Making the Games

"The Public Hall for Tomes of Tales" is the best way to say, "Library" using the available phonics in Step 9.

Both *Get Tup to the Hall* and *Into the Cave* are made and played the same way. They can also be played at the same time. When playing *Get Tup to the Hall,* you will get to the cave entrance. Simply move your characters to the *Into the Cave* board to continue playing there. This doubles the amount of play time and reading activities.

The game will change as your child's reading skills progress. As you introduce new phonics rules and skills, change the Tup Cards you are using. You can also create your own Tup cards (as well as Chicken and Bat cards) by creating them with the Word doc you can download or writing on blank cards. If you laminate your cards, you can personalize them before lamination. After the cards are laminated, you can write on the laminated cards with a wet erase pen. They are like dry erase pens except you need water to clean them so they don't usually smudge.

If you want to use these games for skills besides reading, possibly math facts, then create your own cards with blank Tup cards.

Printing the Boards

I print our boards at our local library. As I type this, they charge ten cents per side for color copies.

Each gameboard prints on four 8.5 x 11 sheets of paper. If you are laminating the board, trim off the excess paper, laminate, match the board pieces, and tape them together. If you aren't laminating, you may want to just trim some of the sides so you can tape the pieces onto the white trim of another piece for more stability.

Cave Boards

There are two cave boards. They are identical except one has bat spaces and one has chicken spaces. The chicken cave board is meant for kids that may be afraid of the bat cards. The bat card sheets are separated into scary and not scary pictures. However, if your child is still afraid of the bat cards but wants to play in the cave, you can print the chicken board. (And if you don't want to hassle with making both chicken and bat cards, just make the chicken cave board and use the chicken cards.) If your child asks why there's a chicken in the cave, tell them they will find out when they read the Step 8 books.

Making the Die (singular dice)

We tried playing this with a die from another game. We rolled too many high numbers so not a lot of reading happened. Thank you to my good friend Erin at royalballoo.com for jumping in and making me this die pattern.

If you don't laminate it, it might last a game or so. If you make it from cardstock, it might last a bit longer. Ours is laminated and has been played with many times. It's a bit hard to fold, so you might want to lightly score inside along the fold lines. If you don't have a way to score it, you can fold it along a ruler or desk/table edge to make it easier to fold.

I used scotch tape on the outside when I made ours and the ones I gave to my co-op students. Trying to tape the inside tabs didn't work for me.

Making the Characters

We play with two sets of characters so that they can put on their caving helmets when they go into the cave. You will meet Chuck and Jeff in *The Gold Bolt.* They are blind so they do not need lights on their helmets.

The characters will stand upright whether or not you laminate them.

1. Cut along the dotted line.
2. Fold them in half between their heads.
3. Fold the solid line under their feet away from the character. This will make a platform for them to stand.
4. Tape the sides of the character's rectangle. This will stabilize them.
5. Make Tup so he can join you on your journey to the library.

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