Read the story first for enjoyment and the flow.
Reread: Getting the Gist and Finding Unfamiliar Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Endings</th>
<th>What is the gist of this section?</th>
<th>What are some unfamiliar words, or words others may not know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop at:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>He refuses.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>They do not know that the whole of the library is in my restaurant, thinks Anis.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[the last words of the story]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reread: The Librarian of Basra: Questions from the Text

4. How does Anis avoid getting into trouble with the soldier? Use details from the text to support your answer.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. The text states: “Alia worries that the fires of war will destroy the books, which are more precious to her than mountains of gold.” What does the word precious in this sentence mean?

a. cute  
b. valuable  
c. delicate

Why did you choose this? Use details or clues from the text to support your answer choice:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

After thinking about the characters and their motivations, what do you think the lesson of this story is? Why do you think this?

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1Kylene Beers, When Kids Can't Read: What Teachers Can Do (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2003), 144–49.
Reread: *The Librarian of Basra*: Questions from the Text

1. According to the text, what kinds of books are in the Library of Basra?

2. How does Alia feel about the books? Use details from the text to support your answer.

3. How do people help Alia to save the books? Use details from the text to support your answer.