

Game of Thrones

Written by: Andrew McLeod

Many things clue for this puzzle to be about chess:

- The title
- “Garry” (Kasparov)
- The flavor text lines reading “PGN”
- The numbering of the clues

We also notice that the grid is 8x8, the same size as a chessboard. Eventually, we discover that the clue answers should be written on the grid as the pieces move. The following rules apply:

- Non-jumping pieces (all those except knights) have the clue written starting at their current position and ending at their finishing position.
- Knights (since they can jump and therefore do not “touch” any of the squares along the way) have their answers written only on their starting and ending squares. This makes sense when we realize that all knight moves are answers of length 2.

This seems simple enough. However, we soon realize that many of the moves are incomplete. Through deductive reasoning, we can figure out all of the moves and fill in the grid while playing out the chess game. Important here is that each “?” replaces EXACTLY ONE CHARACTER in the move. In some cases, the lengths of the annotated moves are important for deciding the correct continuation. (Answers and moves are listed below).

We eventually reach a filled grid and a completed game of chess. Extracting letters from the completed grid in the order given by the numbers 1-9, results in...gibberish. However, we may notice that the numbers in the given grid correspond to the starting positions of each of the pieces that remain on the finished board. Using instead the letters from each piece’s FINAL position results in the solution: **RARE METAL**.

K	M	H	R	A	N	D	E
T	A	K	A	O	V	E	R
U	I	M	C	T	E	R	Y
G	R	A	C	E	C	A	R
O	O	N	N	N	W	R	O
L	P	O	O	E	A	A	M
E	I	A	N	T	T	L	E
L	A	O	S	A	E	R	M



1.	e4	Pearl Jam's best selling album.	TEN
1...	e5	What Raffi likes to do to oples and banonos.	OTE
2.	Qh5	Packers hall-of-famer Bart.	STARR
2...	Nf6	Debussy's Claire ___ Lune.	DE
3.	Qxe5+	2009 David Mamet play.	RACE
3...	Be7	Not yes.	NO
4.	Bc4	English boarding school for boys, or a "messy" dessert.	ETON
4...	d5	Conference with FSU, UM, and GT.	ACC
5.	Bf1	Might be quarter, half, or whole.	NOTE
5...	Be6	Colloquial name for a diacritic that sometimes represents a missing "s".	HAT
6.	h4	Genre of bands like "My Chemical Romance" and "Fall Out Boy".	EMO
6...	dxe4	Tower that was the tallest prior to the Burj Khalifa.	CN
7.	Qb5+	The Nissan Leaf, if it was named like electronic-mail.	E-CAR
7...	Nc6	1 million nm.	MM
8.	h5	Logic gate that outputs 1 in 3 out of 4 cases, without using a not.	OR
8...	Nxh5	TV show whose pilot was written by Michael Crichton, 20 years before it aired.	ER
9.	Qxh5	Hamilton, Vettel, and Gordon work in one of these.	RACECAR
9...	Qxd2+	The Madison, AL minor league baseball team mascot animal.	RACCOON
10.	Nxd2	An article you might use with elephants or eagles, but not with falcons.	AN
10...	Rd8	When in Rome, you'd use this unit to measure how fast you're going, with "/".	KM HR
11.	Nb3	A set of problems that probably take longer than those in P.	NP
11...	a5	A type-of-war you might play in primary school.	TUG
12.	Bh6	A street of no return?	ONE WAY
12...	Rd1+	Two or more of the Madison, AL minor league baseball team mascot animal.	RACCOONS
13.	Rxd1	A landlocked country in Southeast Asia.	LAOS
13...	b5	One of the Basic Elements in Ancient Greece.	AIR
14.	Qxb5	Hamilton, Vettel, and Gordon work in one of these.	RACECAR
14...	Bd6	With "The", a teen TV drama set in California.	OC
15.	Bf4	A plane flying in a crosswind might have a lot of this.	YAW
15...	Kd7	You might find a couple of these in a remote.	AA
16.	Rh6	With RA, an M that you can't use more than 4GB of, if you have a 32-bit OS.	MEMORY
16...	Re8	If you're incredible, she might make you a suit.	EDNA
17.	Rxh7	Always 12 Mos, but a variable number of Dys.	YR
17...	g5	How many scores a pitcher usually allows over 9 innings, abbr.	ERA
18.	Rxf7+	Make a lot of noise, but don't go anywhere, if you're in 14.	REV
18...	Kc8	"I see!"	AH

19.	Nc5	An Erie state?	PA
19...	Bxc5	The most populous US St.	CA
20.	b4	Stock market launch, abbr.	IPO
20...	axb4	A Japanese board game, more difficult than chess for computers.	GO
21.	a4	The rating system used by FIDE, or some video games.	ELO
21...	b3	Online, one who writes first.	OP
22.	cx b3	Where the news sources its news from, abbr.	AP
22...	Be3	How large a space a spell can cover, in DnD.	AOE
23.	Bxc7	Beef on ____ (a Western New York State sandwich with roast beef).	WECK
23...	Bxf7	You might watch cable on this.	TV
24.	fxe3	The 52nd of 118, abbr.	TE
24...	Rg8	It comes after 3 in a list of 4, or after 6 in a list of 7.	AND
25.	Kf2	Repeated, and hyphenated, Luke brought one down with a cable.	AT
25...	Bh5	Some 23... have this feature to update at different speeds on the fly.	VRR
26.	Nf3	Ancient Egyptian God of sun.	RA
26...	exf3	You cross from here to SA going from PA to CO.	NA
27.	gxf3	The home to NO, and the end of the MS river.	LA
27...	g4	The 18th out of 118, abbr.	AR
28.	fxg4	With 15, was the inspiration for the M16.	AR
28...	Bxg4	One was built across America in the 1860s, abbr.	RR
29.	Kg3	A very helpful person for a professor, abbr.	TA
29...	Bxd1+	"Darn!"	RATS
30.	Kh2	With "&", a channel known for shows like <i>Dog the Bounty Hunter</i> , and <i>Duck Dynasty</i> .	AE
30...	Bxb3	Canadians might turn 40 gallons of this into 1 gallon of syrup.	SAP
31.	Ba5	An open-source interactive geometry software, part of the KDE Education Project.	KIG
31...	Bxa4	The longest river in Italy.	PO
32.	Bd2	A bad guy, particularly one who is paid for that purpose.	GOON
32...	Rg5	With Doon, the capital of Uttarakhand.	DERA
33.	Bc3	A jazzy city in 27, abbr.	NO
33...	Na7	St. Helens, or Everest, abbr.	MT
34.	Ba1	To lubricate, or what you use to lubricate.	OIL
34...	Re5	The 4 highest or lowest out of 52.	ACE
35.	Bh3+	Shady tree.	ELM
35...	KdB	Baseball stat, abbr.	HR
36.	Qb7	A geographical feature very commonly found on the Galician coast.	RIA
36...	Bc2	A Greek expression.	OPA
37.	Kh1	The longest dash.	EM
37...	Nb5	A unix command whose name comes from "translate".	TR

38.	<i>Kg1</i>	Opposite of Ms.	MR
38...	<i>Na7</i>	Abbr., to share something that someone else wrote, perhaps.	RT
39.	<i>Qd7#</i>	Abbreviation denoting another name.	AKA