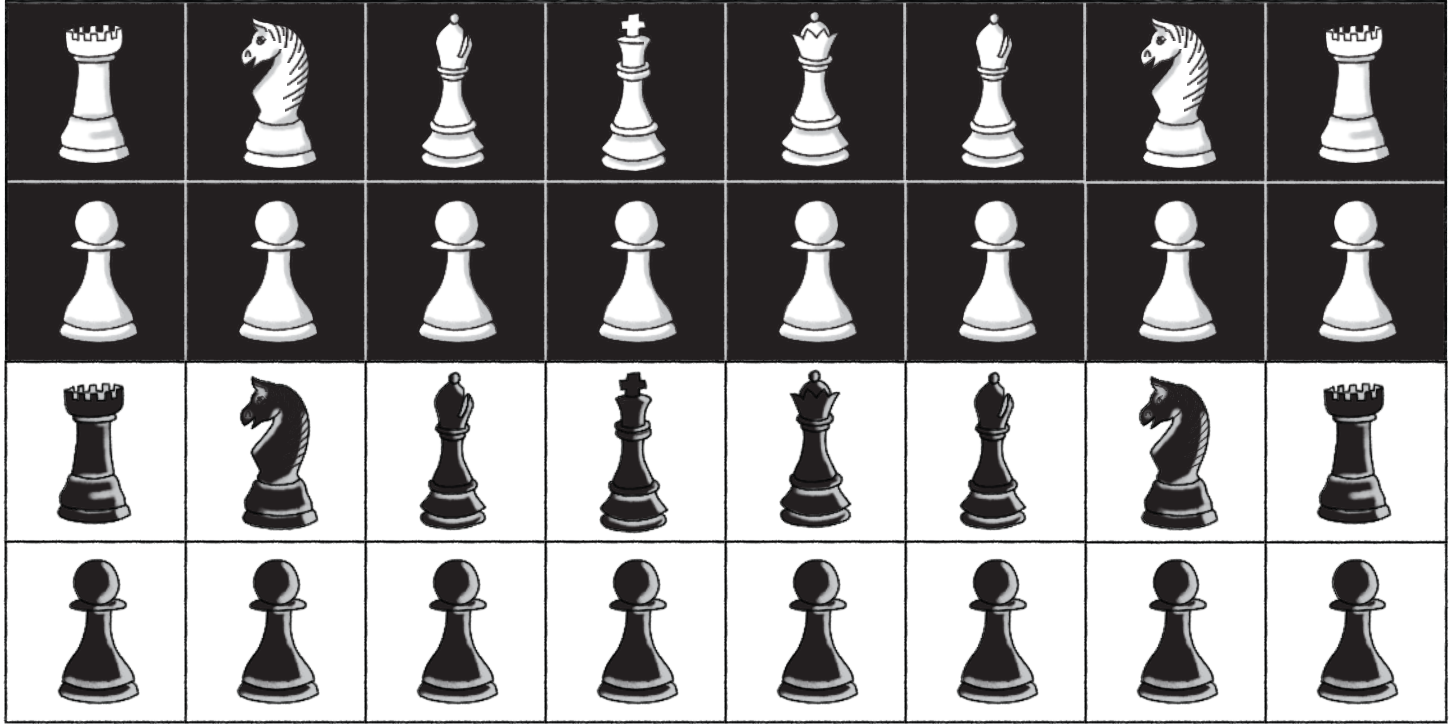
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# Chess Game



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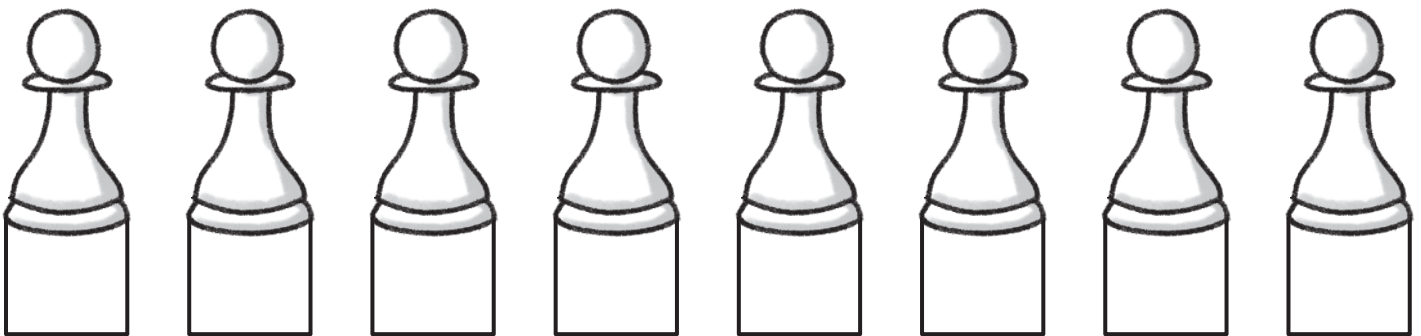
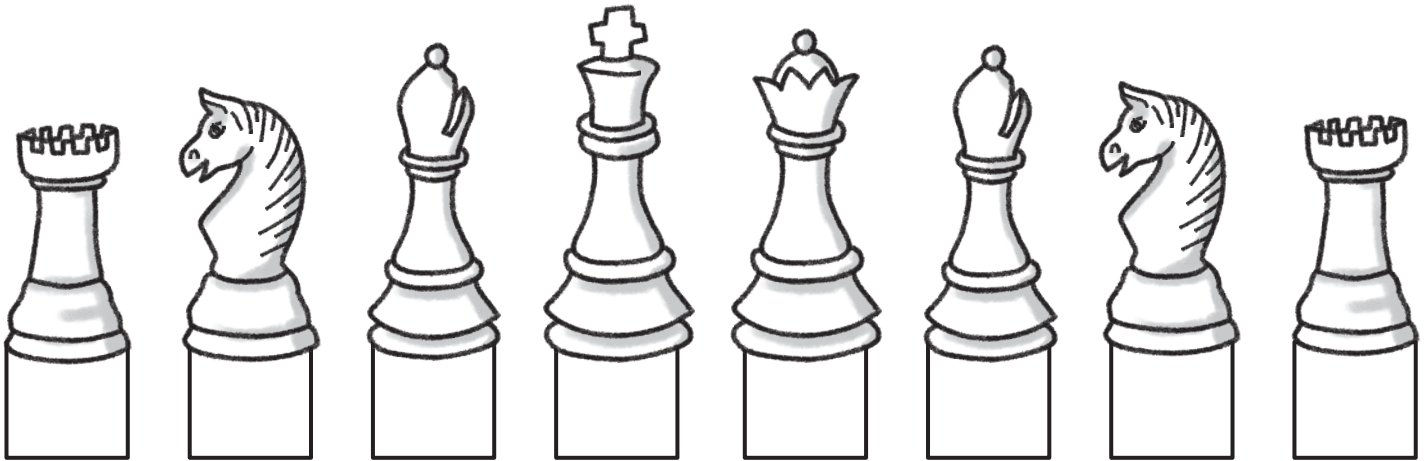
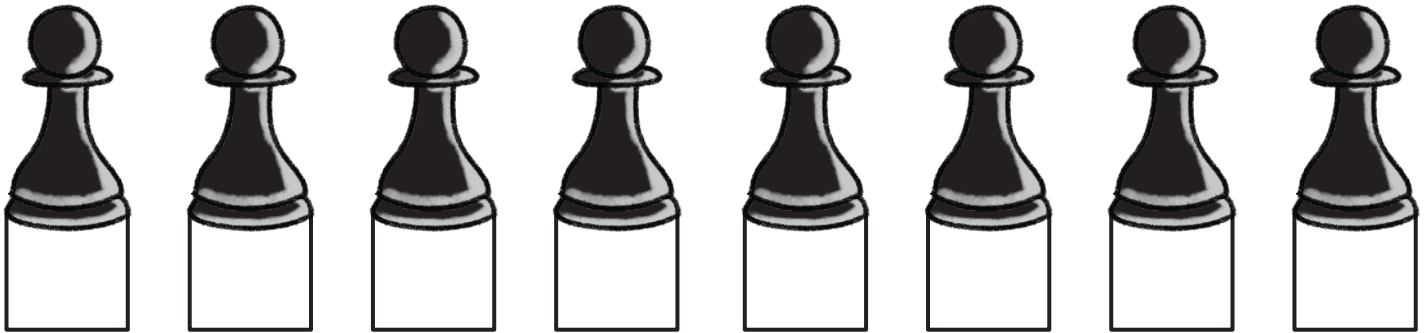
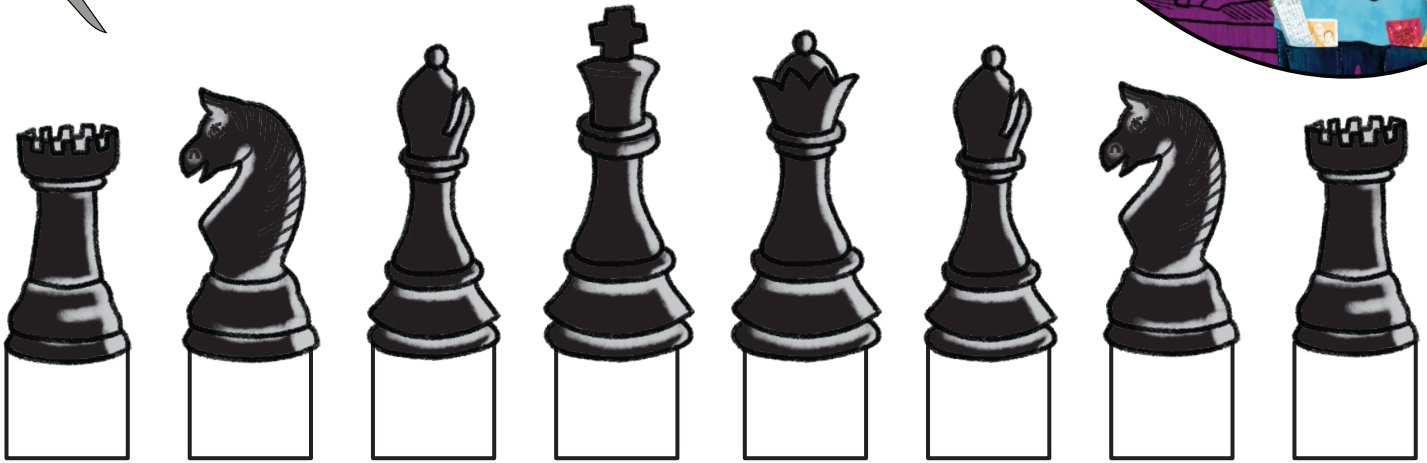


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# Chess Game



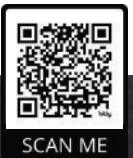
For these stand-up pieces, we recommend printing them onto card.



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# Chess Instruction Writing

After reading *The Game I Will Never Forget* by Onjali Q. Raúf, research and then write out the rules of chess so you can play the game.



## How to Play Chess

### You will need:

### How the pieces move



Pawn -

Rook -

Bishop -

Queen -

Knight -

King -

### How to play

### Top tips:



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# Chapter 29 Discussion Questions

Text © Onjali Q. Raúf, 2025 Illustrations © Pipa Curcio, 2025



After reading this extract from Chapter 29 of *The Game I Will Never Forget* by Onjali Q. Raúf, use the discussion questions to explore this point of the story in more depth.

'Now, I know that you know what you did today was extremely dangerous—'

'But I—'

'Let me finish,' ordered Mum. 'And I know that you know it was wrong. Yes?'

I sighed and nodded.

'Good,' said Mum. 'Just checking.'

'But I only did it so Nani could remember who she really was!' I tried again.

'Yes, we know,' said Dad. 'We heard everything you said at ChessFest. Loud and clear. It still doesn't take away from the fact that you *lied* to us, Zak. That you forged your nani's signature. That you nearly scared your mum to death by swapping out your nani with your friend under our very roof. That you practically kidnapped her – someone who is very ill and in need of stability and care. Does it?'

I shook my head. When all my misdeeds were being listed like that, I guess it did sound like I was a professional criminal. So professional I hadn't even realised how much of a criminal I was.

'Saying that, we *do* understand why you did it,' continued Dad.

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'You do?' I asked, feeling a bit better. They really had listened to me at ChessFest.

'Of course,' said Mum. 'And we know you had only the best intentions for your nani at heart. You gifted her a beautiful moment in her life – one none of us will ever forget. Not ever.'

'Not even Nani too, right?' I asked, wondering if the shards were strong enough to delete the golden memory of her beating Mr Li, or whether I had found a way to defeat them instead.

Mum and Dad fell quiet and gave each other a look I couldn't interpret.

'We can't promise that, son,' said Dad. 'We can't promise that her condition won't take that memory away from her too. But even if it does, WE will still have it. And we'll remember it for her. For as long as we can.'

'That's right,' said Mum, her voice wobbling.

'So – so even though she won today and became a chess grandmaster again, and even though I *know* playing chess can help stop the demon shard things taking everything away from her, you still don't believe it can help her – playing more tournaments with real champions?' I asked, wanting to understand why, even

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## Discussion Questions:

- How do Mum and Dad show they still understand Zak's intentions?
- Why does Zak say he sounds like 'a professional criminal'? What does this show about how he views his actions?
- When Mum and Dad 'fell quiet and gave each other a look,' what might they have been thinking or feeling?
- What does the phrase 'gifted her a beautiful moment in her life' mean? How is a memory like a gift?
- Do you think Zak was right or wrong to do what he did at ChessFest? Why?
- How does this extract show the difference between Zak's hope and his parents' thoughts about dementia?
- If you were Zak's friend, what advice would you give him after this conversation?
- What do you think the author wants us to understand about dementia and family memories through this scene?



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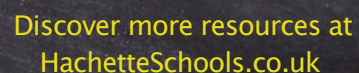
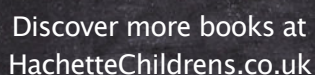
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Li Q.  
g chess  
Seo-jun Li.

ONTALI Q. RAUF  
The  
GAME  
I WILL  
NEVER  
FORGET

A person is shown from the back, wearing a light blue t-shirt. The t-shirt has a graphic design that reads "ONJALI Q. RAUF" in a curved font at the top, followed by "The" in a small script font, then "GAME" in large bold letters, and "I WILL NEVER FORGET" in large bold letters below that. To the right of the text is a black and white checkered flag. At the bottom of the t-shirt, there are small, colorful patches or stickers. The background is a solid purple color.

[illegible][illegible]




Text © Onq. Q. Rauf, 2025 Illustrations © Onq. Q. Rauf, 2025

li Q.  
e point

ONTALI Q. RAUF  
The  
GAME  
I WILL  
NEVER  
FORGET

Explaining why



SCAN ME

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# Wordsearch



Cross out each word as you find it.



Text © Onjali Q. Rauf, 2025 Illustrations © Pippa Cornick, 2025



G	X	Y	E	T	U	A	W	Y	I	W	V	S
R	F	P	T	A	D	L	M	K	R	T	C	O
A	C	N	A	C	I	E	M	E	E	M	T	Q
N	H	E	M	G	S	L	M	E	H	D	F	G
D	E	E	K	I	P	W	H	E	M	T	P	R
M	S	U	C	J	P	M	F	A	N	O	T	I
A	S	Q	E	P	I	N	A	N	D	T	R	O
S	F	A	H	K	R	O	F	H	U	Z	I	Y
T	E	M	C	A	V	P	A	W	N	P	P	A
E	S	J	R	Z	B	K	T	C	U	E	A	P
R	T	H	S	E	D	A	L	G	N	A	B	K

BANGLADESH

DEMENTIA

PAWN

CHECKMATE

GRANDMASTER

QUEEN

CHESSFEST

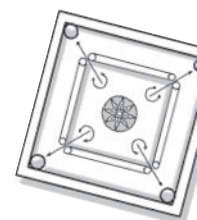
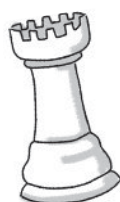
MEMORY

THEMA

DAHLIA

NANI

ZAK



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# Wordsearch

Answers



G	X	Y	E	T	U	A	W	Y	I	W	V	S
R	F	P	T	A	D	L	M	K	R	T	C	O
A	C	N	A	C	I	E	M	E	E	M	T	Q
N	H	E	M	G	S	L	M	E	H	D	F	G
D	E	E	K	I	P	W	H	E	M	T	P	R
M	S	U	C	J	P	M	F	A	N	O	T	I
A	S	Q	E	P	I	N	A	N	D	T	R	O
S	F	A	H	K	R	O	F	H	U	Z	I	Y
T	E	M	C	A	V	P	A	W	N	P	P	A
E	S	J	R	Z	B	K	T	C	U	E	A	P
R	T	H	S	E	D	A	L	G	N	A	B	K

BANGLADESH

DEMENTIA

PAWN

CHECKMATE

GRANDMASTER

QUEEN

CHESSFEST

MEMORY

THEMA

DAHLIA

NANI

ZAK



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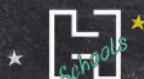
Resources created by



# Teacher's Pet



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