

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

Holding a Book in the Hand All the Time

1. During the Three Kingdoms Period*, there was a military general called Lu Meng. He was born into a poor family. He received little education when he was young. In his early years, he joined the army and fought in several battles. Despite his bravery and achievements in battles, he did not like reading. It was difficult for him to widen his knowledge.
2. Sun Quan, the King of Wu, recognised Lu Meng's efforts in battles and encouraged him to further improve himself. The king said, "You are now the military leader. Try to read more military books and history books. These books help equip you with military knowledge and skills. In the future, I believe you can take on more responsibilities, make wiser decisions and protect our state."
3. After listening to the king's advice, Lu Meng held back and said, "My king, I have to handle a mountain of complicated issues in the army. I'm afraid I won't be able to spend time reading books."
4. The king replied, "Lu Meng, to be honest, your workload is not as heavy as mine. Although I'm always fully occupied with our state's affairs, I read every day. The more you read, the more military strategies you can learn and apply."
5. Lu Meng asked, "My king, would you suggest some good books for me?"
6. The king smiled and recommended a range of books for him. He said, "You can first study some military classics such as *Sun Tzu* and *Liu Tao*, and then read some history books such as *Zuo Zhuan* and *Records of the Grand Historian*. You can learn from the past experience and broaden your horizons by reading these books. In the past, King Guangwu of Han always held a book in his hand, even when he was fighting in a war. Having insufficient time to read is just an excuse. It's all about how you allocate your time."
7. After that, Lu Meng understood the importance of reading. He persevered in studying military books and history books. Since then, he always held a book in his hand. He became a capable director general with remarkable intelligence. His incisive opinions on military issues impressed knowledgeable ones.

*The Three Kingdoms Period refers to the division of China among the states of Wei, Shu and Wu in a period of time (220 AD – 280 AD) in ancient Chinese history.

