

THE LIBRARIAN OF BASRA BY JEANETTE WINTER

F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				✓	✓	✓				

Writing	
Ideas	✓
Organisation	✓
Voice	
Word Choice	✓
Sentence Fluency	
Conventions	
Presentation	



Reading	
Determining Importance	✓
Inferring	
Making Connections	✓
Predicting	
Questioning	✓
Summarising & Synthesising	✓
Visualising	

The Librarian of Basra, by Jeanette Winter, tells the fascinating true story of an Iraqi librarian who does everything she can to protect her library's books when war comes to her town.

Writing

IDEAS- in the author's note, Jeanette Winter comments that the idea for this text was sparked from a newspaper article. This would make a great writer's notebook activity- find a newspaper article and brainstorm stories that could come from this. **ORGANISATION**- the story is told in chronological order and lots of sequence words are used to move the story along (so, then, all through the night, at last, the next day). The **WORD CHOICE** demonstrates a mix of simple words that convey just the right meaning and carefully selected phrases such as 'rumours become reality' and 'the beast of war moves on.' This text would be useful for students as a mentor for crafting narrative non-fiction texts.

Reading

After reading the first page, stop and do a brainstorm on what students already know about Iraq: Where is it? What do you know about it? How do you know this? The brainstorm could form the 'pre-knowledge' when thinking about **SYNTHESISING** the information learned through the text. Find some articles on the Iraq war (or the actual article that sparked the text) and **MAKE CONNECTIONS** between the information. A discussion/inquiry for this text: find other examples of where books have become victims in war, why is it important for books to be preserved? So many discussions can come from this fascinating story!