

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

Quitting Halfway

1. During the Warring States Period*, there was a poor man called Le Yangzi. He lived with his wife in a small village.
2. One day, Le Yangzi saw a piece of gold near a roadside when he was heading back home. He picked it up at once and yelled happily, "How lucky I am! Let me give it to my wife and she must be thrilled!" He put the gold in a small box carefully and went back home. When he saw his wife, he told her about the gold and showed it to her. However, his wife was very sad. She talked to him gently, "I have heard people say 'an upright person does not drink the water from a thief's spring'. How can you bring this piece of gold home? Please put it back." After listening to his wife's words, he was extremely ashamed and took the gold back to the roadside. The next year, Le Yangzi left home to pursue his studies with his wife's encouragement.
3. A year later, Le Yangzi suddenly returned home. He knocked at the door when his wife was weaving at home. She opened the door and was surprised to see Le Yangzi. "Have you finished your studies?" asked his wife in amazement. "I have learnt something but I have not finished yet," murmured Le Yangzi embarrassedly. "I have been away for a year, so I come back to have a look at our house," Le Yangzi replied.
4. After his wife heard this, she picked up a pair of scissors from a basket and cut the cloth that had been woven into two pieces. "I worked so hard to weave this cloth bit by bit, and now I have cut it. It means that my previous time and hard work are wasted," said his wife earnestly. "It is the same with your studies. We can acquire knowledge only through diligence. Now you have stopped halfway. Isn't it the same as cutting the cloth into half?" asked his wife.
5. Le Yangzi was moved by what his wife said. "I promise I will continue my studies," he said. He then went back to school. A few years later, Le Yangzi became a famous scholar.



*The Warring States Period refers to a period of time (475 BC - 221 BC) in ancient Chinese history characterised by warfare.