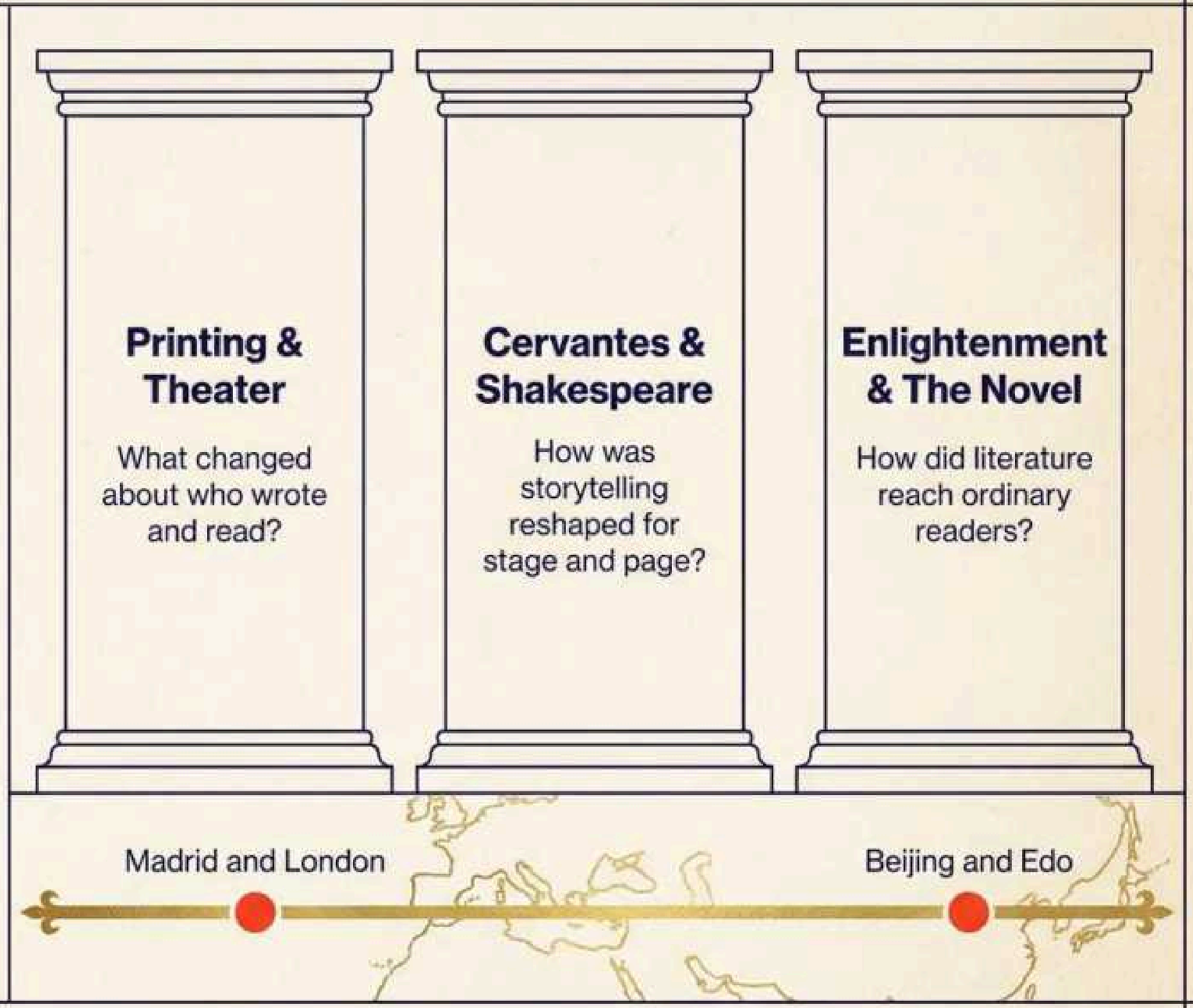
3.1

Three questions map the birth of modern literature across the globe.

A global overview of the transition from 1500 to 1800.

- Technology & Access
- Form & Storytelling
- Enlightenment & The Ordinary



Gemini Notebook

3.2

Movable metal type rewrote the economics of reading and authorship.

- Trigger point: Johannes Gutenberg, Germany, circa 1450.
- Adoption speed: Presses running across Europe within fifty years.



Movable Metal Type, 1450

Economics	Society	Standardization	Reach
Cost Decreases ↓ Books become widely owned.	Literacy Grows ↑ A broader reading public emerges.	Languages Fixed Texts cemented so the exact same words are read across towns.	Authorship Expanded Writers connect with strangers, not just local courts.

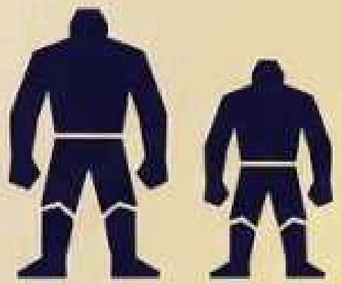
Gemini Notebook

3.3

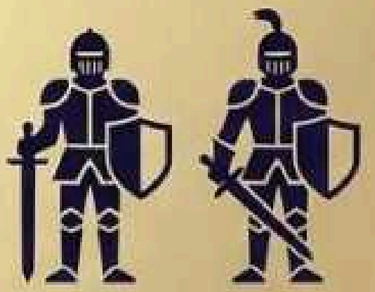
A study of imagination and delusion birthed the first modern novel.

- **Author:** Miguel de Cervantes.
- **Work:** *Don Quixote* (Spain, 1605 & 1615).
- **Premise:** A minor gentleman overdoses on romances of chivalry, declaring himself a knight alongside farmer neighbor Sancho Panza.

Quixote's Vision (Delusion)



Giants



Chivalric Knights

The First Modern Novel: A comedy of perception.

Objective Reality



Windmills



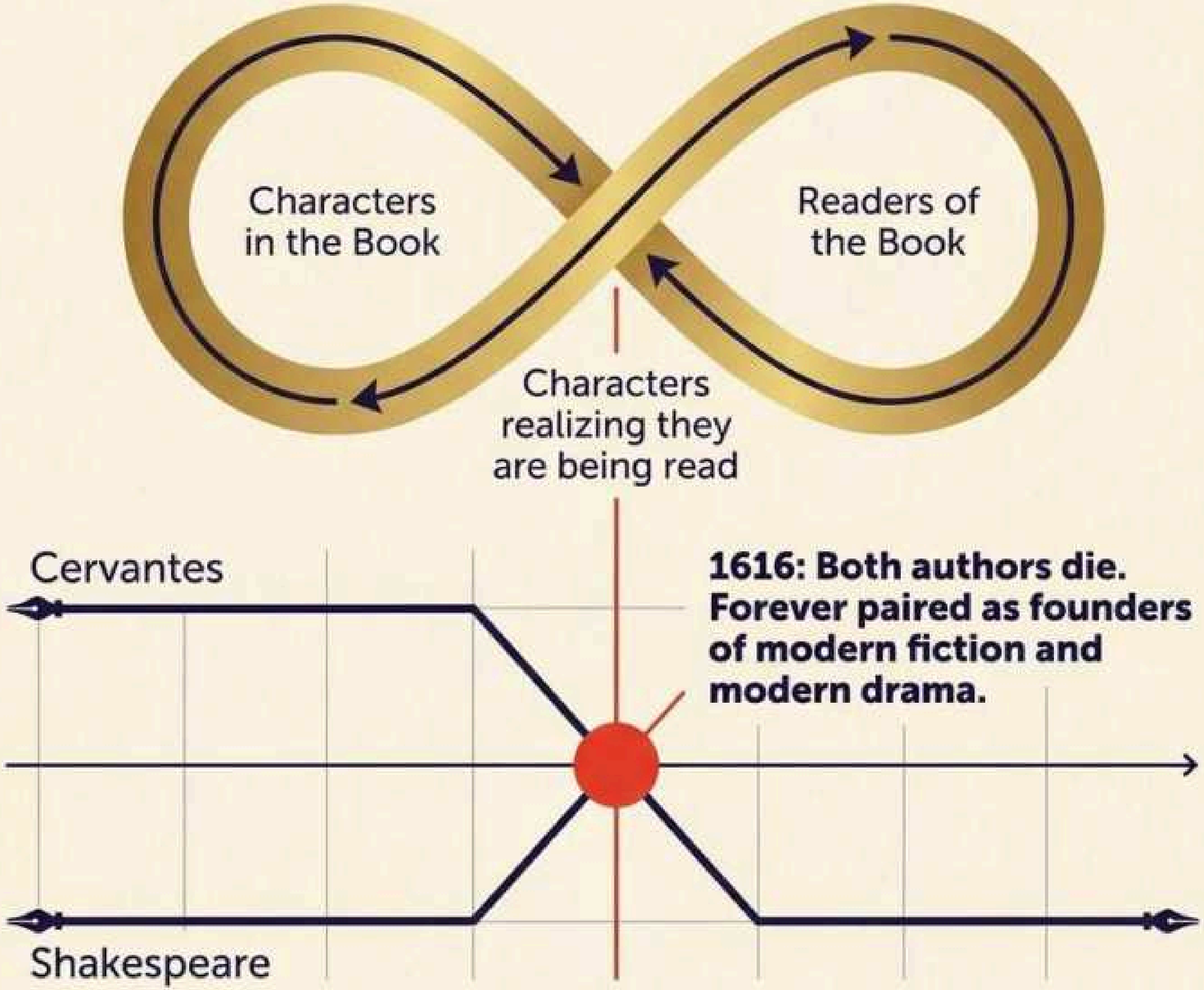
Farmers

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3.4

The founders of modern fiction and drama shared a timeline and a meta-awareness.

- The formal innovation: Characters argue, evolve, and become self-aware.
- The milestone: In Part II, characters meet readers of Part I.

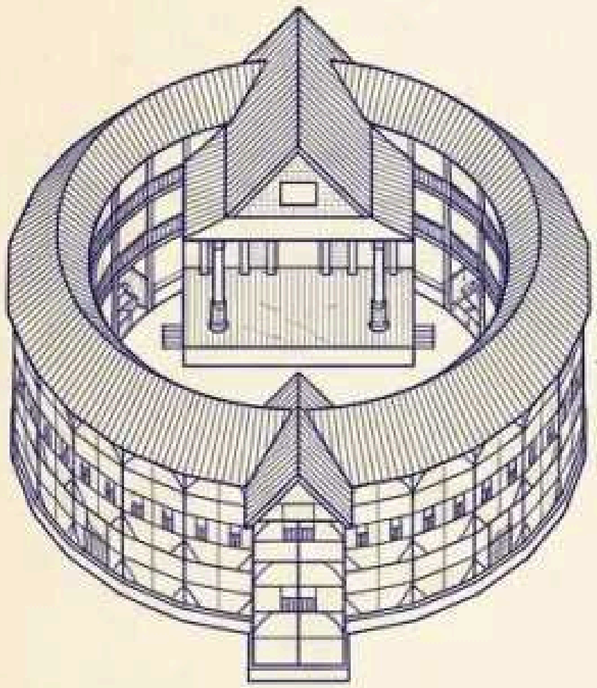


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3.5

The London stage formalized a new architecture and categorized literary output.

- William Shakespeare (1564–1616).
- Wrote for the London stage; company built the Globe Theatre (opened 1599).



Globe Theatre (1599)

First Folio (1623) - 36 Plays

- Tragedies
- Comedies
- Histories
- Romances

154 Sonnets (Distinct Verse Output)

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3.6

Shakespearean tragedy draws its power from a refusal to settle questions neatly.

- His tragedies are the most studied works in the world.
- Enduring power stems from language, character, and ambiguity.

Hamlet (c. 1600)	Core Mechanic: Overthinking	A prince tasked with avenging his father, paralyzed by thought.
Othello (c. 1603)	Core Mechanic: Jealousy	How suspicion and envy can be artificially planted and grown.
King Lear (c. 1606)	Core Mechanic: Loss	A king who divides his realm and discovers the true cost of his pride.

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3.7

Seventeenth-century literature weaponized comedy in France and epic rebellion in England.

FRANCE (1664)

- **Setting:** Court of Louis XIV. m architection.
- **Work:** *Tartuffe* by Molière.
- **Theme:** Weaponizing comedy to attack hypocrisy.
- **Plot:** A hypocrite fakes piety to hijack a family (subsequently banned by church figures).

ENGLAND (1667)

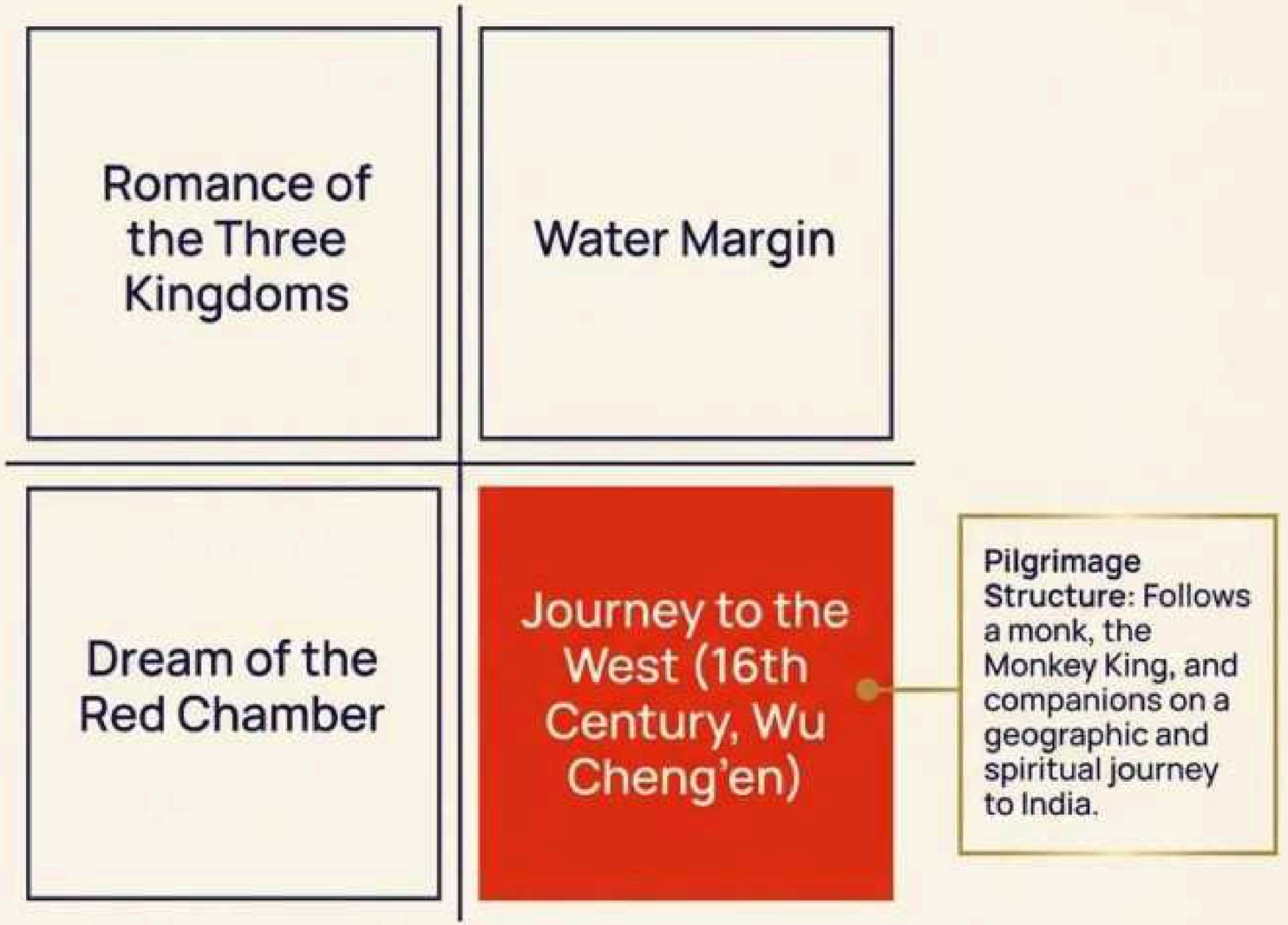
- **Setting:** Political defeat and personal blindness.
- **Work:** *Paradise Lost* by John Milton.
- **Theme:** Epic rebellion and catastrophic loss.
- **Plot:** Satan's rebellion and the fall of Adam and Eve.

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3.8

The Ming and Qing dynasties established the four great classical novels of China.

- The novel flourished as a supreme art form.
- These four expansive works defined the literary landscape of the era.

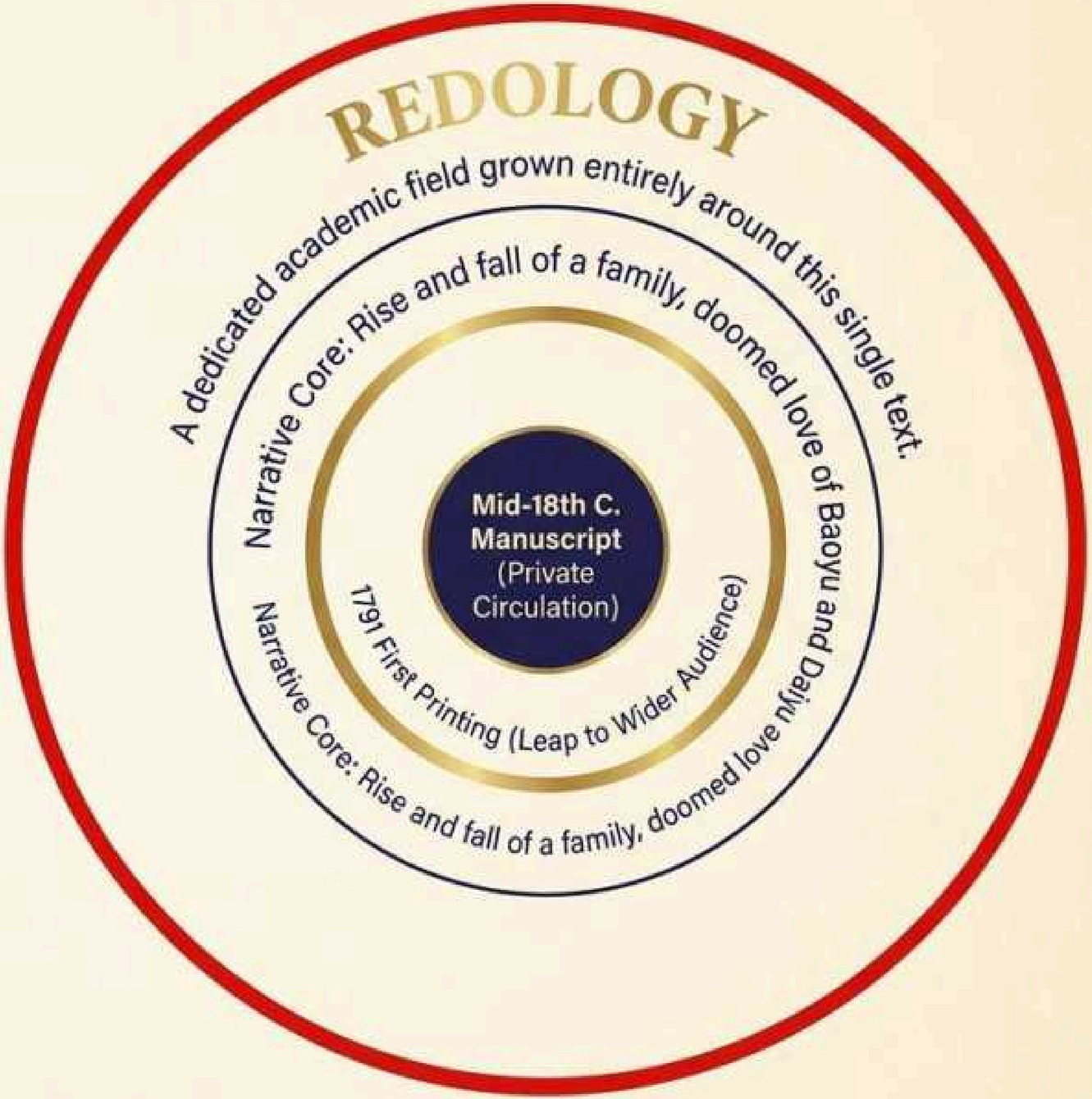


Gemini Notebook

3.9

An eighteenth-century manuscript spawned its own enduring academic field.

- Author: Cao Xueqin.
- Ranked by many as the greatest Chinese novel ever written.



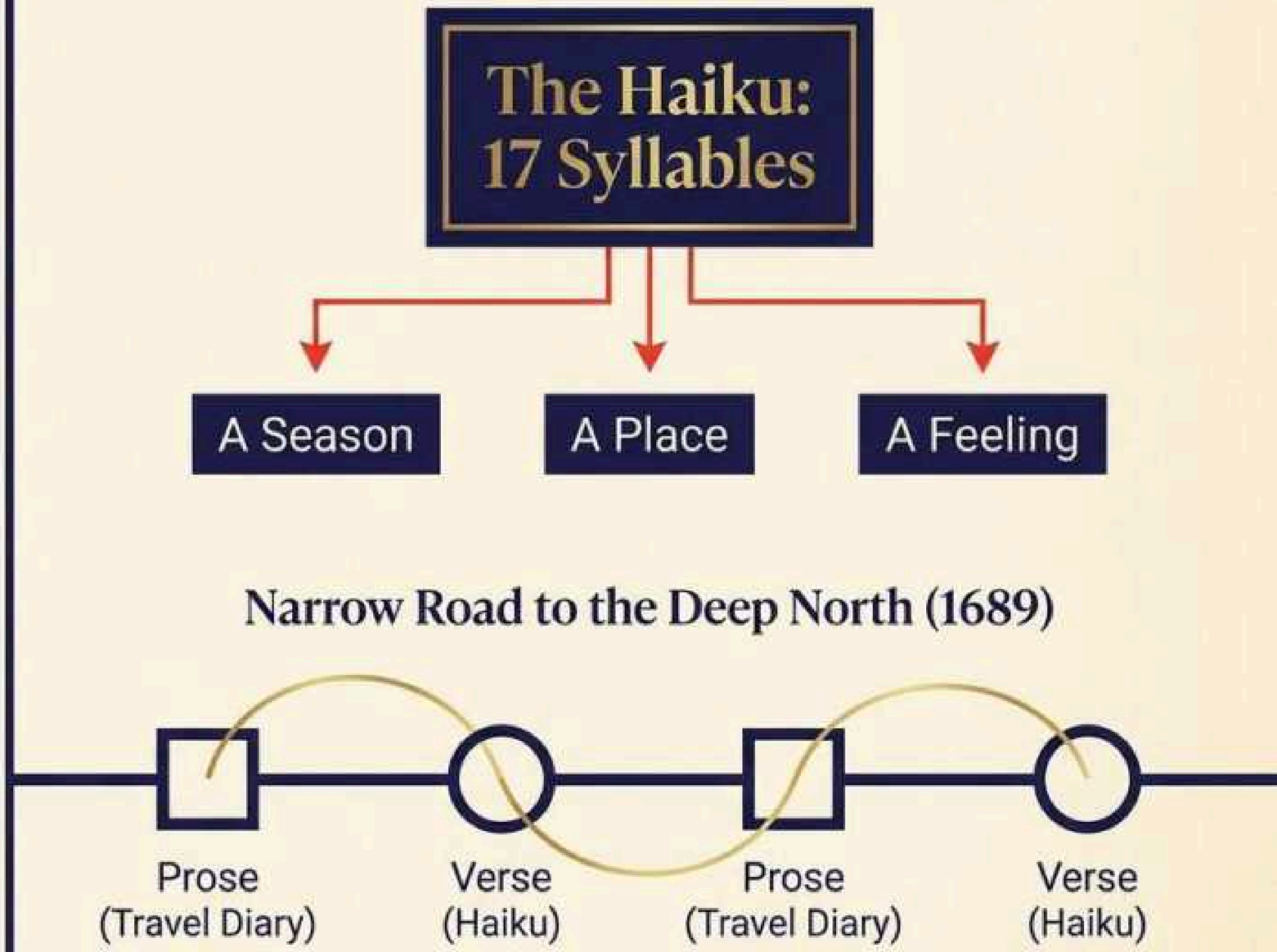
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3.10

Seventeen syllables captured a season, a place, and a feeling.

- Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694), Japan.

- Elevated the haiku into a serious art form, profoundly shaping modern writing.



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3.11

The Enlightenment novel synthesized journalism, travel logs, and diaries.

- The 18th-century prized reason and criticism.

- Audiences engaged so deeply they often mistook fiction for truth.



Robinson Crusoe (Daniel Defoe, 1719)
- The castaway tale taken as true.

Gulliver's Travels (Jonathan Swift, 1726)
- Politics and human pride disguised as a traveler's tale.

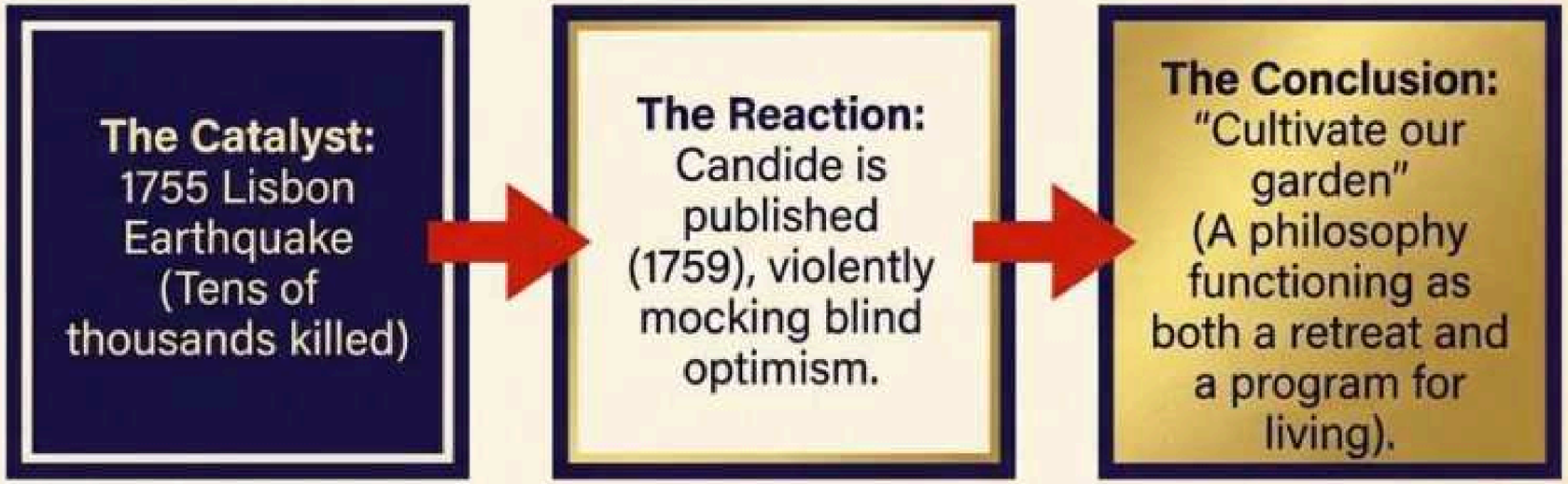
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3.12

Real-world devastation shattered the philosophy of easy optimism.

- Author: Voltaire.

- Premise: A young man taught this is the "best of all possible worlds" meets war and slavery.

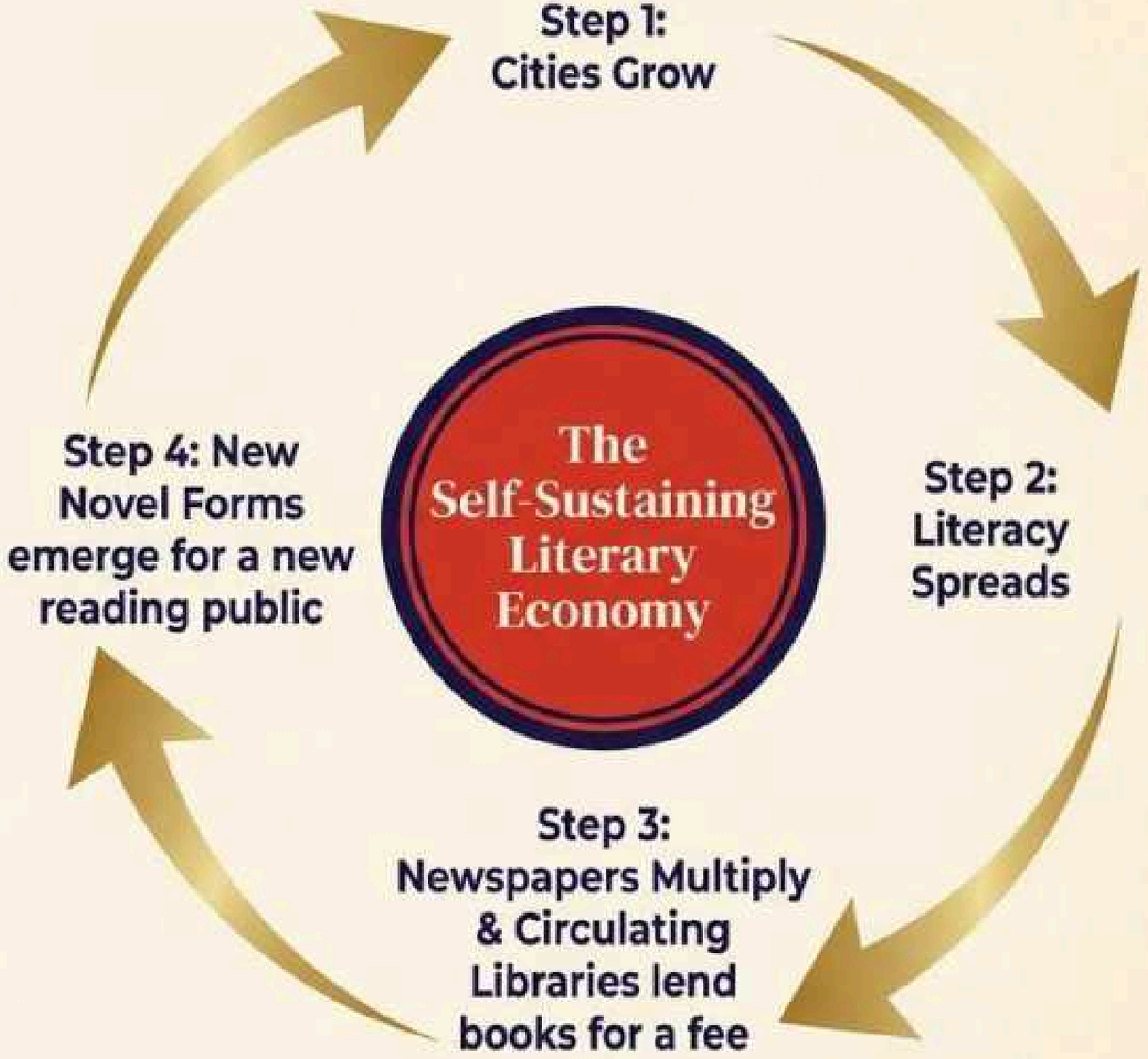


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3.13

A rising middle class fueled a flywheel of circulating libraries and comic narrators.

- The novel rose in tandem with the middle class.
- Key examples: Samuel Richardson's *Pamela* (1740, epistolary) and Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* (1749, comic narrator).



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3.14

Published literature became a foundational weapon for the abolition of the slave trade.

- Enslaved and formerly enslaved writers assert voices in print.

- Their works transcend art to become undeniable political arguments.

The Case for Abolition: Literature as Political Evidence

Phillis Wheatley (1773)

Enslaved as a child, brought to Boston.

Publishes the first book of poems by an African American woman.

Olaudah Equiano (1789)

Publishes a powerful autobiography.

Gemini Notebook

3.15

A novel of unhappy love triggered viral imitation across Europe.

- Author: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.
- The era of the German Golden Age.

The Sorrows of Young Werther (1774)

A novel of unhappy love -> European fame -> Legends of mass imitation by young readers.

Faust

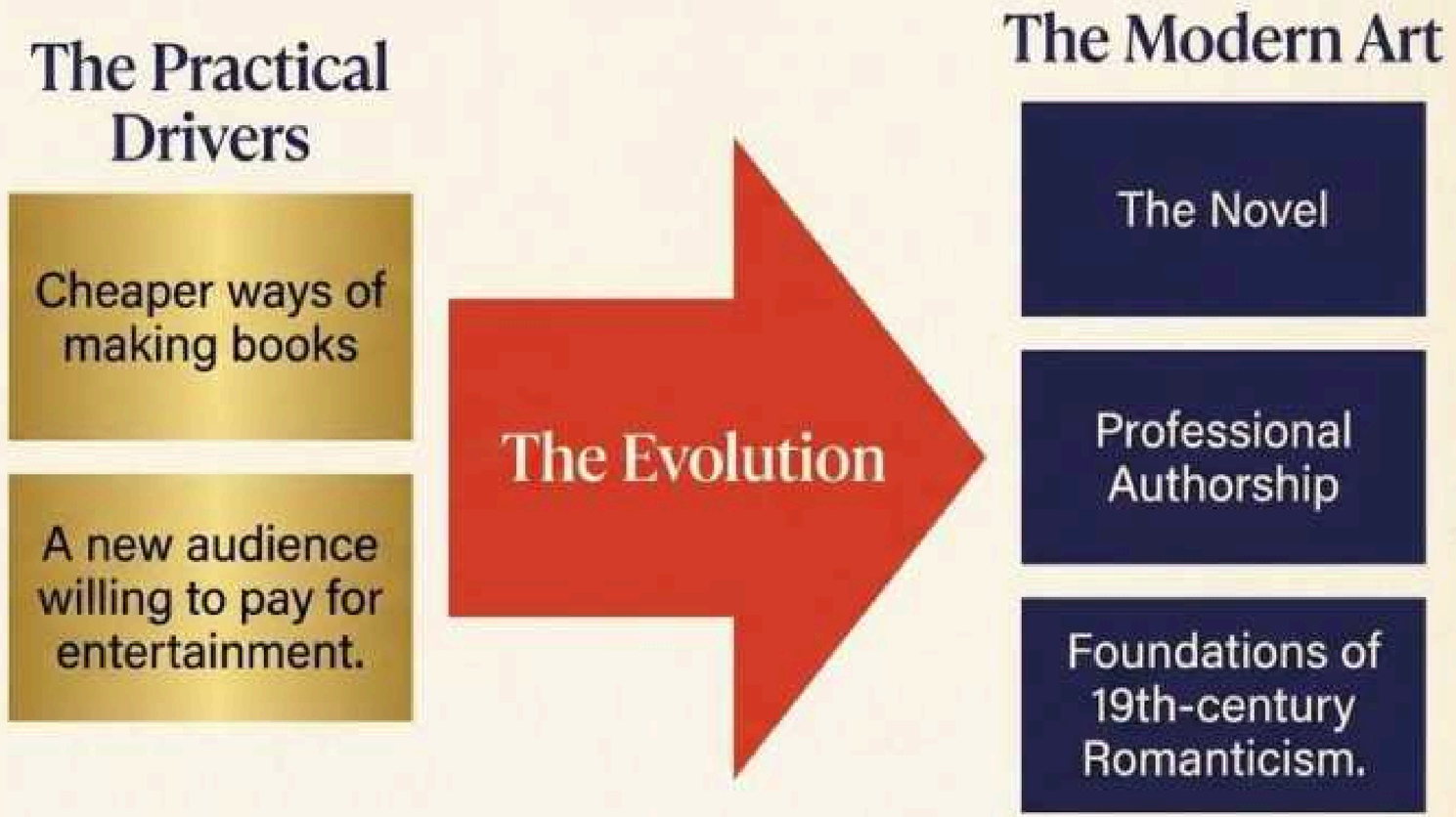
A drama of a scholar bargaining with the devil -> Worked on for most of Goethe's life.

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3.16

Practical constraints and commerce functioned as the chrysalis for modern literary art.

- 1500-1800 formalized the printed book, the professional author, the stage, and the novel.
- Reach widened, though systemic barriers persisted.

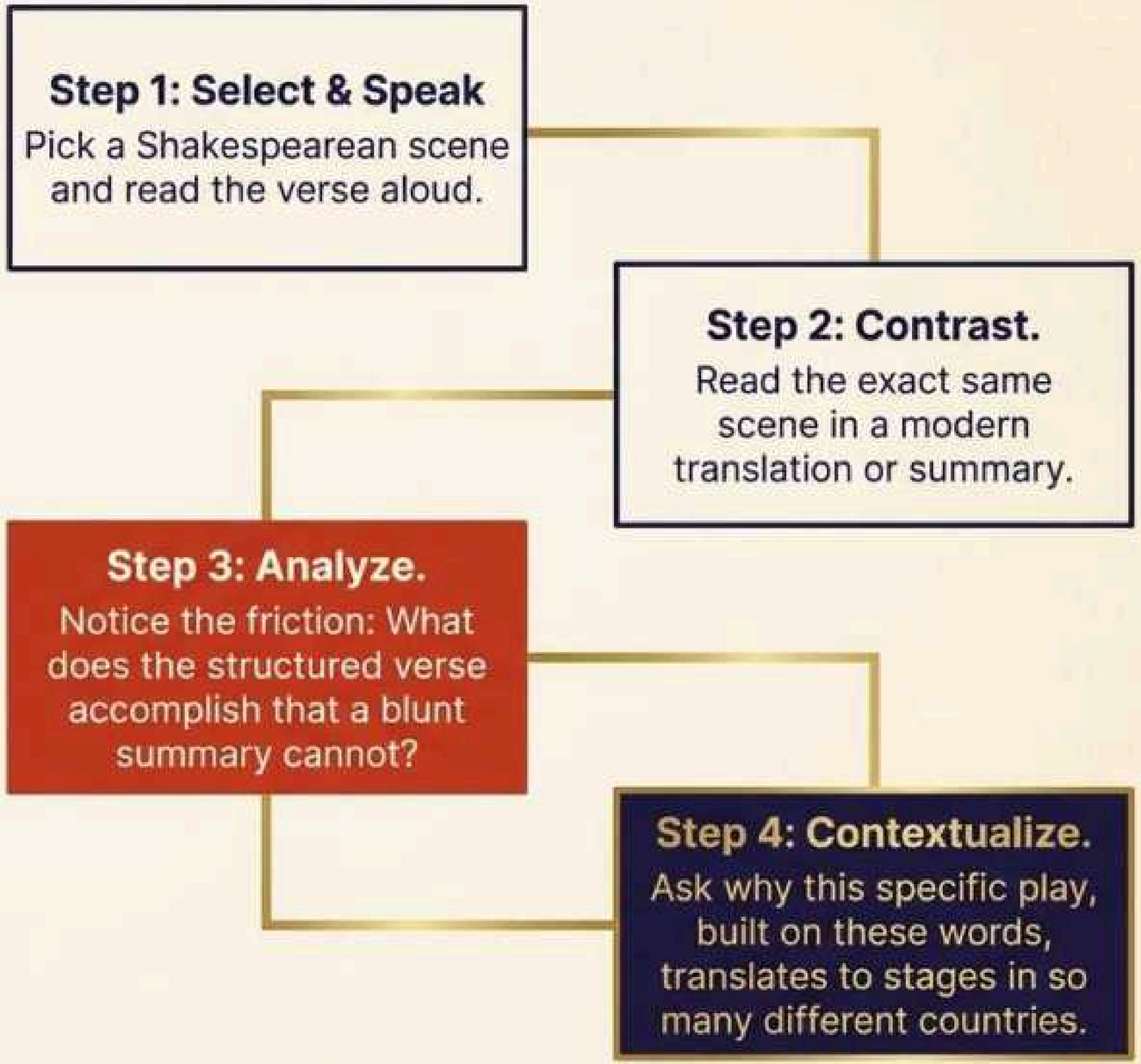


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3.17

The mechanics of verse reveal themselves through spoken comparison.

- A closing exercise moving from passive reading to active analysis.



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