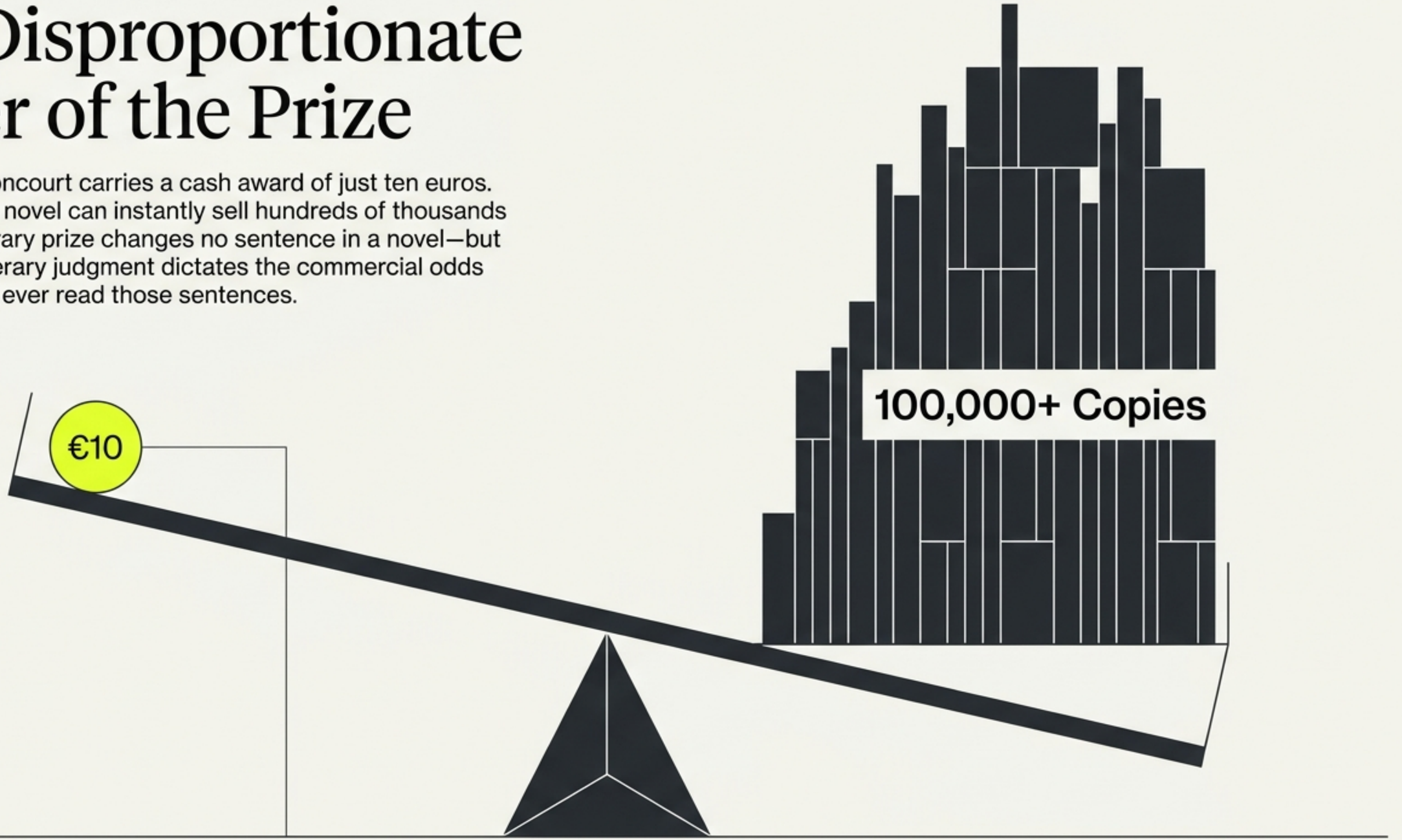
Beyond the Jury

Democratizing “The Best” in Literature through Collective Decidement

Gemini Notebook

The Disproportionate Power of the Prize

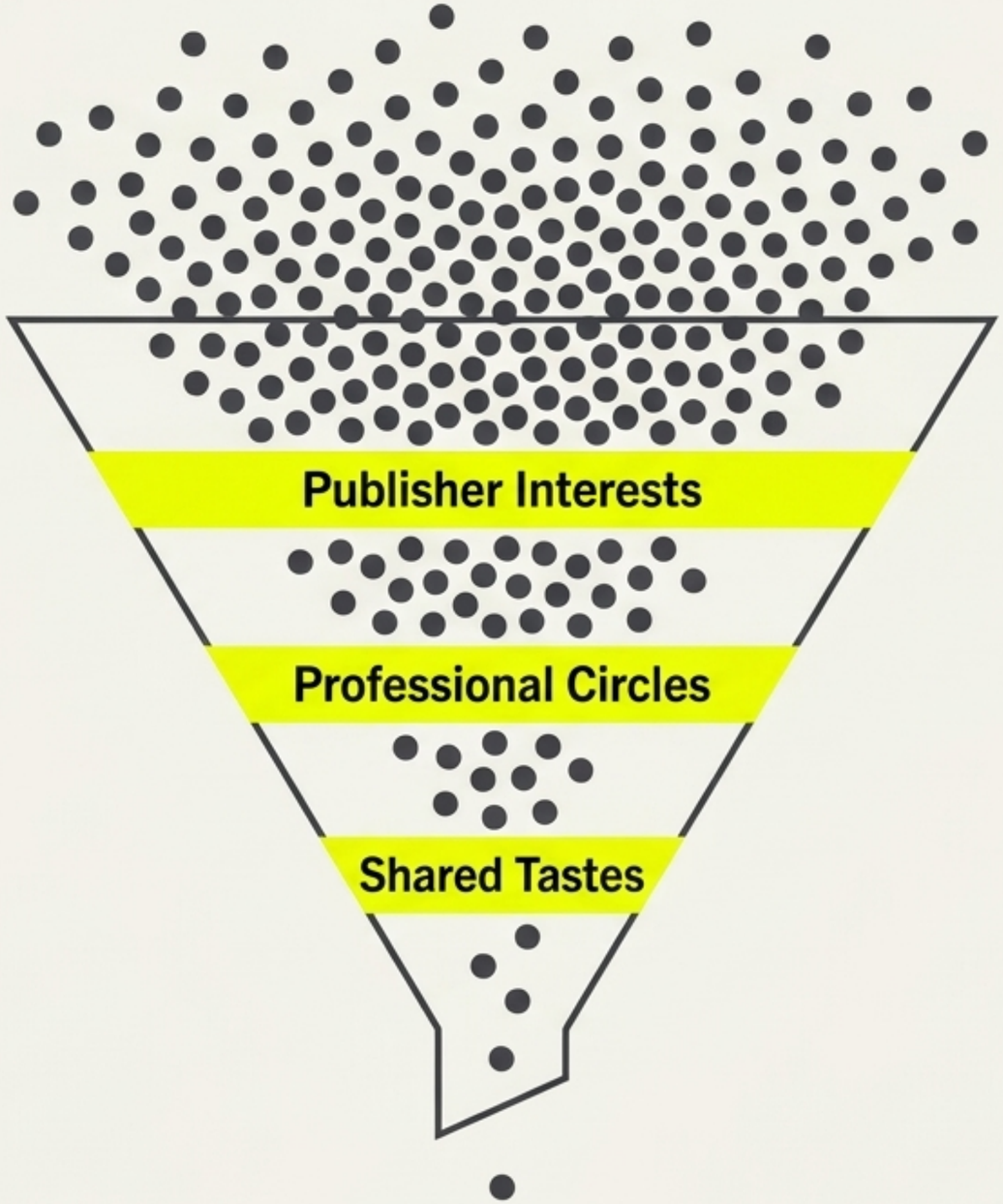
France's Prix Goncourt carries a cash award of just ten euros. Yet, the winning novel can instantly sell hundreds of thousands of copies. A literary prize changes no sentence in a novel—but a small jury's literary judgment dictates the commercial odds that anyone will ever read those sentences.



Gemini Notebook

The Filter of the Status Quo

Can a prize systematically narrow the field of literature, even when everyone acts in good faith? Yes. Jurors move in the same professional circles and learn to admire the same techniques. Certain kinds of literary achievement easily come into focus, while others are organically filtered out.



Gemini Notebook

The Reputation Trap

Novelist Romain Gary won the Goncourt twice, despite rules allowing only one win per lifetime. He achieved this by writing his second winner under the pseudonym Émile Ajar.

When we open a book, how much room do we leave for surprise? How much of our attention goes into finding the writer we expect versus reading what is actually on the page?



=



Romain Gary (Prix Goncourt Winner)

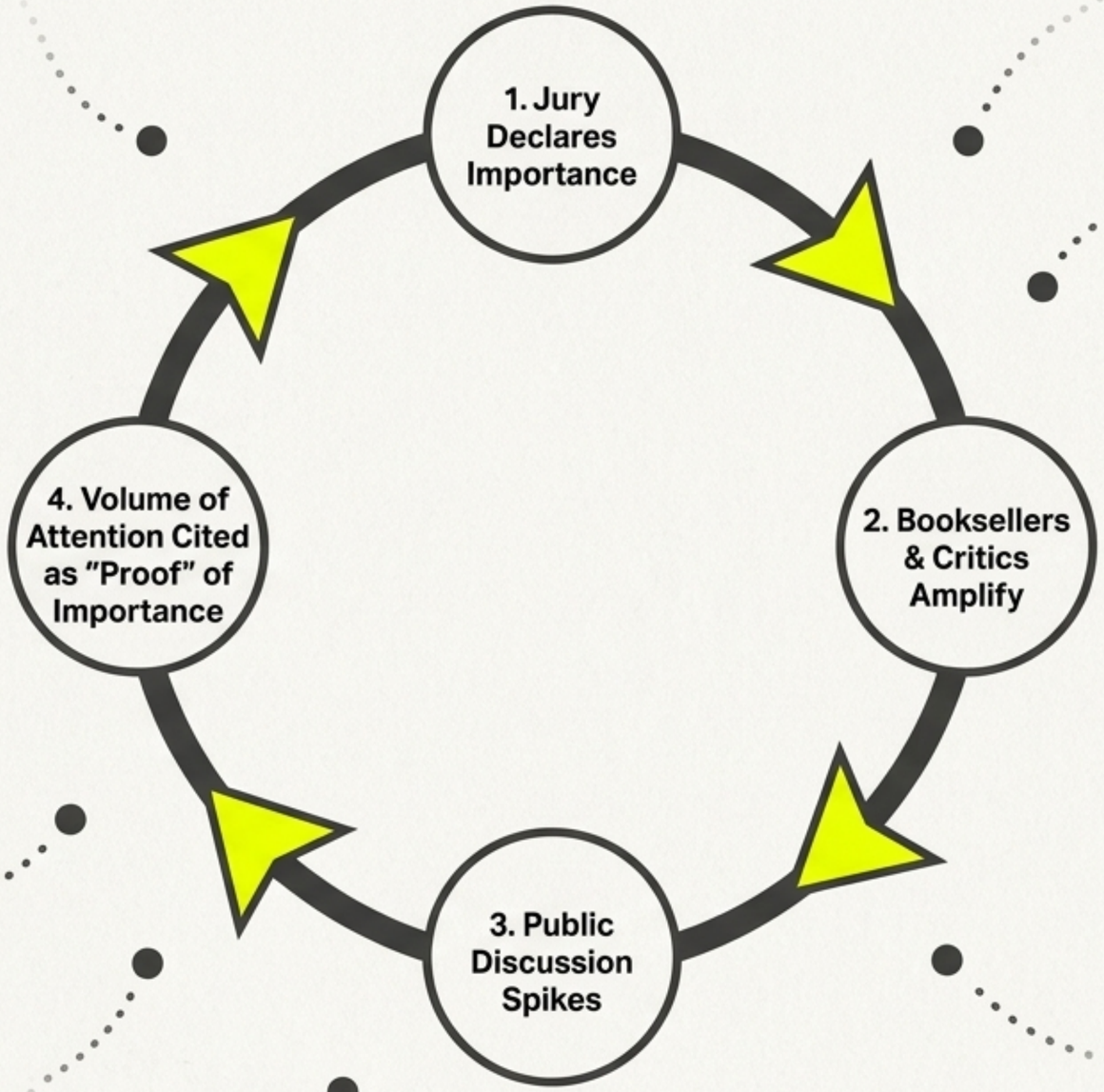
Émile Ajar (Prix Goncourt Winner)

Gemini Notebook

Algorithmic Editorial

When Recognition Produces Its Own Evidence

A novel may be remarkable, but once the jury meets, recognition creates its own evidence. A jury distributes more than an honor—it distributes the chance to become part of a culture's memory. Meanwhile, un-championed masterpieces disappear into the void.



Gemini Notebook

What if we decouple the art from the reputation of the people judging it?

Introducing Collective Decidement:
Where people judge, and algorithms calculate.

Gemini Notebook

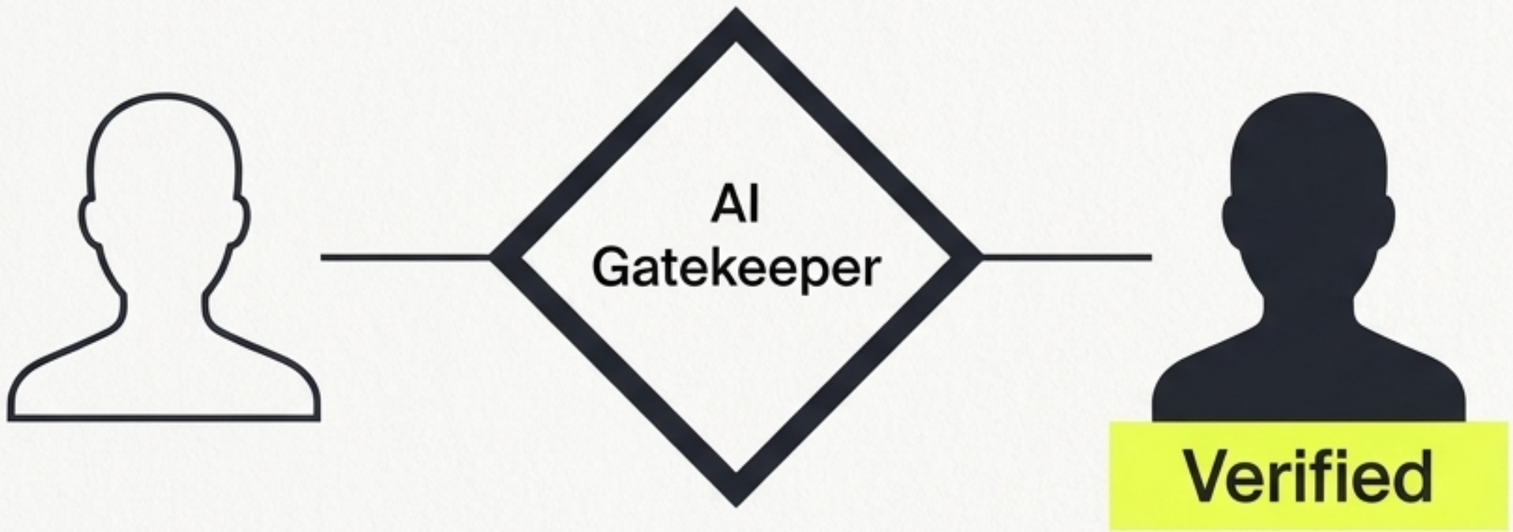
Redefining the Mechanics of Recognition

	Traditional Jury	Post-Hierarchical Prize
Decision Makers	Elite, closed room	Open pool of tested readers ✓
Evaluation Method	Casting subjective votes	Weighing specific arguments ✓
Bias Mitigation	Reputation-based influence	Accountable anonymity ✓
Post-Award Value	Winner-takes-all visibility	Accessible cultural memory map for all nominees ✓

Gemini Notebook

Mechanism 1: The Competence Test

How do we ensure quality **without elitism?** Anyone who has read the works can apply. But before joining the discourse, each reader must pass a timed, AI-generated reading test.



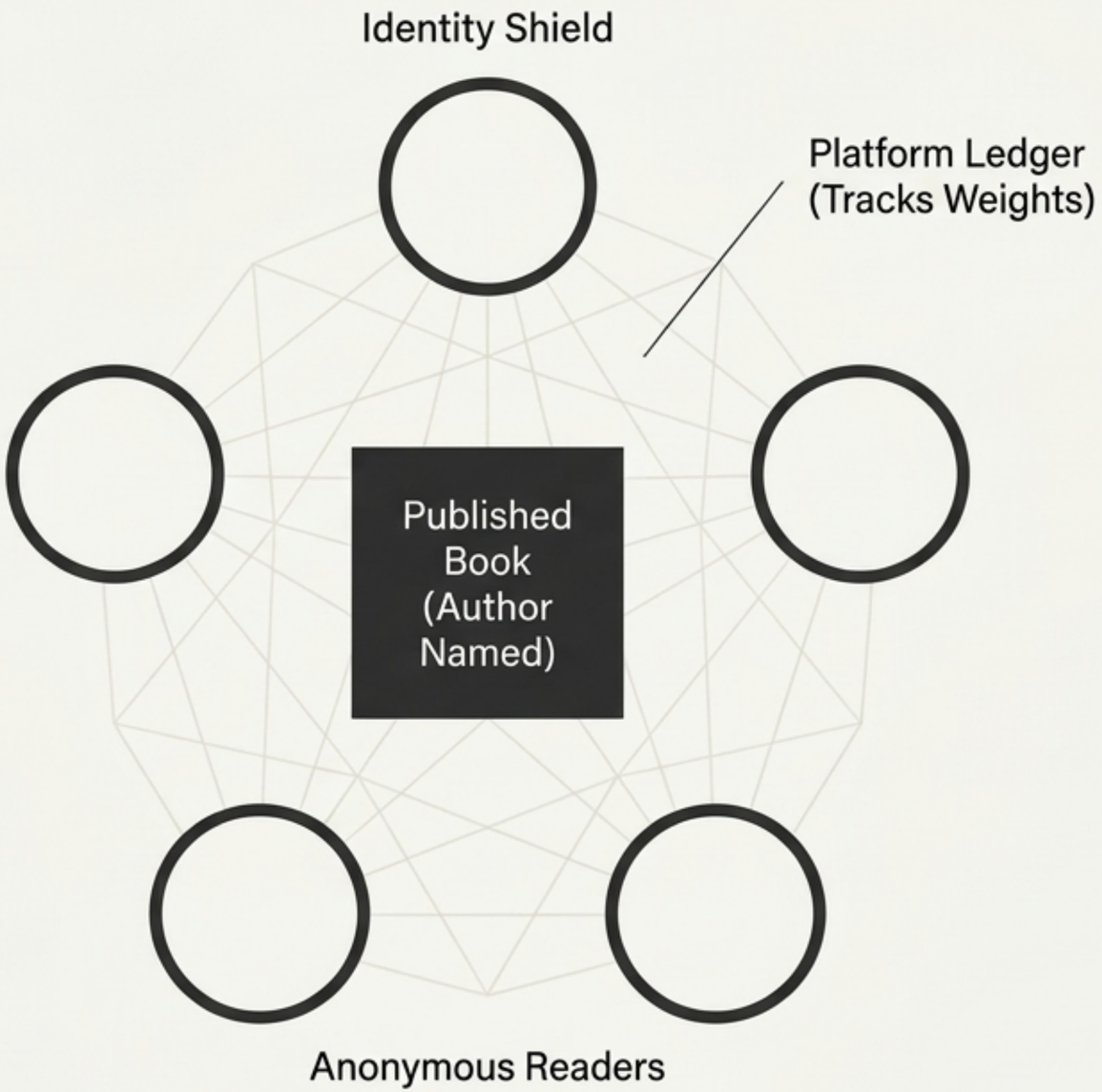
Questions focus on plot episodes, specific characters, and narrative details. This ensures participation is based strictly on having actually read the text, not on social media campaigning.

Gemini Notebook

Mechanism 2: Accountable Anonymity

The author's name remains, but the critics are anonymous. An eminent scholar and a public library regular operate on the same plane.

An eminent critic's observation must earn its standing purely from what it helps other readers see. The platform tracks individual contributions and ratings, holding users accountable to the quality of their arguments without revealing their identity.

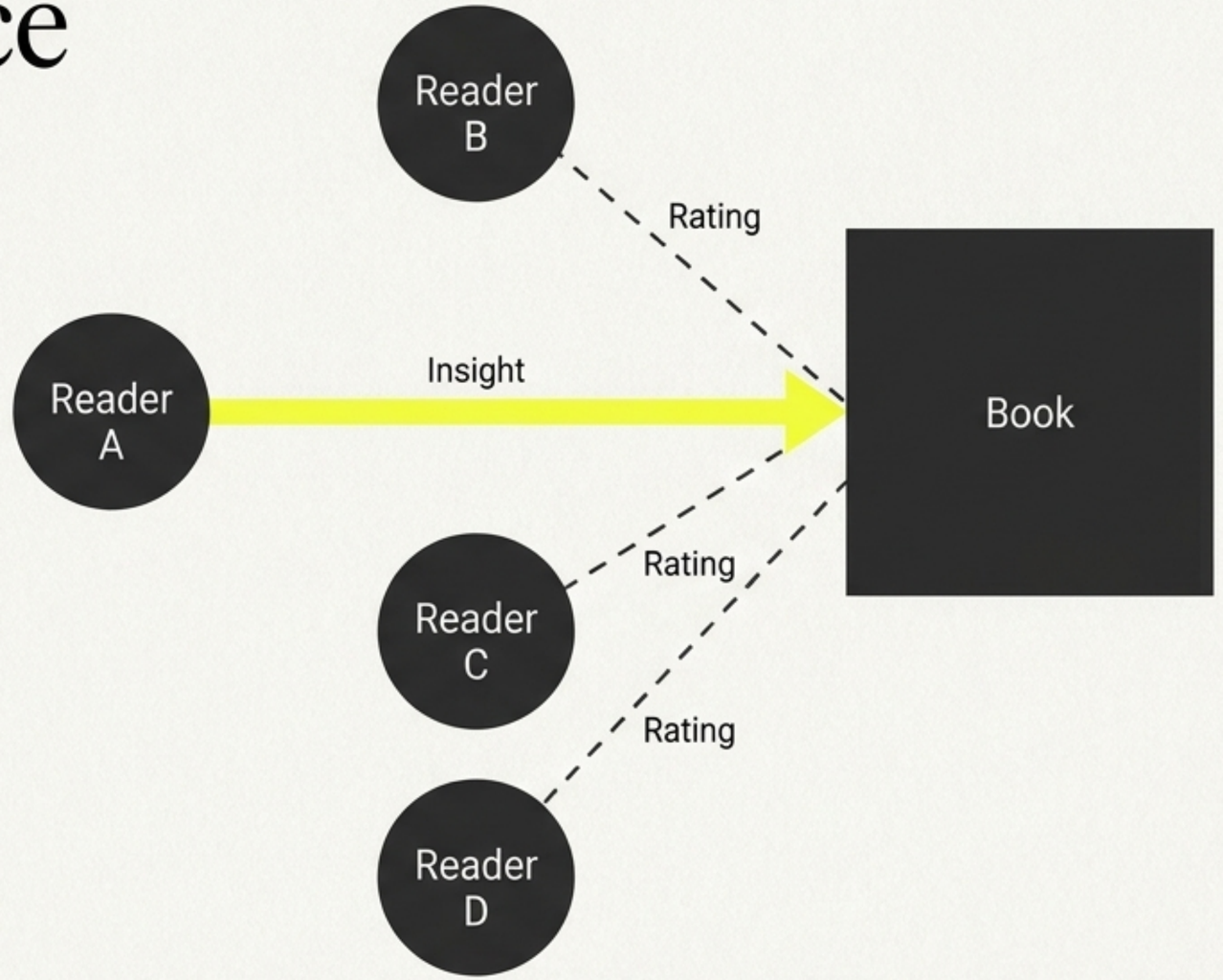


Gemini Notebook

Mechanism 3: Collective Intelligence

An open online poll asks, "Which book did you like?" Collective decidement asks, "What does this book make possible in literature?"

Readers do not merely cast votes; they put forward arguments, encounter unfamiliar interpretations, and rate each other's insights. Algorithms organize the exchange and calculate the results.



Gemini Notebook

The Power of Disagreement: Resonance Clusters

A middling average score conceals passion. When readers rate insights, distinct patterns—**"resonance clusters"**—emerge.

Disagreement becomes valuable data, revealing exactly what sets a book apart.

The Flaw of Averages



Resonance Clusters



Example: A narrator describes the same dinner three times. Cluster A finds the repetition tiresome. Cluster B realizes the repetition mimics the struggle to speak about a loss.

Gemini Notebook

The Process Architecture

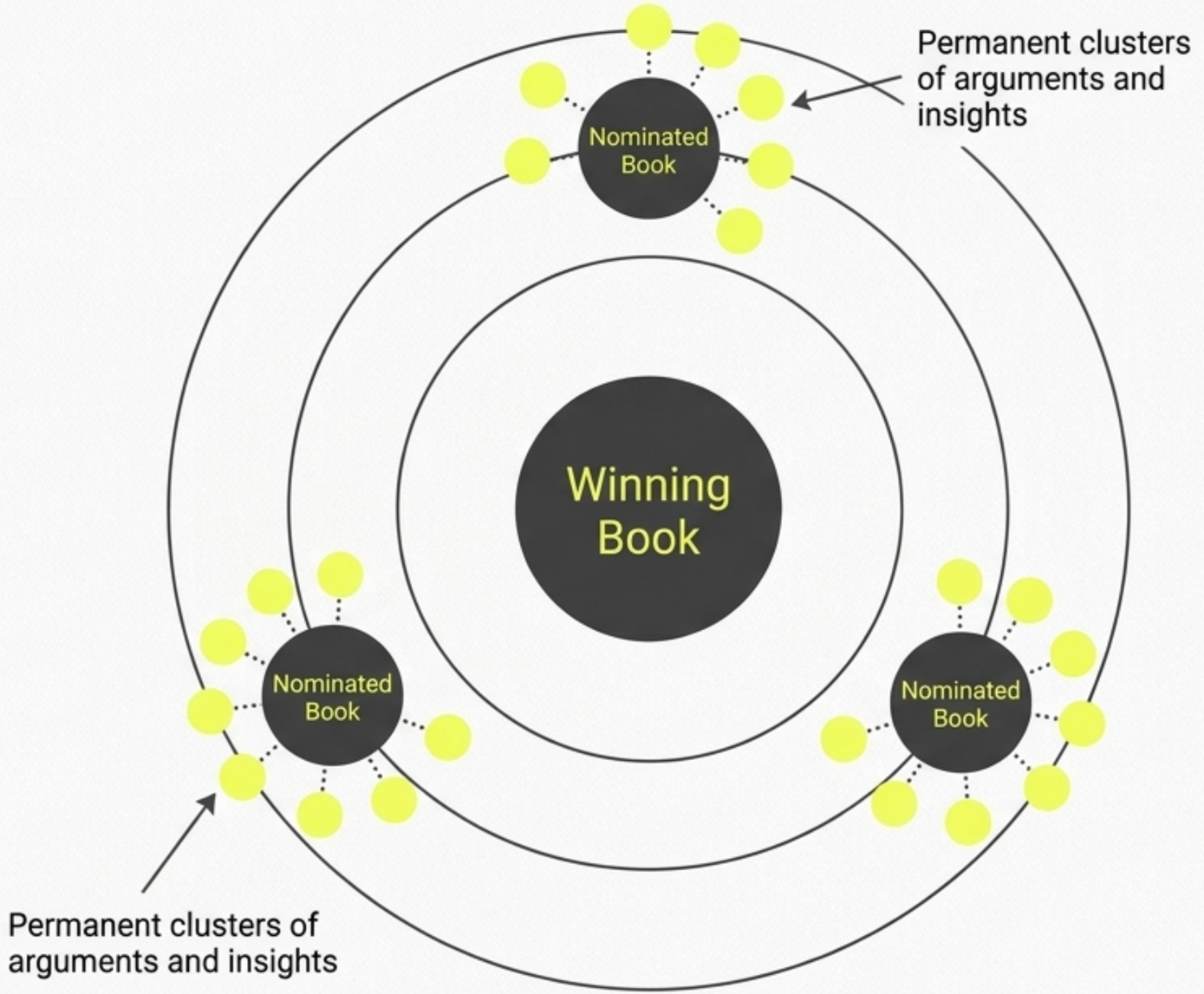


Gemini Notebook

The Post-Prize Landscape

What happens to the "losers"? In a traditional prize, they vanish.

In a post-hierarchical prize, the winning book is crowned, but the arguments, debates, and resonance clusters for all nominated books remain public.
The prize becomes a permanent, rich discovery map for libraries, reading groups, and future readers.



Gemini Notebook

Redefining “The Best”



From a Single Crown...

A traditional prize isolates a winner.

...To a Cultural Map

A post-hierarchical prize helps us discover what the choice of a single winner leaves out. It builds a culture's memory, not just its trophy cabinet.

Gemini Notebook

Literary freedom includes the right to write. It also includes the chance to be read without first securing the blessing of a handful of judges.

Omnicracy: Explore the collective decidement platform.

Gemini Notebook