

25 Essential Positions

Part 2

When I created the first part of this PDF, I received a lot of positive feedback and mentioned that I had 25 more positions to share. Now, I'm back with Part 2 of the project.

I also received some suggestions for improvement, so I've made adjustments and hope this version is even better.

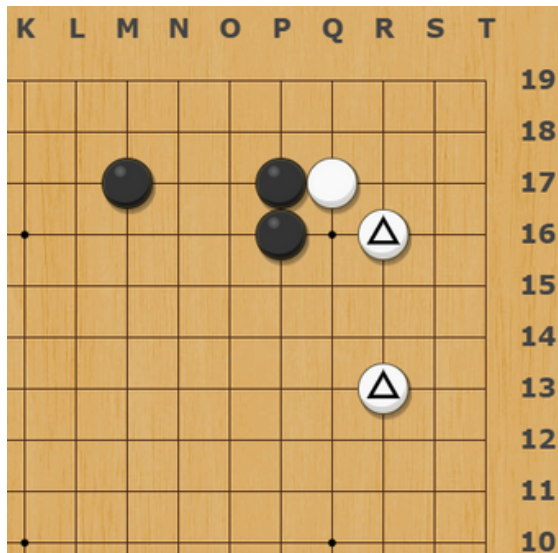
I'd like to emphasize once again that while these positions are generally very strong, there may be exceptions where better moves exist. I don't encourage anyone to follow them blindly, but I do encourage everyone to consider them during their games. I personally use them almost every time.

You've probably seen them already, but if you take the time to study and understand them, you'll start winning more easily and can expect to improve by at least two ranks.

**Black to play every time!
Let's train together and get you to 1 dan!**

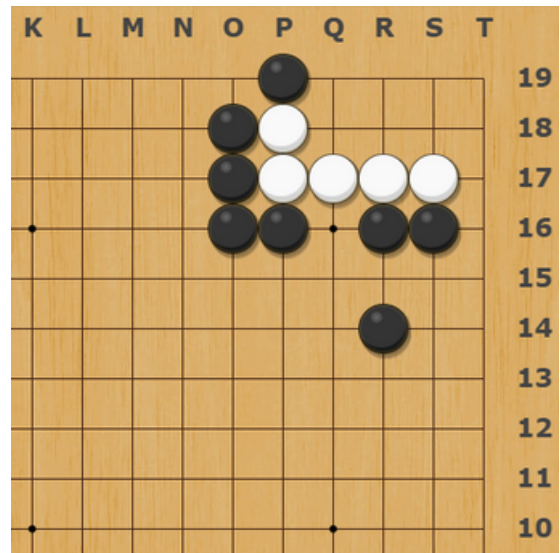
Dia 26.

White has overextended their position. What is the best way to exploit this?



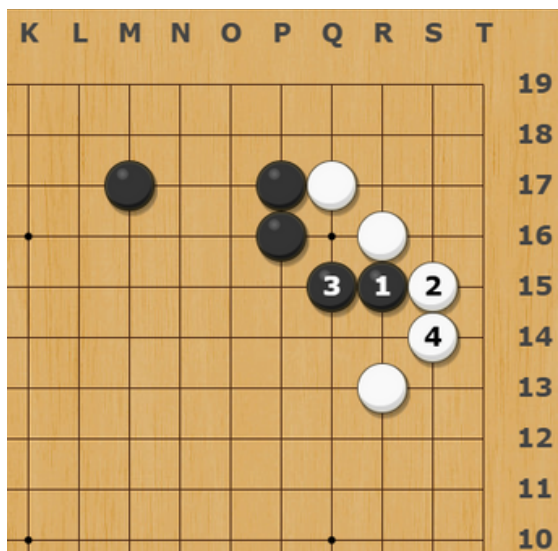
Dia 27.

This could be considered a tsumego. How can you kill white without relying on a ko?



Dia 26 Answer.

This sequence is going to make black stronger and white's territory smaller.



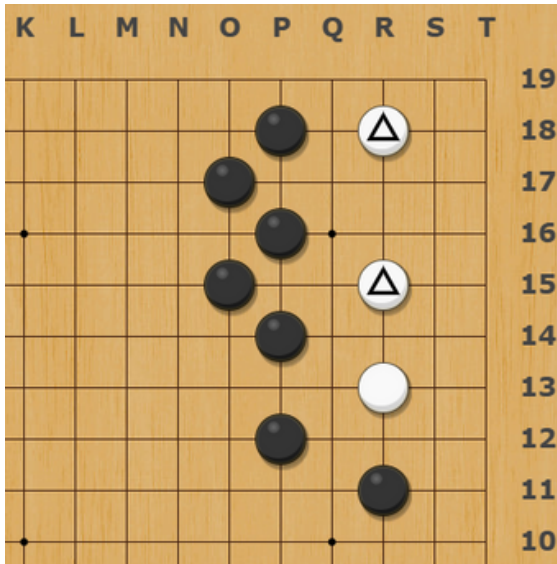
Dia 27 Answer.

If Black plays at R19, white can make a ko. Q19 is better.



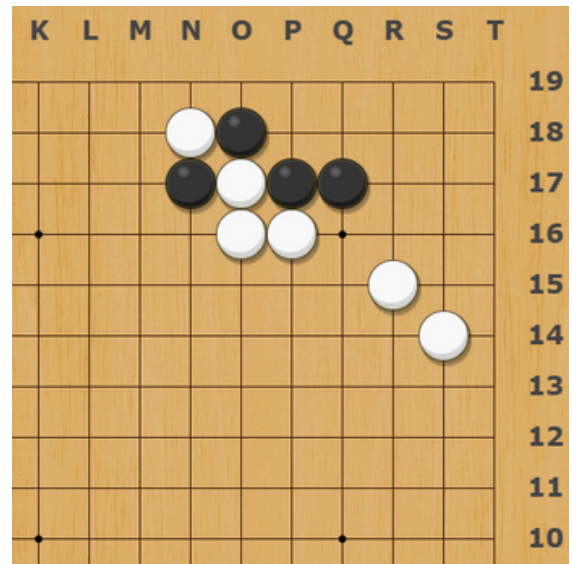
Dia 28.

Can Black stop White from linking up the stones?




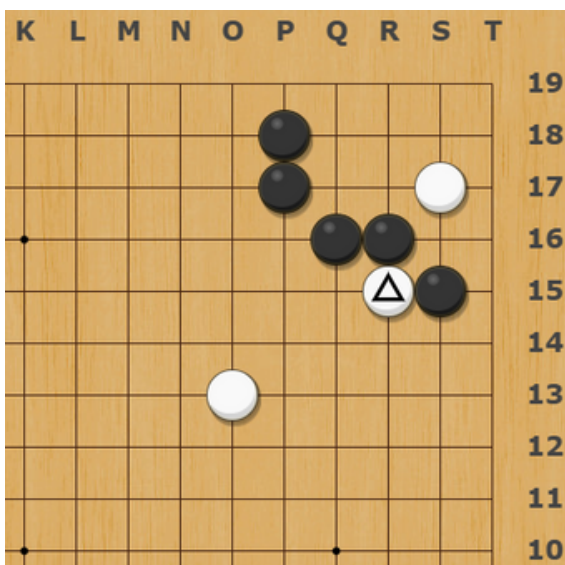
Dia 29.

What is the best way for Black to live?



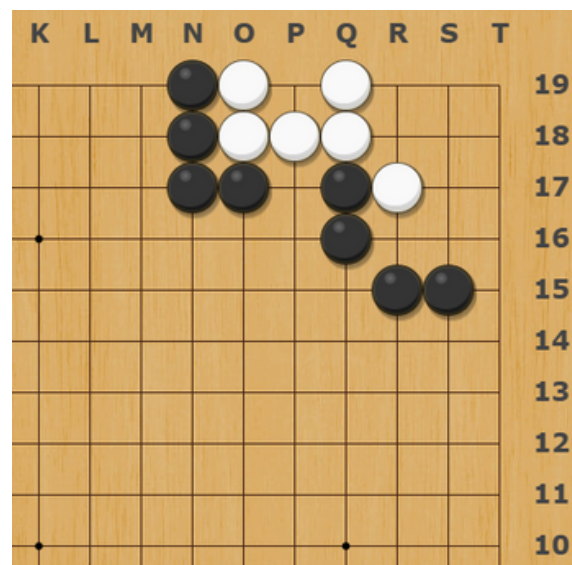
Dia 30.

Black wants to kill the  stone, how can you do it?



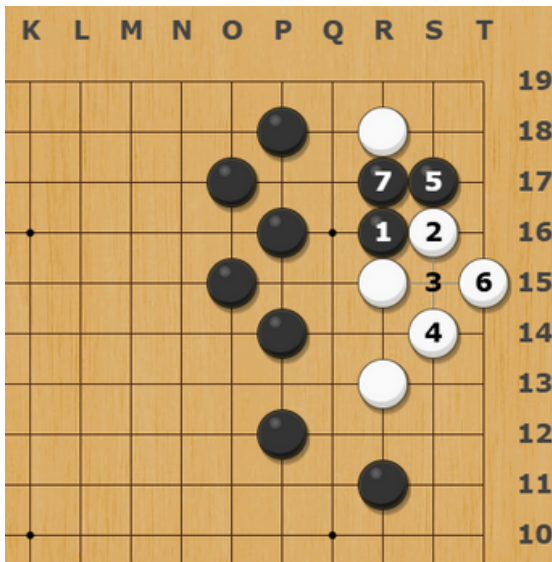
Dia 31.

This problem, along with the next, highlights two essential techniques. Let's start here: how can Black initiate a ko?



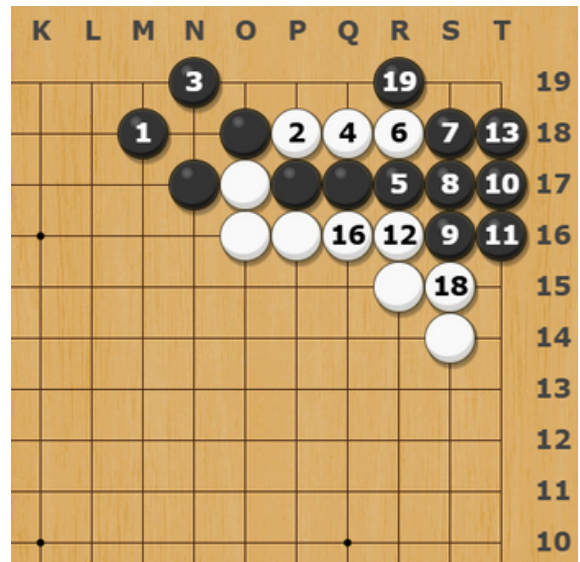
Dia 28 Answer.

Following the crosscut, White must decide which stone to sacrifice.



Dia 29 Answer.

This is a very common technique in many 3-4 josekis.



14 and 17 at 8, 15 at 10

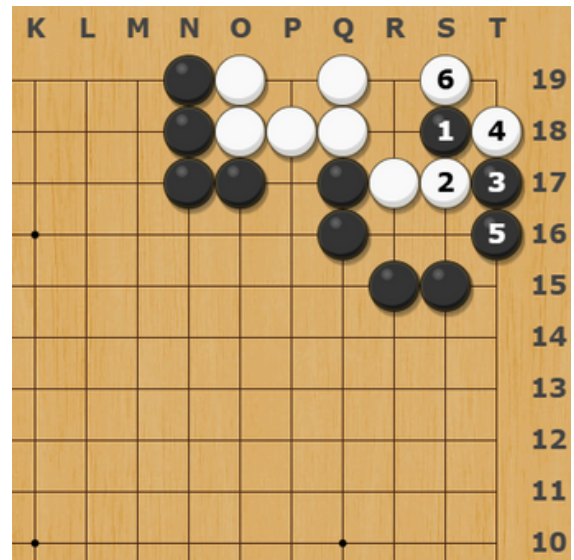
Dia 30 Answer.

Sometimes, a loose net can be enough to save the game.



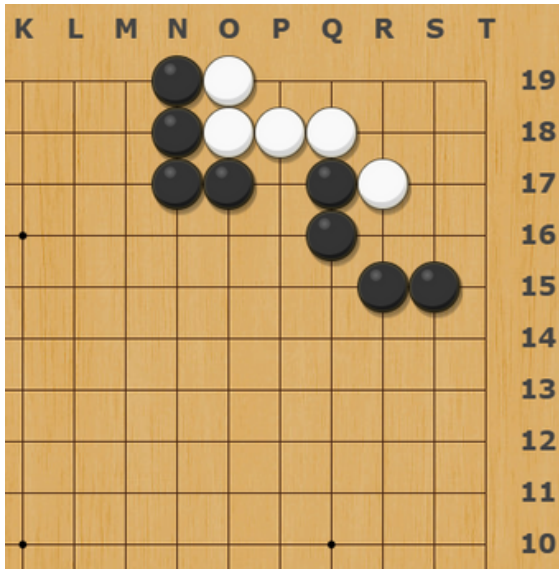
Dia 31 Answer.

Playing a shoulder hit and then threatening an underneath connection typically reduces white's liberties.



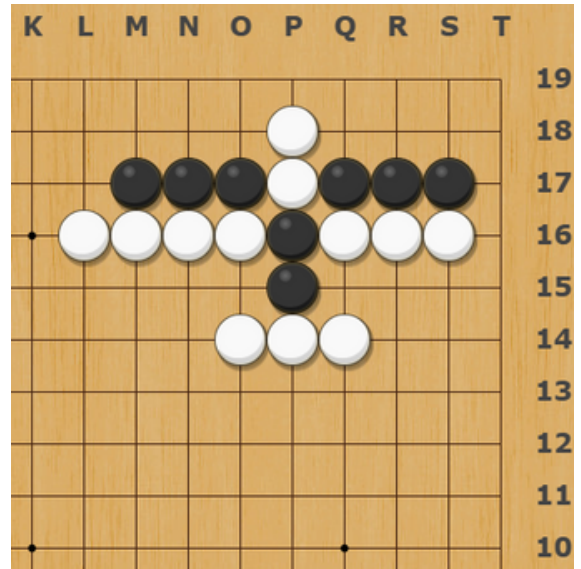
Dia 32 .

This situation is similar to the previous one, but here, you can kill White without involving a ko fight.



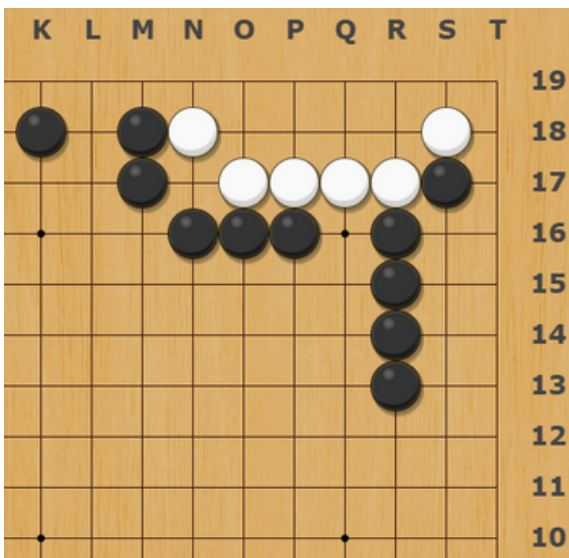
Dia 33.

This is a little bit harder. How do you connect the two Black groups?



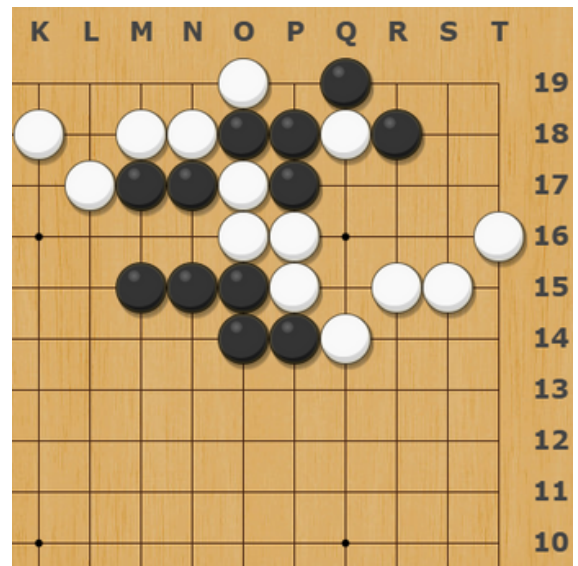
Dia 34.

What is the best way to attack White's group?



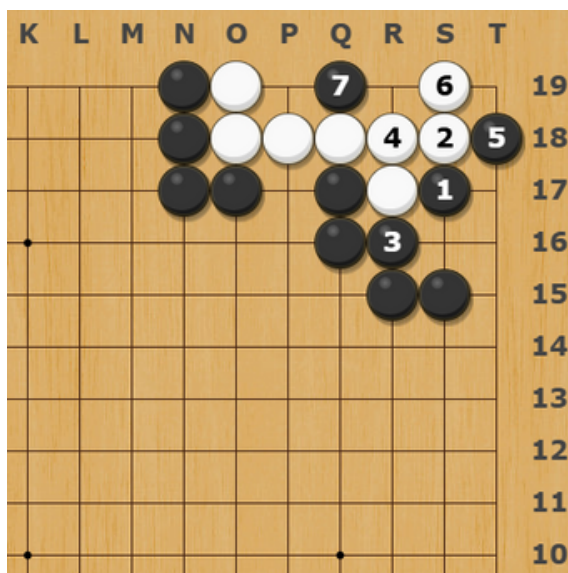
Dia 35.

The power of sente! How can Black live?



Dia 32 Answer.

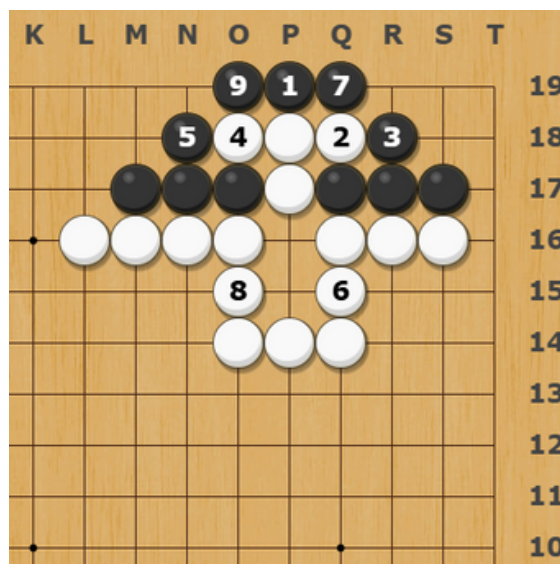
Here, the wedge is more effective than the shoulder hit, though both are important techniques to understand



Dia 33 Answer.

Principle:

In most cases, a symmetric position leads to a symmetric solution.



Dia 34 Answer.

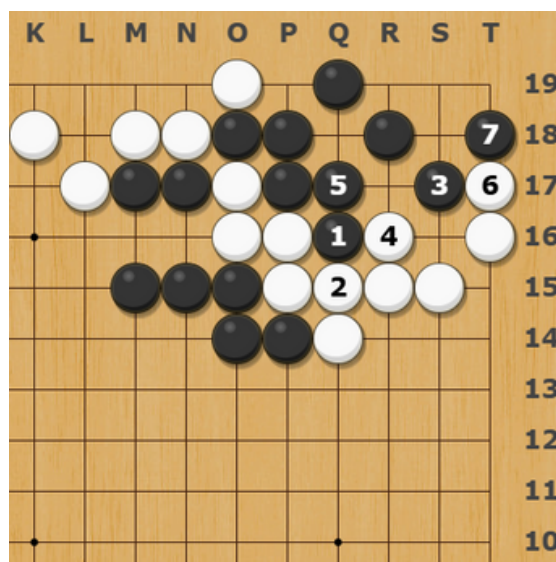
Instead of protecting every stone on the second line, keep in mind that sometimes there are better options!



Dia 35 Answer.

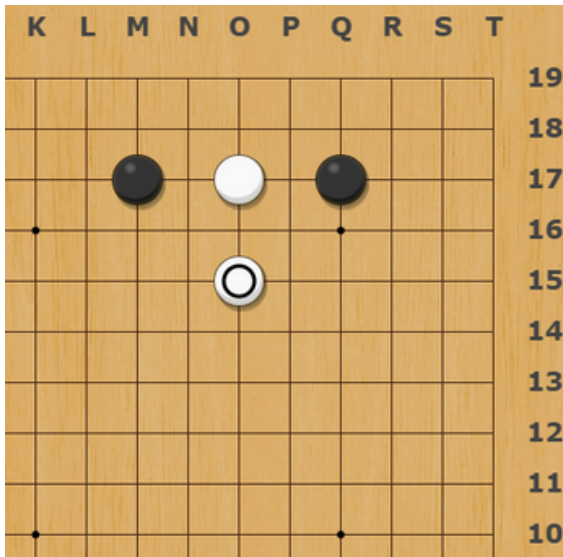
Principle:

Whenever you want to live with a group, look for sente moves that give you space or eyes while keeping the initiative.



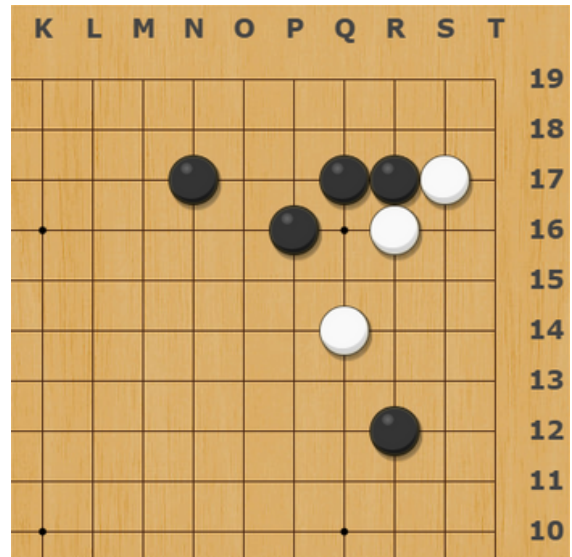
Dia 36.

You need to connect your groups. How do you do that?



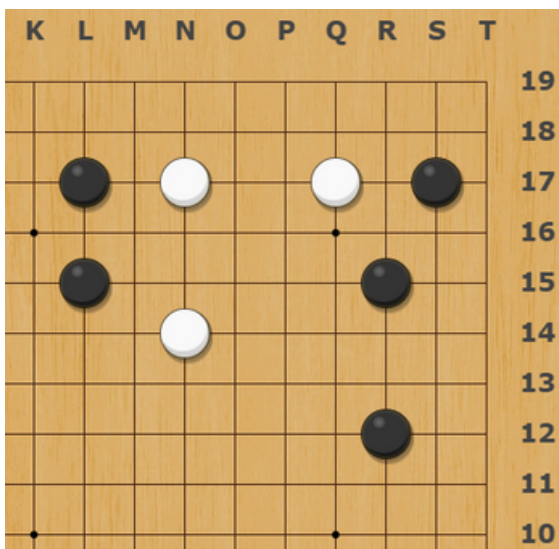
Dia 37.

White is weak. What's the best way to take advantage of it?



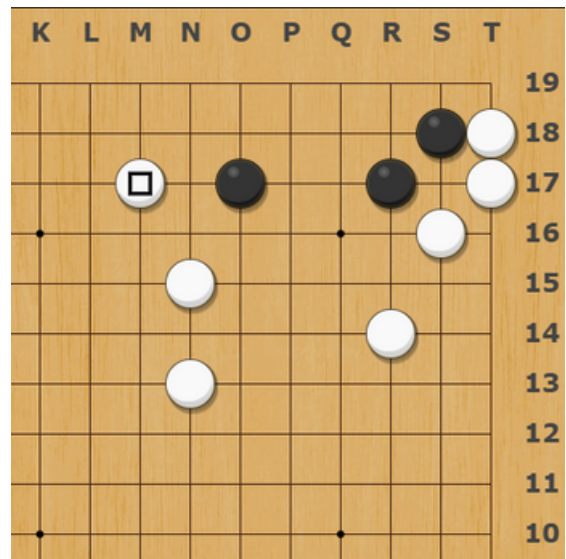
Dia 38.

Can you find a move that cuts White's stones?



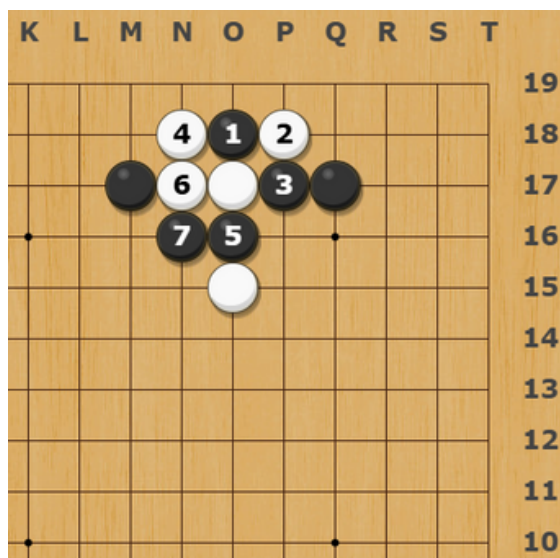
Dia 39.

You need to create life fast. What's the best way to attack that white stone?



Dia 36 Answer.

Playing underneath white's stones is a strong shape move.



Dia 37 Answer.

Since White aims for a tiger's mouth at S15, you should begin there.



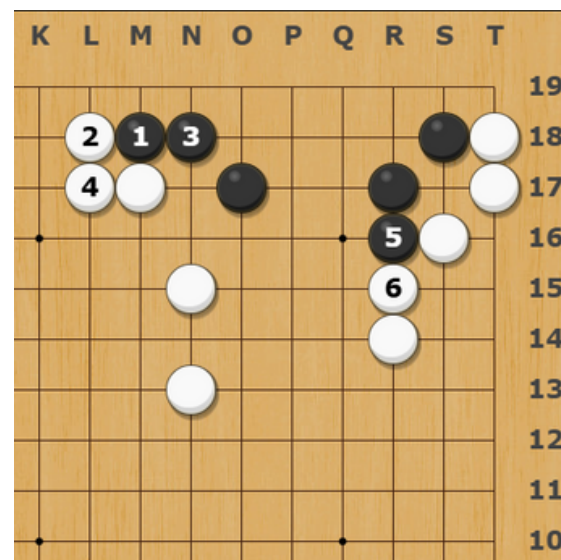
Dia 38 Answer.

This is why jumping too far away can weaken your stones.



Dia 39 Answer.

Same principles as last time, sente is the best way to live.

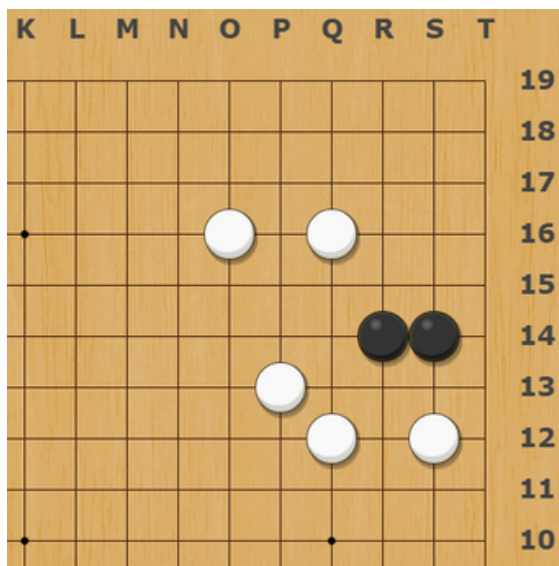


7 and 10 at 1, 8 at 3

Dia 40.

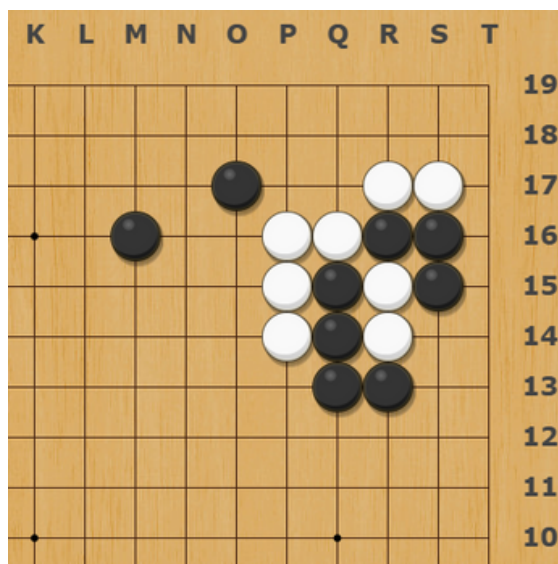
This is a shape you might recognize.

How do you destroy the corner?



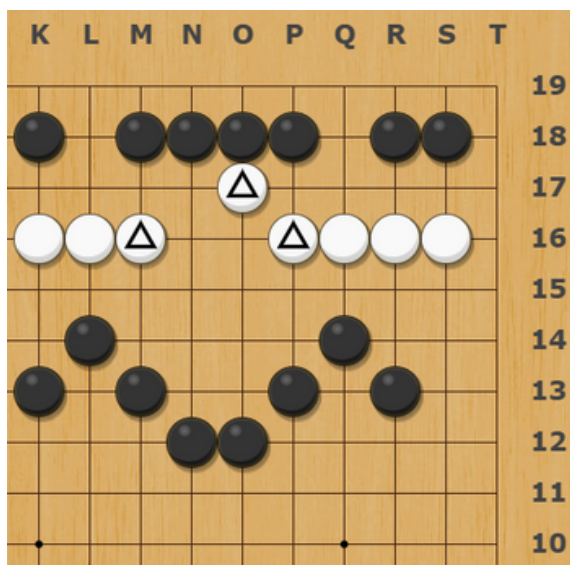
Dia 41.

What is the best way to attack white's corner?



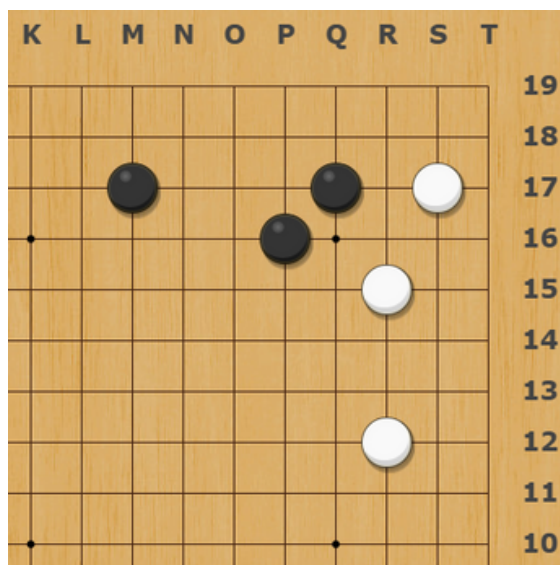
Dia 42.

This shape can always be cut if you're strong enough. How can you achieve that?



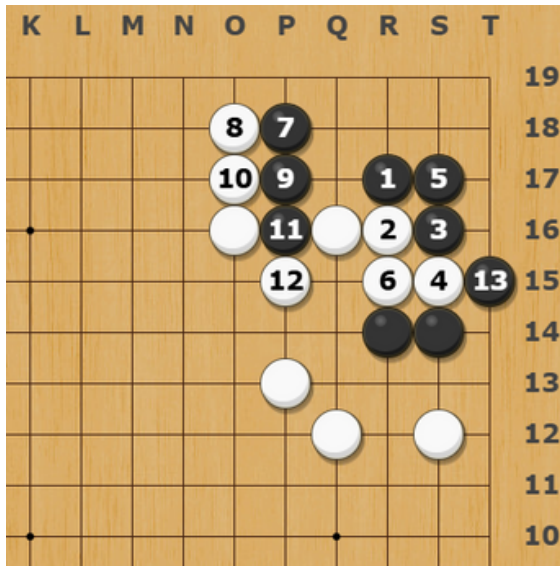
Dia 43.

If you want to take the corner, what's the best yose move to do it?



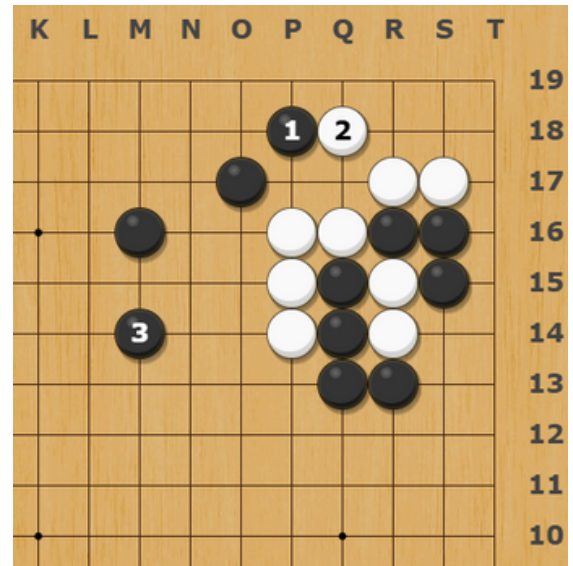
Dia 40 Answer.

The shoulder hit followed by a threat to connect underneath is useful once again (as seen in Diagram 6).



Dia 41 Answer.

Q18 would result in local gote, while playing P18 is almost always sente!



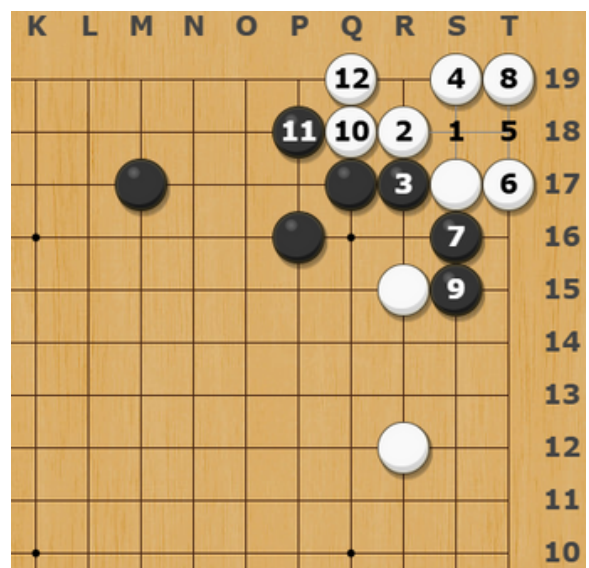
Dia 42 Answer.

This cut is effective only when you have strength on the outside.



Dia 43 Answer.

Blocking directly gives Black a small advantage. (The same technique can be found in the first part of the book.)



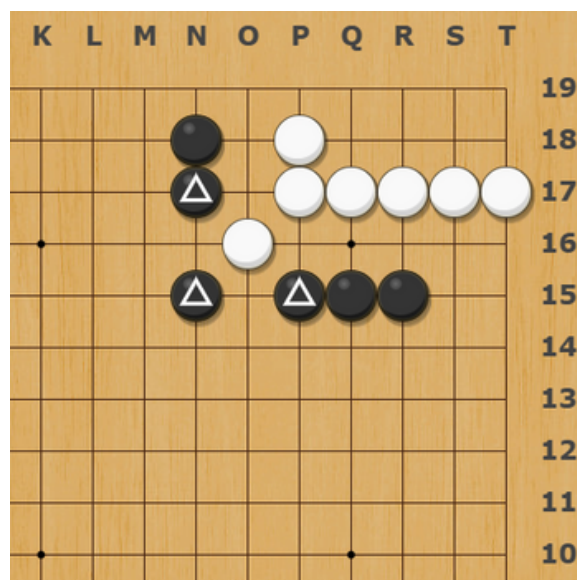
Dia 44.

What is the fastest way to capture White? (There is more than one solution.)



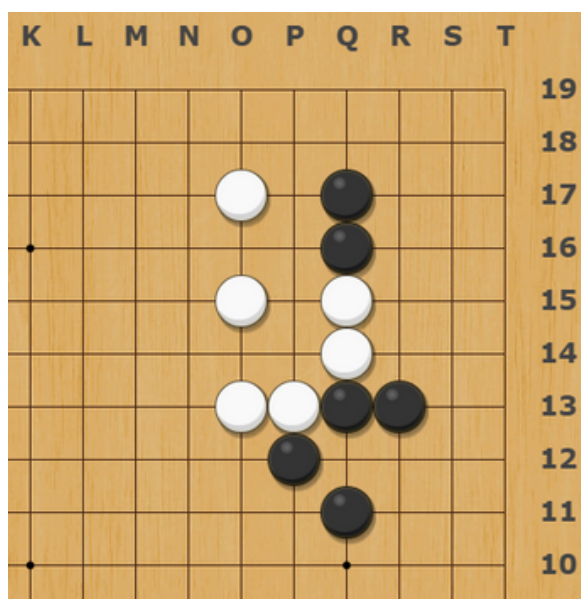
Dia 45.

This is more like a shape tsumego. How can you connect all your groups?



Dia 46.

This is vital for anyone aiming to get better than 10 kyu. How do you connect the two groups?



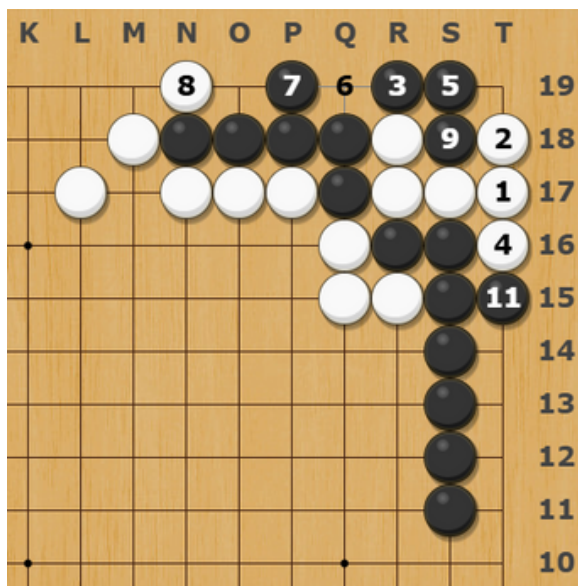
Dia 47.

Do you think you've solved the last one? This one has the same requirements. How do you connect?



Dia 44 Answer.

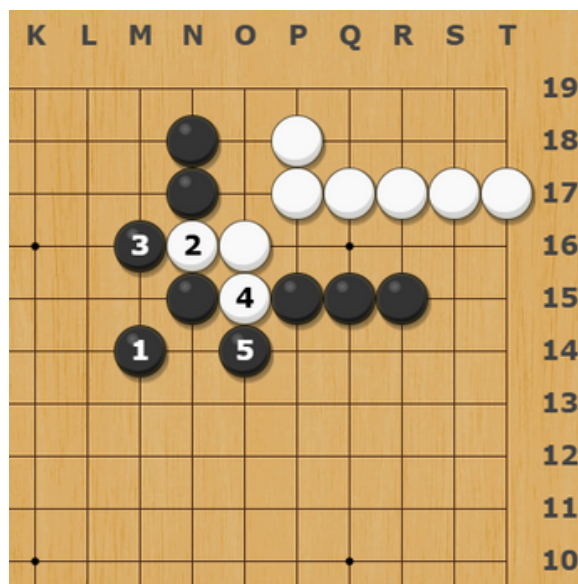
The easiest way is to start by taking away one of his liberties.



10 at 1

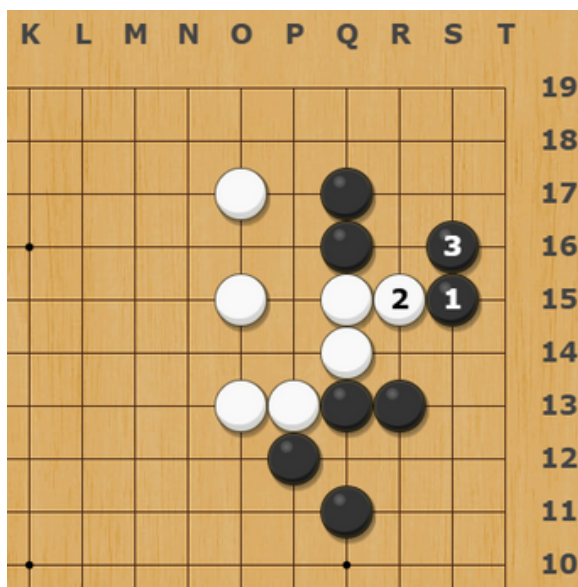
Dia 45 Answer.

The double tiger's mouth is the strongest shape in this situation.



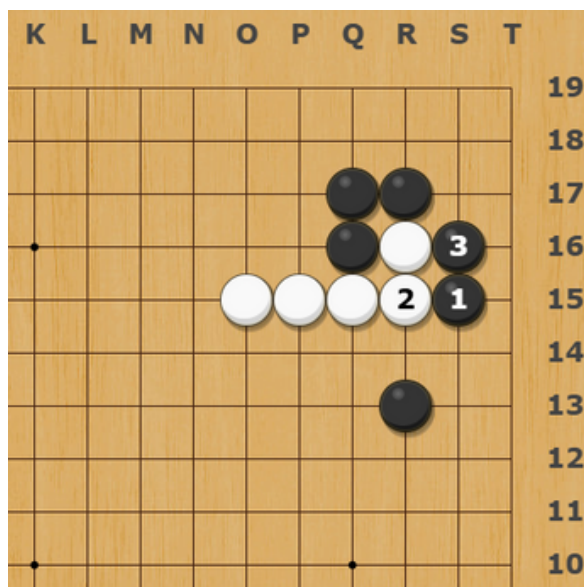
Dia 46 Answer.

This is the only way to connect without a fight.



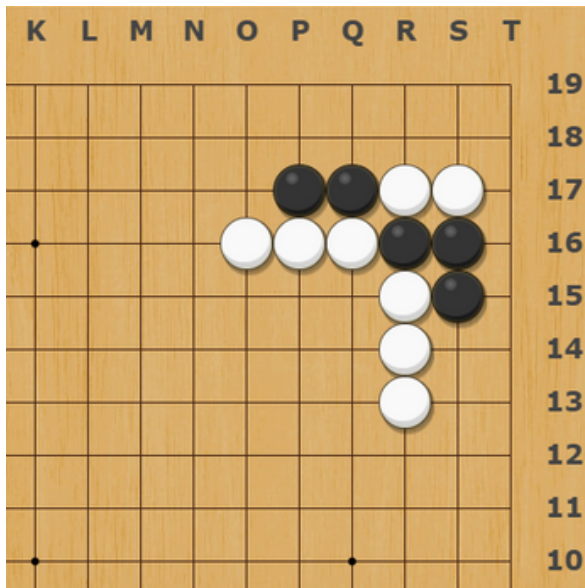
Dia 47 Answer.

It's the same shape move as the previous one.



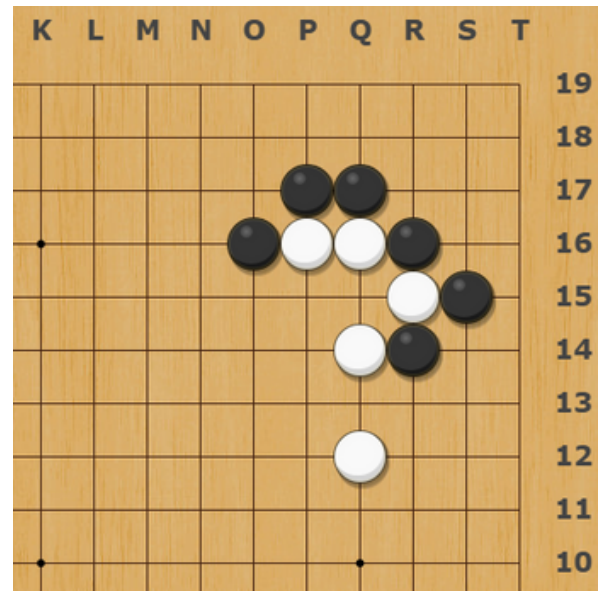
Dia 48.

**There's a fight over liberties.
Can you capture White first?**



Dia 49.

How do you kill white?



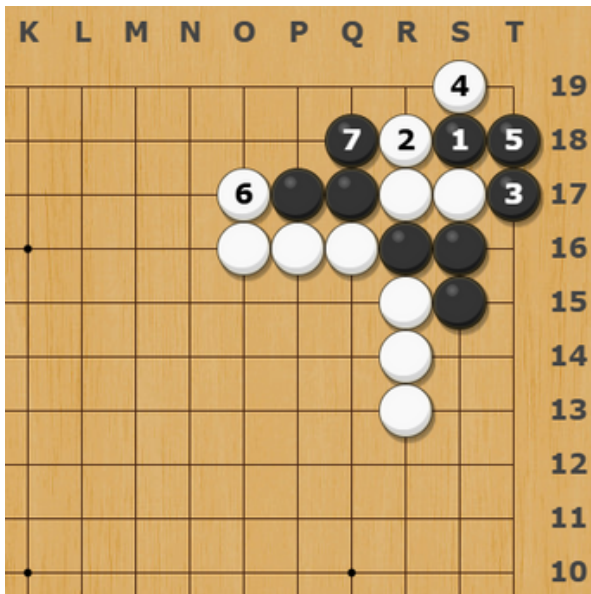
Dia 50.

**It looks like Black is going to lose the
fight, but he has one ace up his sleeve,
he's in the corner. How can he capture
White?**



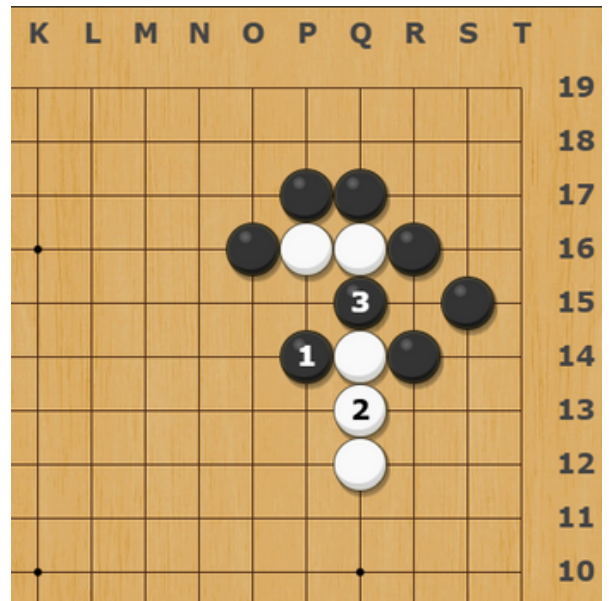
Dia 48 Answer.

Sooner or later, White will want to play at 2-2, so that move must be a key point.



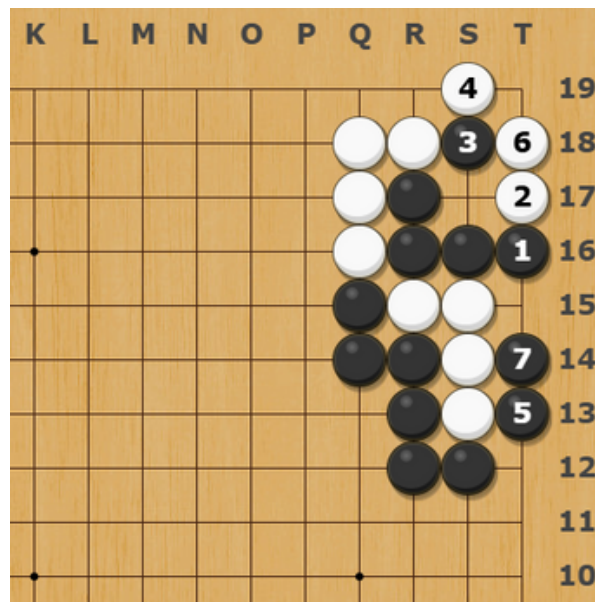
Dia 49 Answer.

Playing at 1 forms a net that traps White.



Dia 50 Answer.

The only way for Black to win is by forcing White into losing moves in the corner.



Thank you so much for studying with me!

If you have any feedback on this, I'd love to hear it. Please feel free to message me anytime

Let me know if you'd be interested in a full book with more examples and detailed explanations, possibly even a physical edition.

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