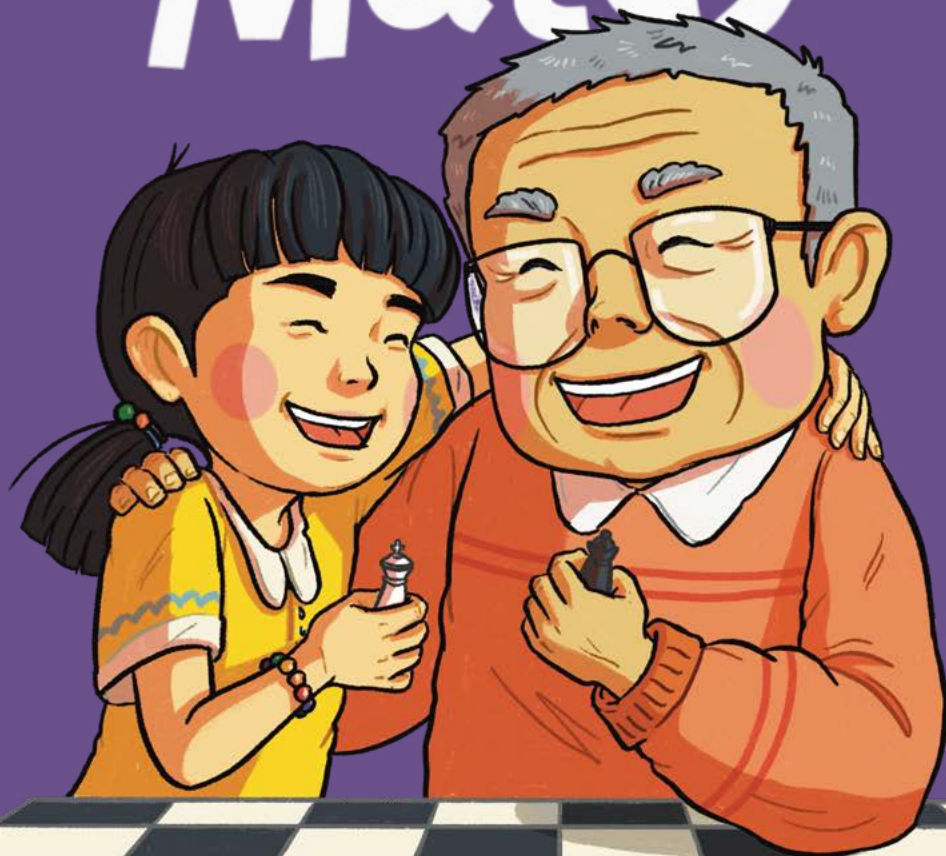


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Chess Mates



Heggerty



At the age of ten, Viv was at the top of her chess game. She had the skills to win. She did win...well, almost.

When Viv was five, she got a chess set from Pop as a gift, but she did not want to use it yet.

Pop said to Viv, "You can do this. I will help you win at chess like me." Viv just shrugged. When Viv was five, she did not think chess was a fun game.



Pop could play chess well, and he won all the time. Viv could tell.

“I don’t want to play chess. I just want to ride my bike, Pop,” said Viv.

She ran off and left the chess set in the den. Pop picked up the chess set in the box. “I will help Viv,” he said in a soft tone.

Viv did not like chess when she was five, but she did when she was six. Until then, it sat on the shelf in the den.



When Viv was six, Pop got sick. He was not well and had to rest in bed all the time. She would sit next to Pop and tell him jokes. He slept a lot. It made Viv sad when Pop was sick.



One time, Viv asked, “When will Pop get well?” Viv’s mom and dad did not want to chat. They all wished for Pop to get well fast and helped to care for him.



Viv went to her bed to think. “Pop got me a chess set when I was five, but I did not wish to play with it. When Pop gets well, I will play chess with him. I can do this,” she said with a grin.