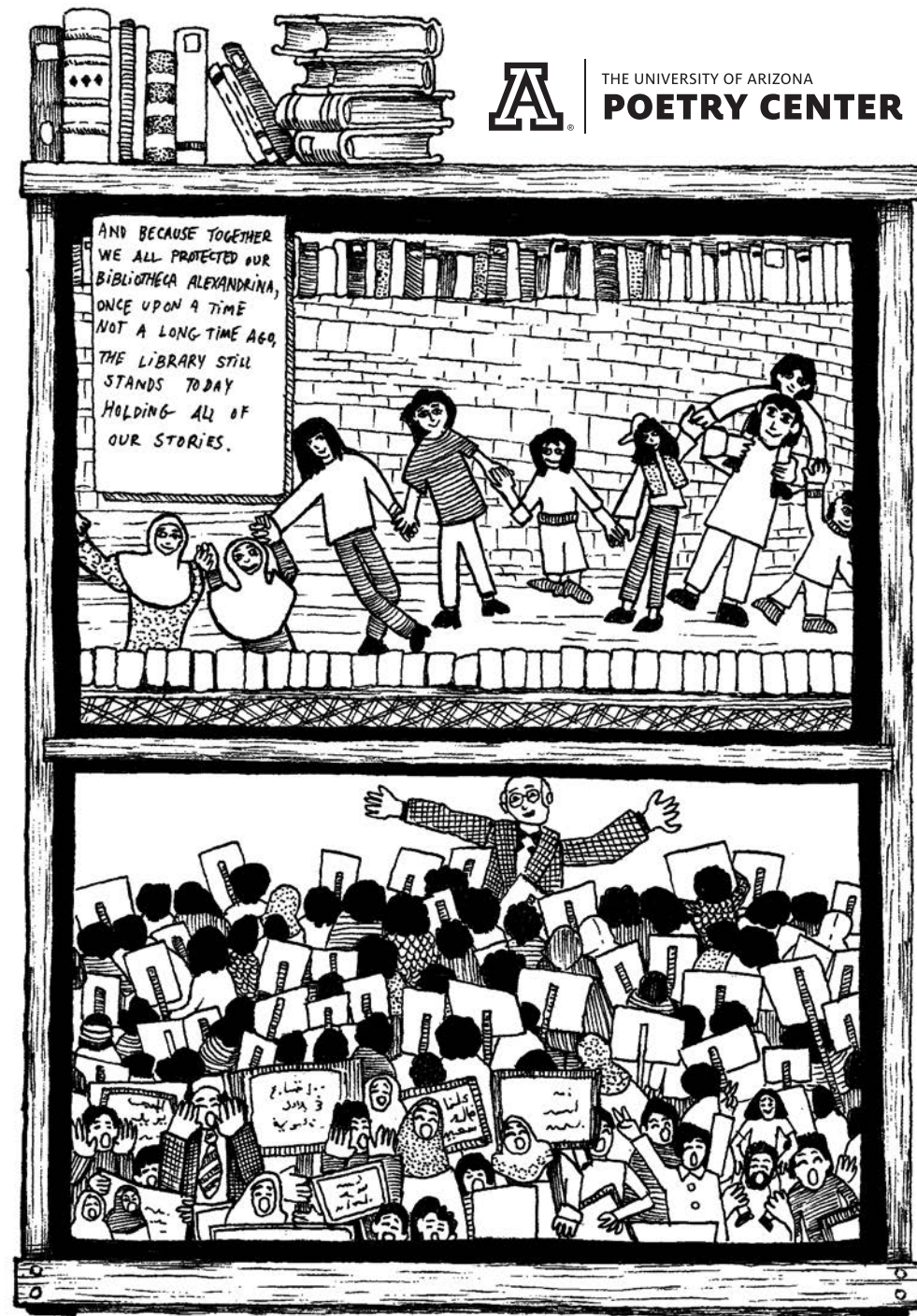


You're invited to explore our play space featuring Bold Librarians, Readers, and Booksellers of the Arab World!

This interactive exhibit transports you to the Library of Alexandria in Egypt; the Basra Library and Hamdan Restaurant in Iraq; and Pages, an Arabic-language bookstore in Istanbul, Turkey. Learn some Arabic; pretend to order a *falafel*, *dolmas*, or *baba ghanoush*; and join with friends from all around the world with our Hands Around the Library craft activity!

BRAVEBOOKS AT THE UA POETRY CENTER

This exhibition is part of the Poetry Center's multi-year celebration of independent bookstores and libraries from around the world, which will feature many lost, endangered, or otherwise dramatic and brave oases people have built to protect, house, share, and enjoy books. Learn more about this exhibit and others coming soon at poetry.arizona.edu.

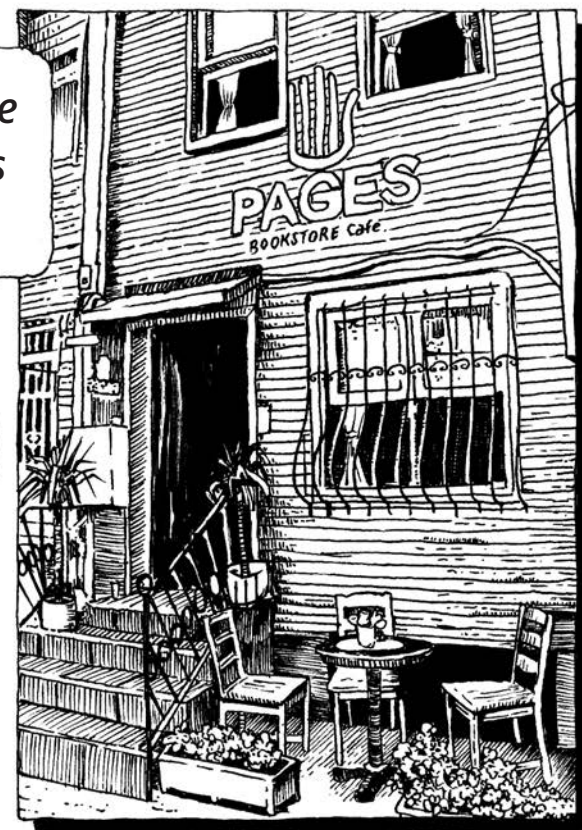


BRAVEBOOKS

Bold Librarians, Readers & Booksellers of the Arab World

This book belongs to:

*Imagine you're
visiting Pages
Bookstore ...*



*... What would you say to your friend?
(Try using some Arabic from the previous page.)*

Learn some words in Arabic!

Hello!

مرحباً!

My name is ...

انا اسمي...

Nice to meet you

تشرفنا

Want to read together?

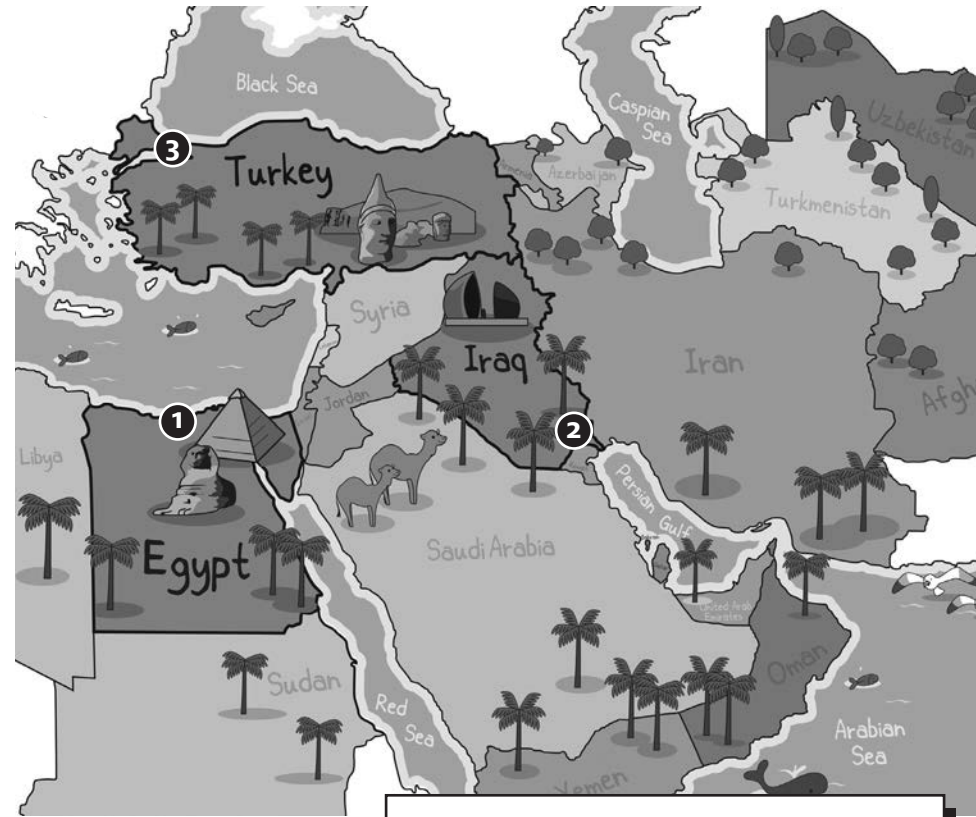
هل تريد أن نقرأ معا؟

This is my favorite book!

هذا كتابي المفضل!



There are many Bold Librarians, Readers, and Booksellers of the Arab World! Learn more about them as you explore the Library of Alexandria in Egypt, the Basra Central Library in Iraq, and Pages, an Arabic-language bookstore in Turkey.



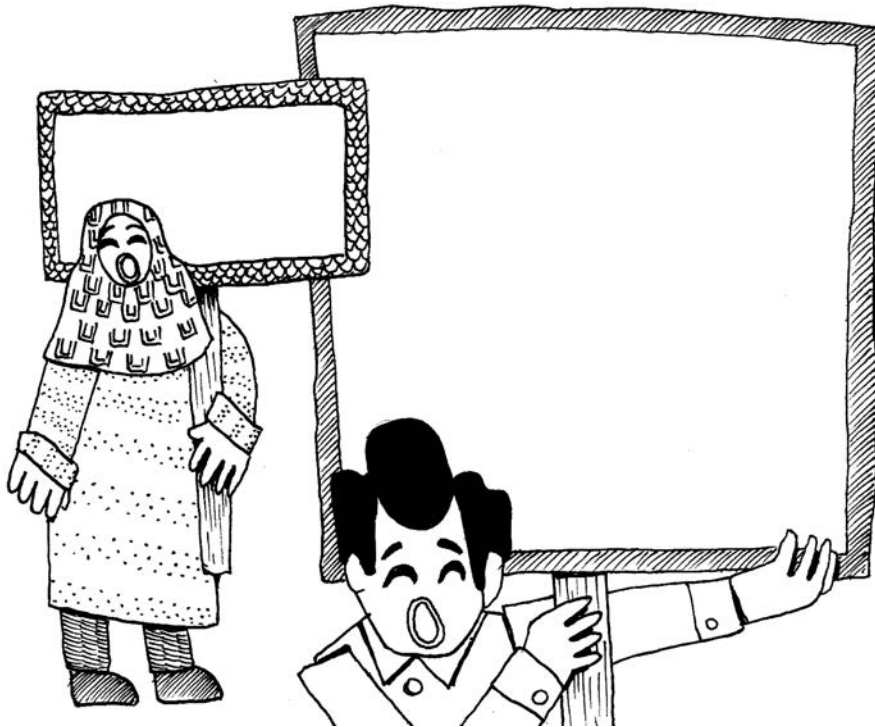
- ① Library of Alexandria, Egypt
- ② Basra Central Library, Iraq
- ③ Pages Bookstore, Turkey

Did you know the modern Library of Alexandria is built on the site of an ancient one?

Founded in the third century BCE, the original library was important in the ancient world for the volume of books it held and the scholars, philosophers, mathematicians and doctors who read, studied, and gathered there.

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Bibliotheca Alexandrina is one of the most important buildings in Alexandria, Egypt. It contains a library, museums, and even a planetarium! For a long time, the library was one of the only places where Alexandrians could gather to speak freely and share ideas. In 2011, many Egyptians protested because they wanted a better life, greater freedom, and a fairer government. Worried that the library would be damaged during these protests, activists and readers joined with library director Ismail Serageldin to form a ring around the building and protect it. Today, the Bibliotheca continues to stand, a beacon for book lovers and learners from all over the world.



Imagine you're one of the readers protecting the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. If you were holding a sign about your hopes for a better world, what would you write on it?

Circle your favorite items at the Hamdan Restaurant in Basra. Write down your order here:



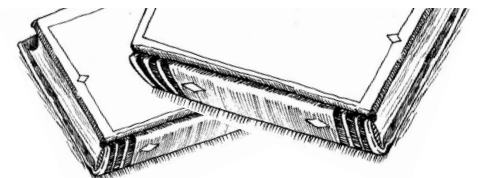


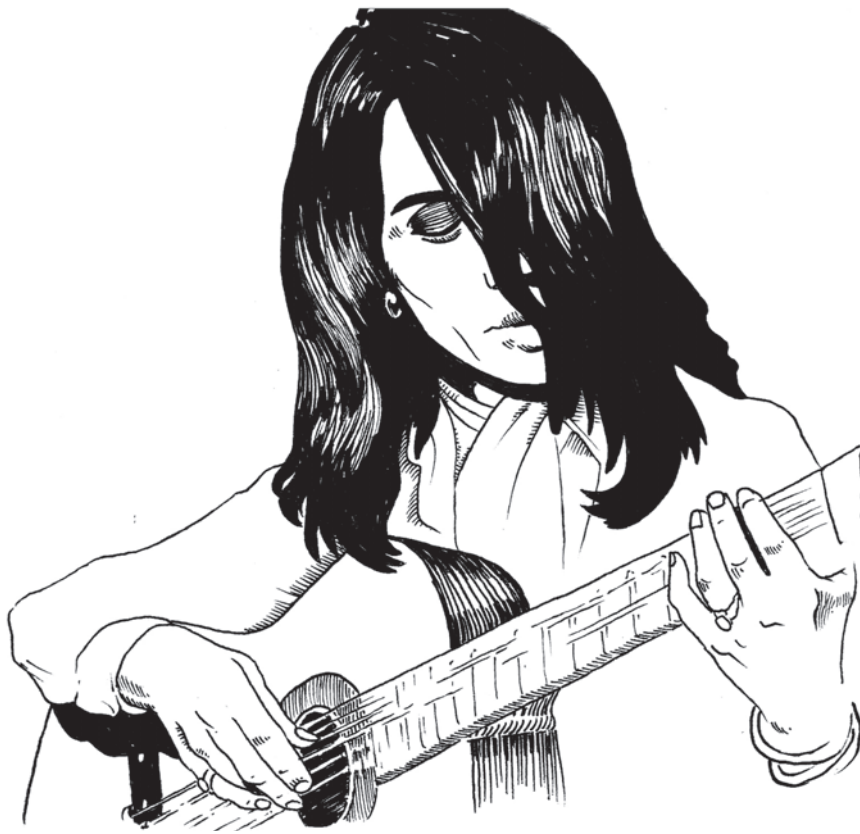
Library of Basra

Legend has it that Sinbad the Sailor set sail from Basra, Iraq. Ibn Battuta, the 14th century Moroccan traveler, also visited the port city. He described Basra as "spacious in area and elegant in its courts, remarkable for its numerous fruit-gardens and its choice fruits, since it is the meeting place of the two seas, the salt and the fresh." For many years, it was famous for its canals and splendid Islamic architecture. In 2003, during Britain and the United States' war with Iraq, Basra fell under fire. One of the buildings that burned to the ground was the **Basra Central Library**, run by chief librarian **Alia Muhammad Baker**. Luckily, Baker and her supporters had already rescued 30,000 library books, moving the volumes into their homes and the Hamdan Restaurant, next to the library! The library was rebuilt in 2004, and continues to be a beloved place for the book lovers of Basra.

Pages Bookstore

Samer al-Kadri used to live in Damascus, Syria, the oldest continually occupied city in the world. He moved to Istanbul in 2012, shortly after a civil war began in his country. There, he met other Syrians fleeing from the war and decided to open a book shop where they could read and gather. **Pages Bookstore** is the first Arabic-language bookstore in Istanbul. Kids can sit and read as long as they like, or borrow as many books as they want for a small monthly fee. There are even movie nights and concerts at the shop!



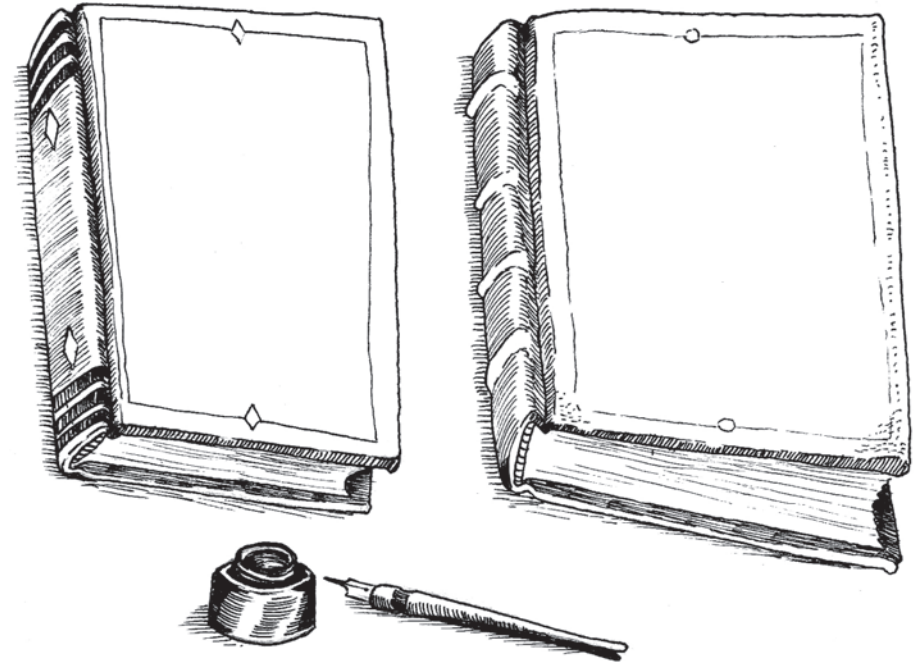


فيروز

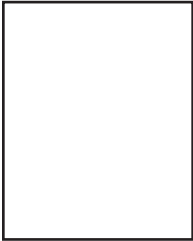


Fairuz is a Lebanese singer and musician who has performed sold out concerts all around the world. Her stage name means "turquoise" in Arabic. Fairuz's most famous songs include "Habaytak Bissayf" ("I Loved You in Summer"), "Kifak Inta" ("How Are You?") and Behebak Ya Libnan ("I Love You Lebanon").

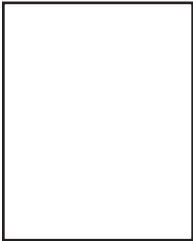
*Fill in the names of the books on the shelves
at the Basra Central Library!*



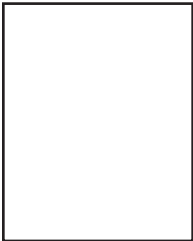
Can you match the author to the autobiography?
Cut and paste their pictures here.



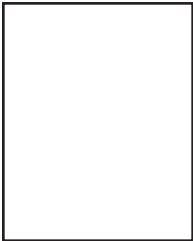
I'm a poet, songwriter and novelist who grew up in the United States and Jerusalem. My books, including *Habibi* and *The Turtle of Oman*, explore the lives of people in the Middle East. My grandmother, who lived in the Palestinian village of Sinjil, is one of the most important influences in my life.



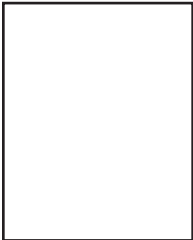
I was born in Cairo, Egypt. When I was seven, I watched the Egyptian revolution of 1919 unfold outside my window. Later, I left school to become a writer and published thirty-four novels. In 1988, I was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.



I'm the third bestselling poet of all time and my book of poetic essays, *The Prophet*, has been translated into more than forty languages. I got my start by founding a literary magazine at my high school in Beirut, and I later lived and studied in Paris and New York.

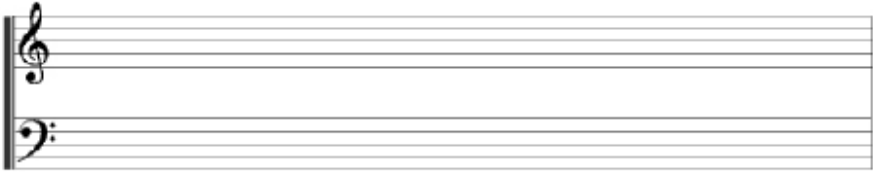
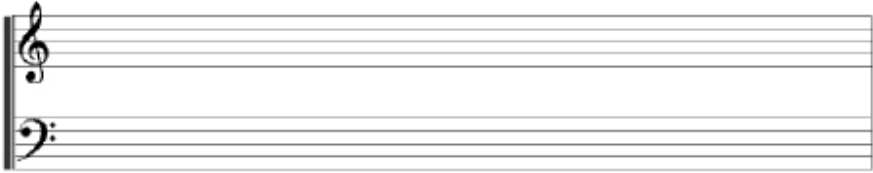
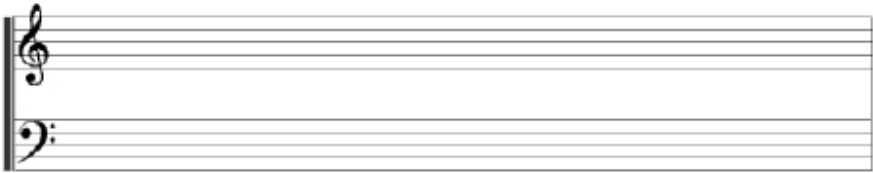
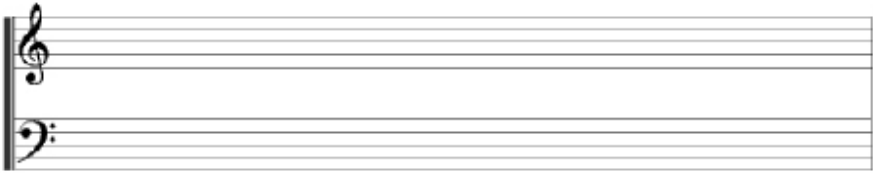
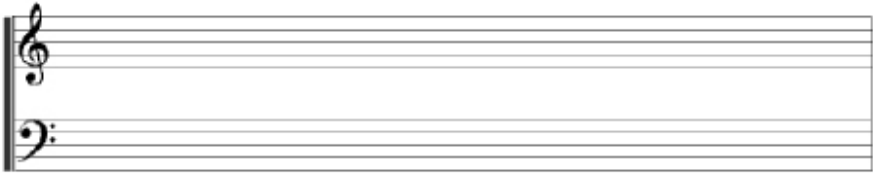
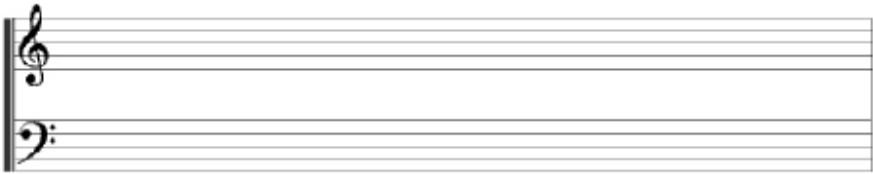
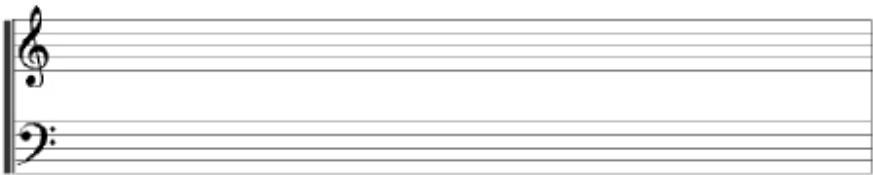


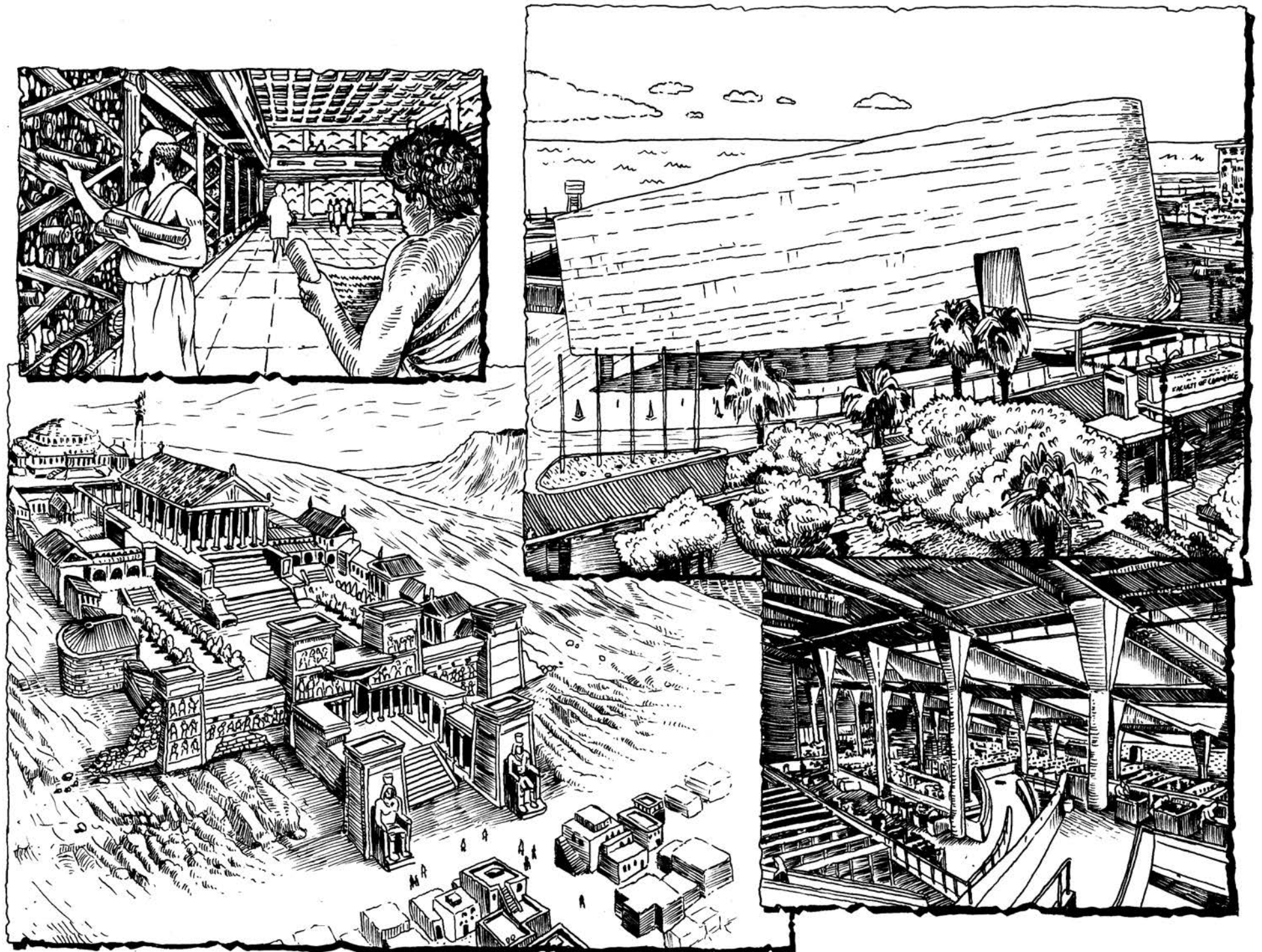
I was an educated woman born into a wealthy merchant family in what is now Tunisia. In 859 CE, I founded the oldest university in the world in Fez, Morocco. The university's library, also the oldest in the world, was recently renovated by architect Aziza Chaouni.



I was one of the last *hakawatis*, or performers of old Arab legends, and my nickname was the Storyteller of Damascus. For over twenty years, Syrians and tourists would gather in a 300-hundred-year-old café to hear me spin tales from the Quran and folklore, including one about an ancient warrior named Antār!

Write your own Fairuz song here!
(or on another sheet of paper if you need more space).





What differences can you find between the ancient Library of Alexandria and the one that exists today?