6.1

War & Empire

How did writers respond to a world shaken by war and by the end of empires?

The Post-War Void.

New Traditions

How did new traditions—magical realism and postcolonial writing—change the map of world literature?

The Canon

What is a canon, who decides, and why do the arguments matter?

Shifting Centers of Gravity.

We end by returning to the question the course began with.

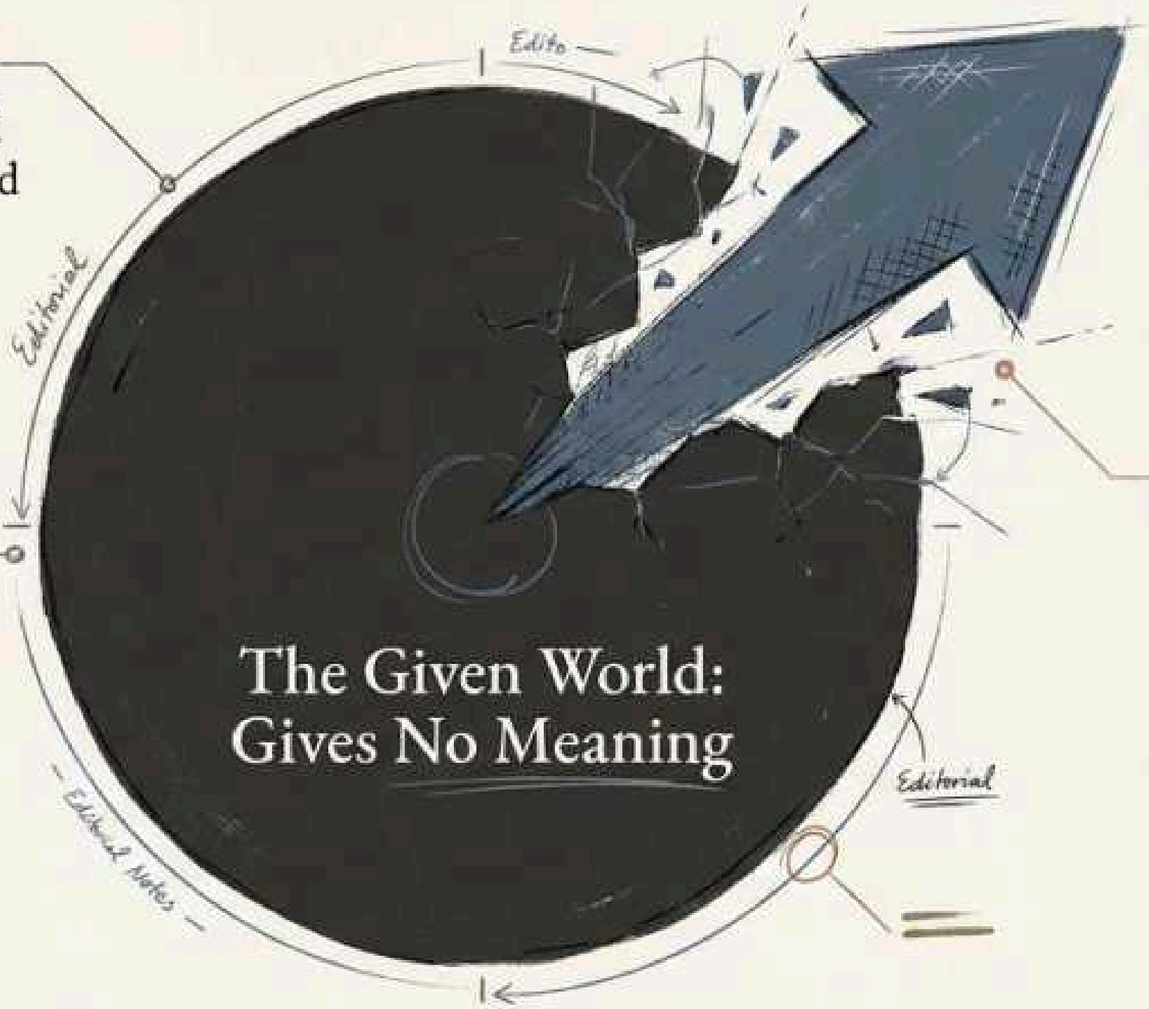
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6.2

The Question:
After the Second World War, many writers asked how to write at all.

The Movement: Existentialism.

- ✓ Albert Camus
- ✓ Jean-Paul Sartre
- ✓ Simone de Beauvoir



Human Freedom: Making Meaning

The Catalyst:
Albert Camus, *The Stranger* (1942). Narrated by a man who feels no grief at his mother's funeral and is condemned to death.

We are free, and we must make meaning.

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6.3

Literature as Public Argument

Power & State

George Orwell,
Nineteen Eighty-Four (1949)

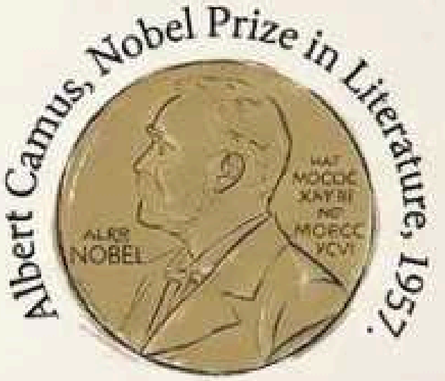
A warning about total surveillance and the corruption of language.

Following his *Animal Farm* of 1945

Gender & Identity

Simone de Beauvoir,
The Second Sex (1949)

An influential study of how women are made into the other sex.



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6.4

1993: The first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

About the afterlife of slavery.

Beloved (1987)

1987 / 1993
Toni Morrison

1953 / 1963
James Baldwin

- *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953)
- *The Fire Next Time* (1963)

About a Black man whom society refuses to see.

1952
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

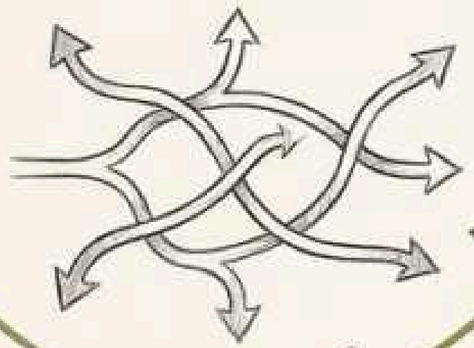
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6.5

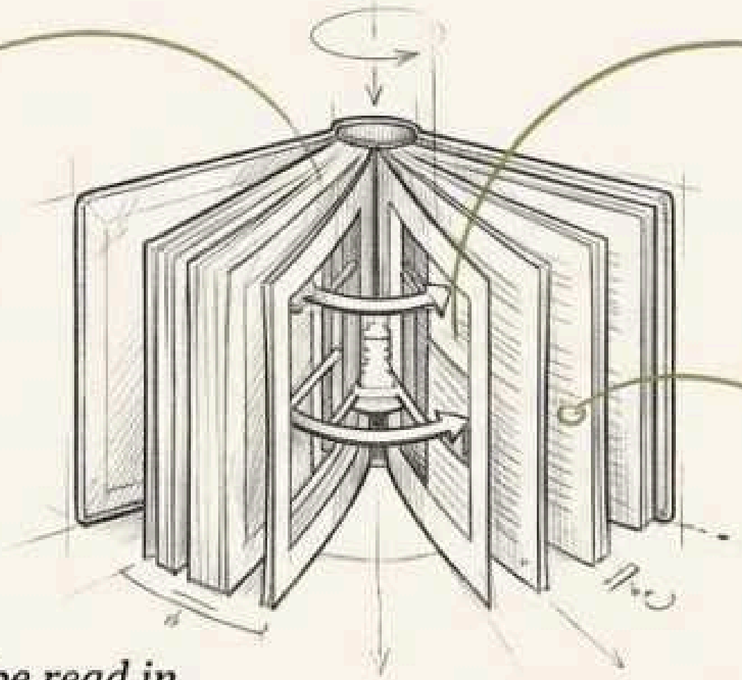
The Boom: Latin American novelists attract a global readership in the 1960s.

The Structure

Julio Cortázar, *Hopscotch* (1963)



Could be read in more than one order.



The Epic

Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967)



The town of Macondo

The story of the Buendía family.



Gabriel García Márquez, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1982.

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6.6



Magical Realism

Extraordinary events narrated as everyday. Nobody finds it strange.

> *"The style does not invent fantasy for its own sake; it expresses how history in Latin America can feel stranger than fiction."*

Pioneered by García Márquez; adopted by Isabel Allende and Salman Rushdie.

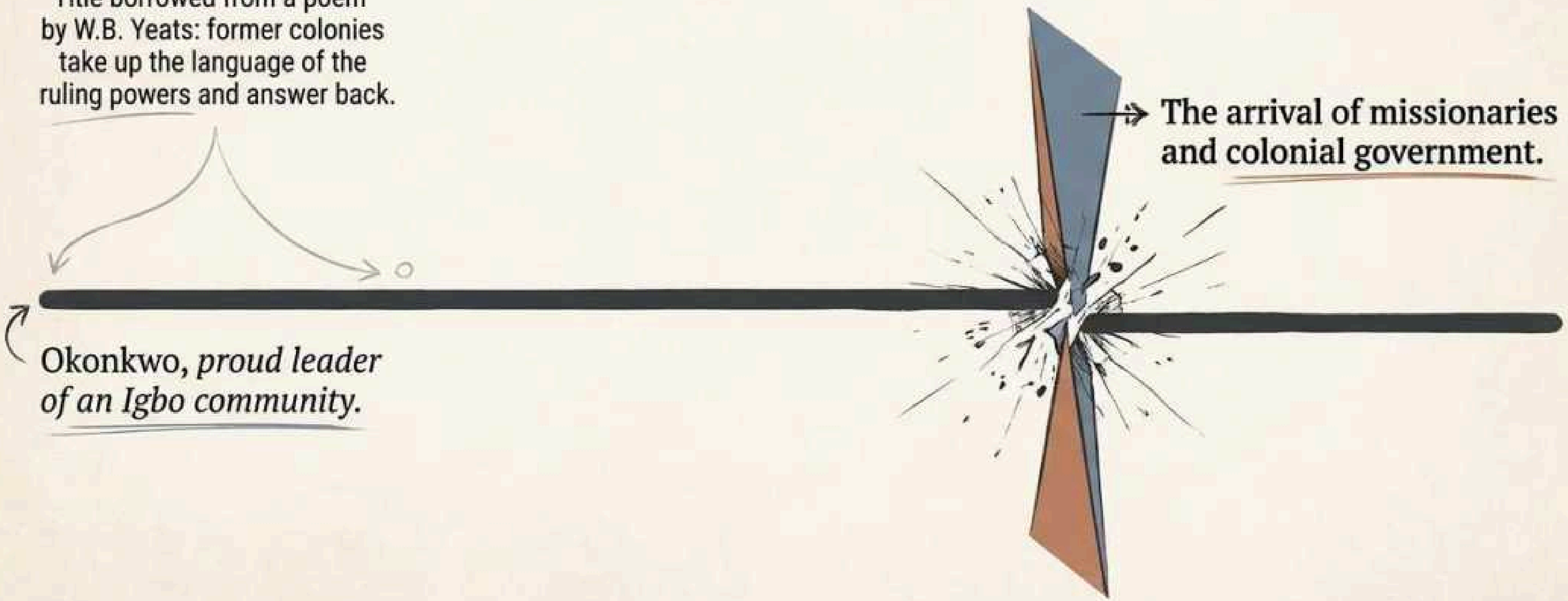
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6.7

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1958)

Written in English, among the most widely read African novels.

Title borrowed from a poem by W.B. Yeats: former colonies take up the language of the ruling powers and answer back.



The arrival of missionaries and colonial government.

Okonkwo, *proud leader of an Igbo community.*

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6.8

Writing Back Matrix

The View of Africa	
Imperial View Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Treats Africa as a backdrop.	**The Answer** Chinua Achebe's 1975 essay. Criticized the novel; sparked ongoing debate between condemnation of imperial greed vs. a racist picture.
The Woman in the Attic	
Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*.	Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966). Retells the story from the viewpoint of the woman in the attic.

Writing back became a method of its own.

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6.9

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Imprisoned without trial (1977-1978).
Writes a novel on sheets of toilet paper.

~~English~~

Abandoned. His 1986 book,
Decolonising the Mind, explains why.

Gikuyu

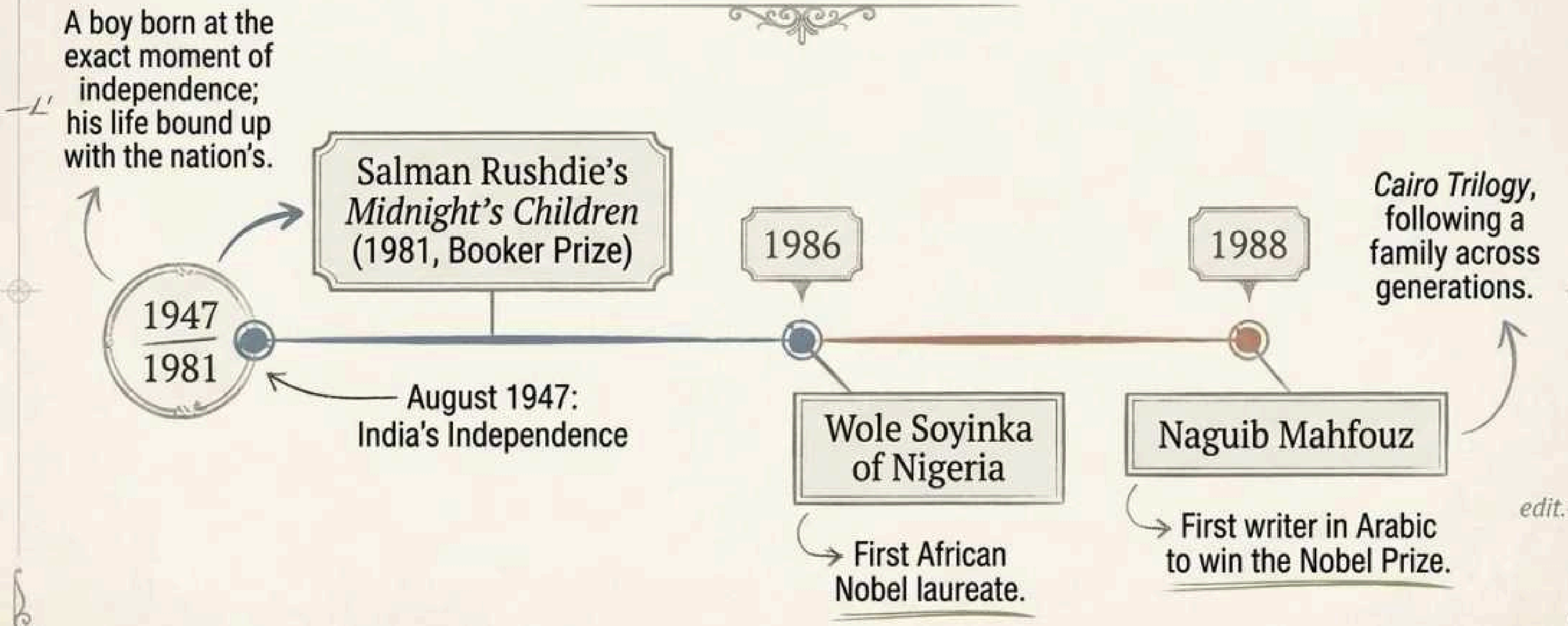
→ The chosen path.

"In what language does a writer belong to a nation?"

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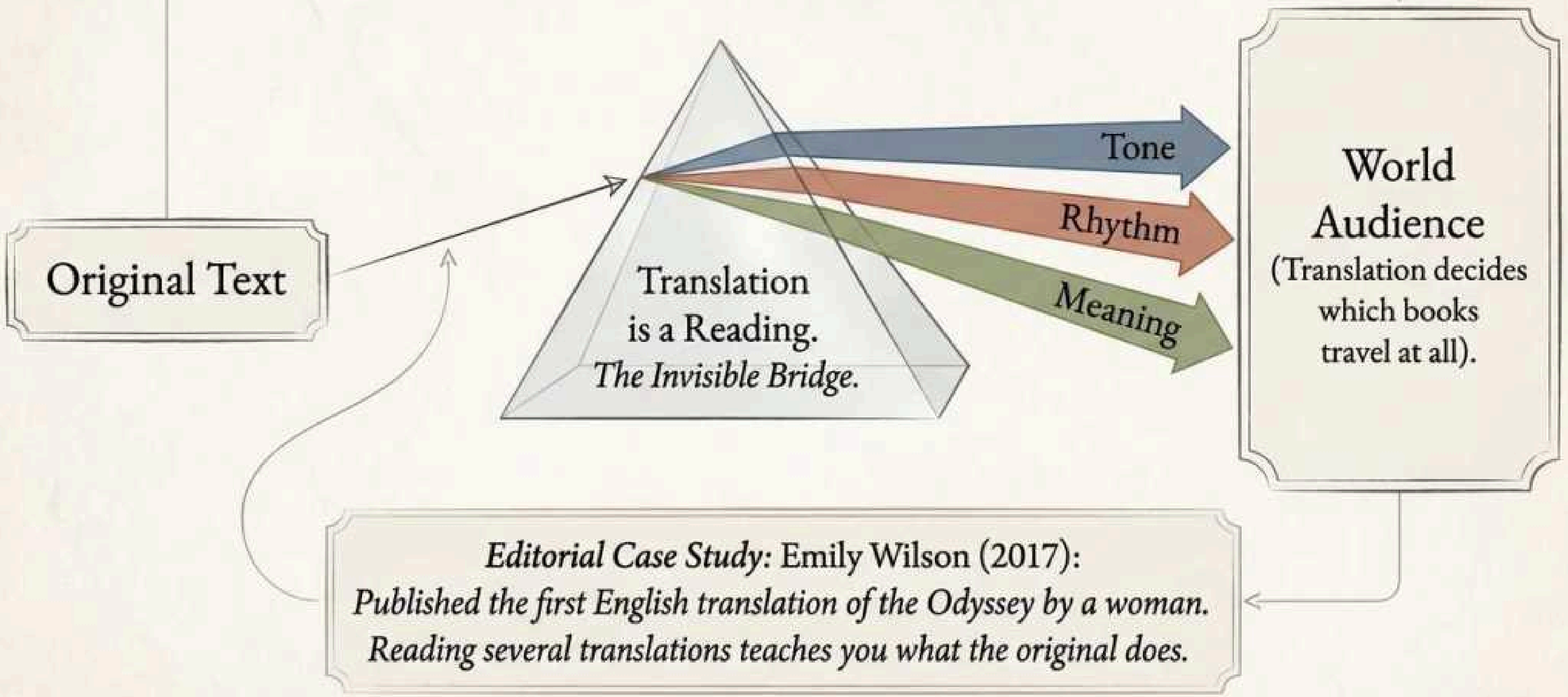
6.10

Integrated Independence Timeline



6.11

The Translation Bridge



Editorial Case Study: Emily Wilson (2017):
Published the first English translation of the Odyssey by a woman.
Reading several translations teaches you what the original does.

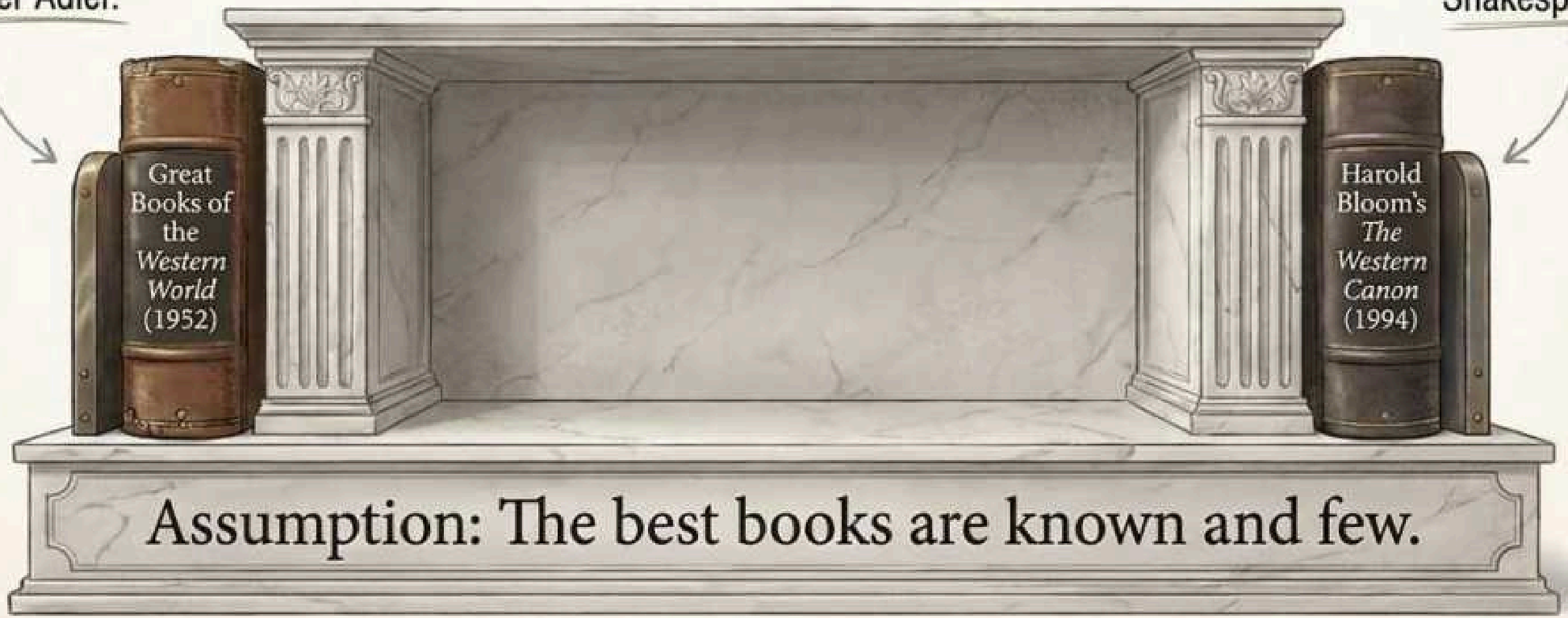
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6.12

The Traditional Canon: The set of works a culture agrees to treat as the best.

Fifty-four volumes edited by Robert Hutchins and Mortimer Adler.

Defended a strict list of authors from Shakespeare on.



Assumption: The best books are known and few.

edit.—

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6.13

Diagnostic Scale

Editorial markup

T-Chart

Primary corrections

The Critics

Canons reflect power.

Women, writers of color, and non-Western writers were left out

Controlled by who dominated publishing and teaching

The Defenders

Quality is real.

Primary argument correction

Standards are worth keeping

Preserving the classics

leader

marginalia

Primary and Corrections

The Modern Compromise

Combine the two: Keep the old classics, add once-ignored works, and actively ask why each is included.

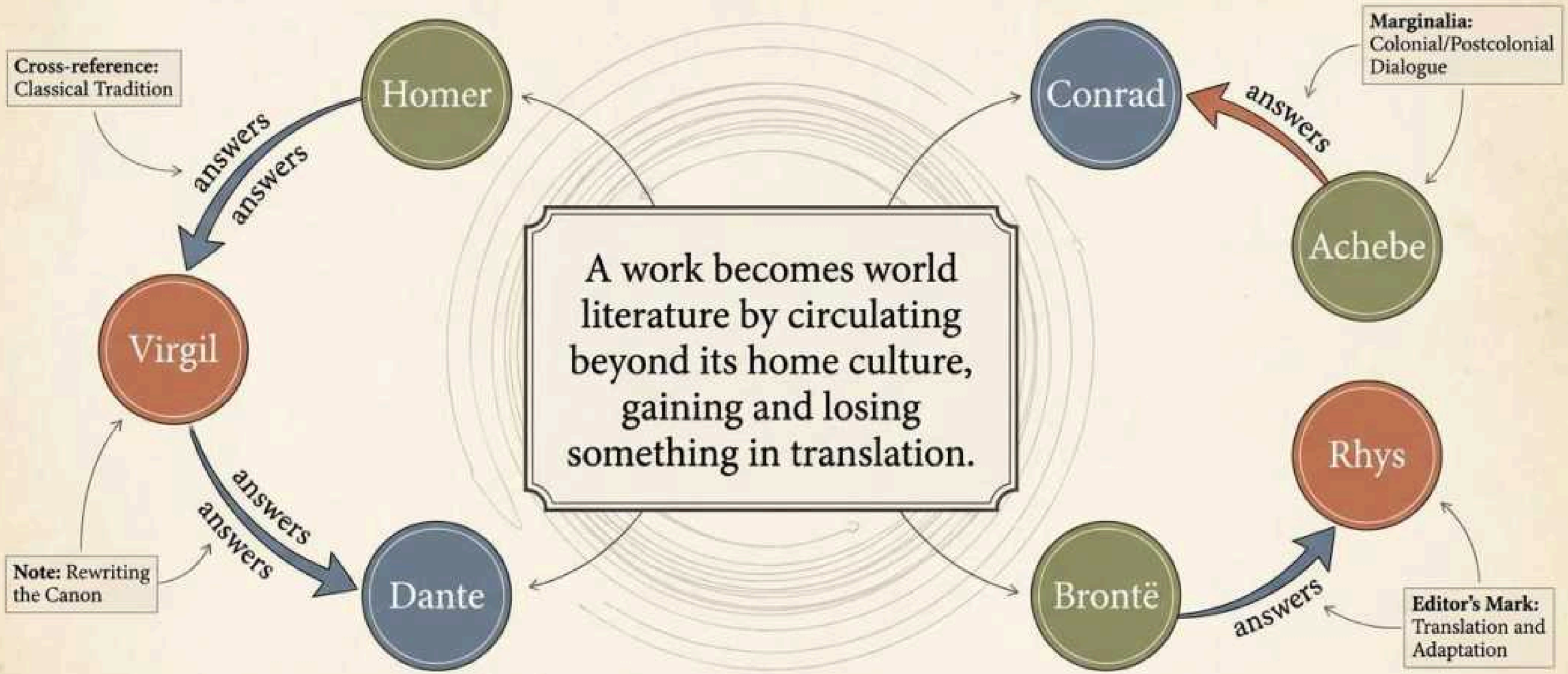
Correctio

marginalia

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6.14

Circular Network Map



"The canon is not a list but a process that never stops. A living conversation."

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6.15

The Human Condition

Editorial annotation

Primary theme

Love

Navigating connection, passion, and loss across cultures and eras.

War

Confronting conflict, sacrifice, and the impact of violence on the human spirit.

Cross-reference

Editorial annotation

Injustice

Examining systemic oppression, resistance, and the pursuit of fairness.

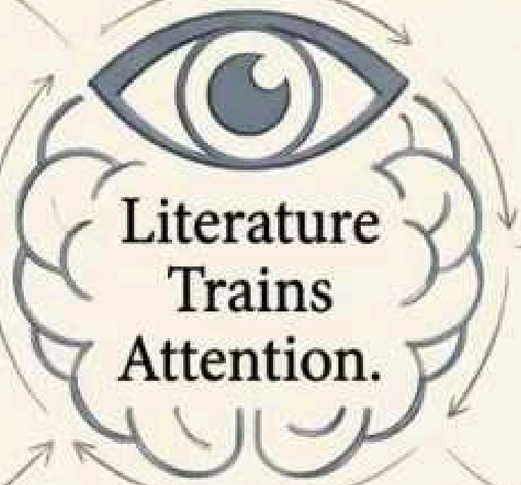
Death

Facing mortality, grief, and the meaning of existence through literary reflections.

Editorial annotation

Space & Time

Live inside other minds, in other centuries and countries.



Editorial annotation

The works in this course are an invitation, not a complete list. You are free to disagree with any ranking.
— Editorial Note

marginalia

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6.16

A Curated Syllabus Stack



David Damrosch,
What Is World Literature?
A short introduction to the field.

Martin Puchner,
The Written World.
The story of literature through the great texts.

The Norton Anthology of World Literature.
Collects many works in translation.

Actionable Advice: Where to begin?

For any author, start with one short work: a story, a play, or a handful of poems.

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Course Works

Pick five works from this course you most want to read. Write one sentence on why.

The Outside Work

Add one work from outside this course that you love.

Next Steps

Compare your list with a friend's.

Next Steps

Keep the list. Revisit in a year to see how your answers change.

You have started a conversation of your own.

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6.18



Thank you for studying English 210 B with Anderson Academy. May the books in this course keep you company, and may you pass them on.

Questions and feedback are welcome at: garyanderson at mail dot grokbot dot com.

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