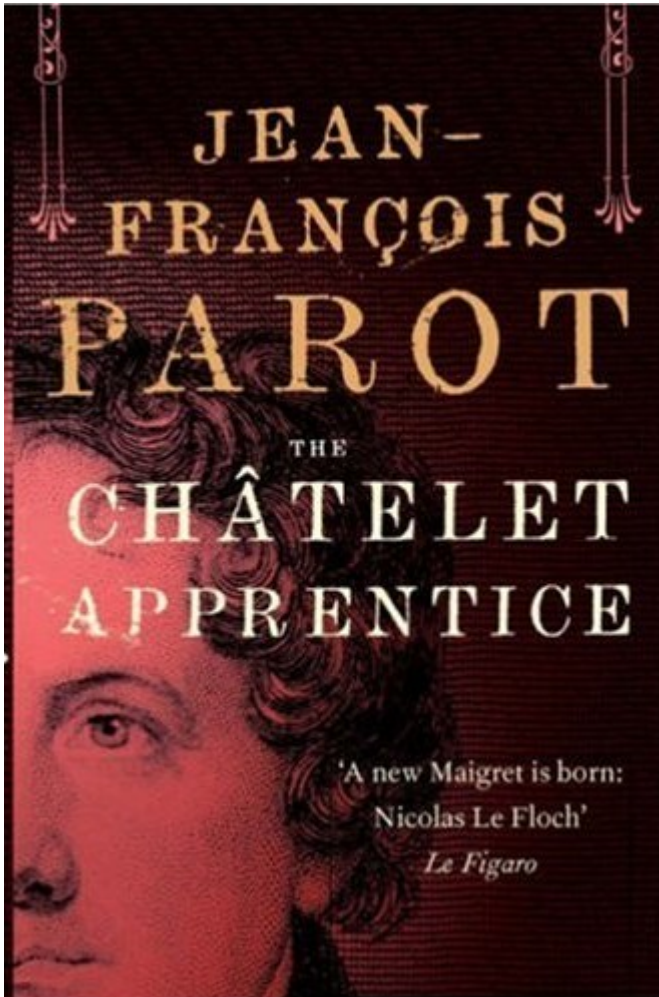


Summer reading list

By [Debra Bendis](#)

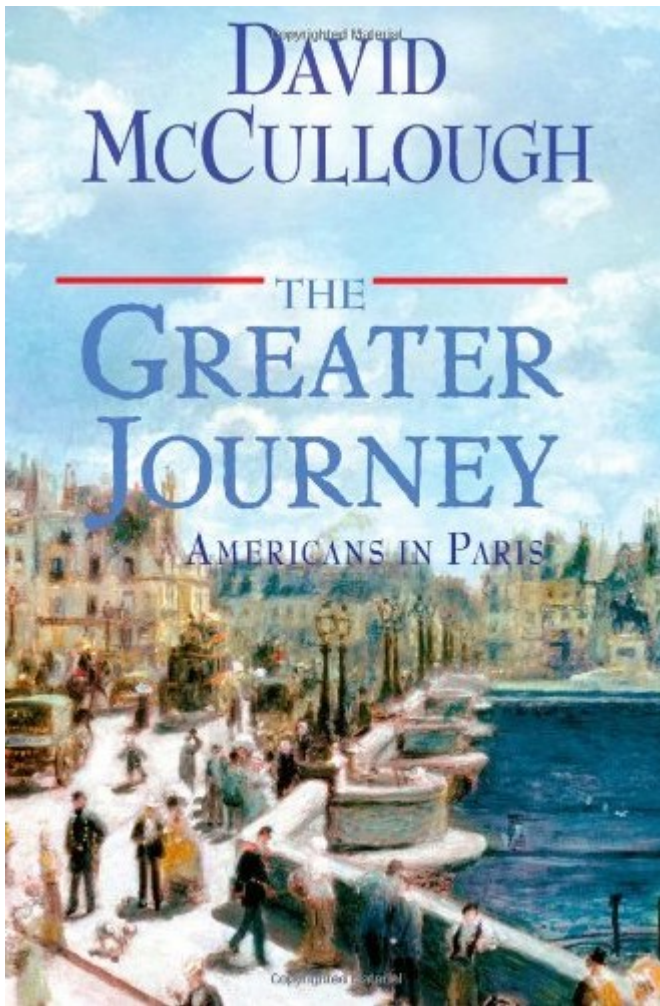
July 6, 2011

In Review



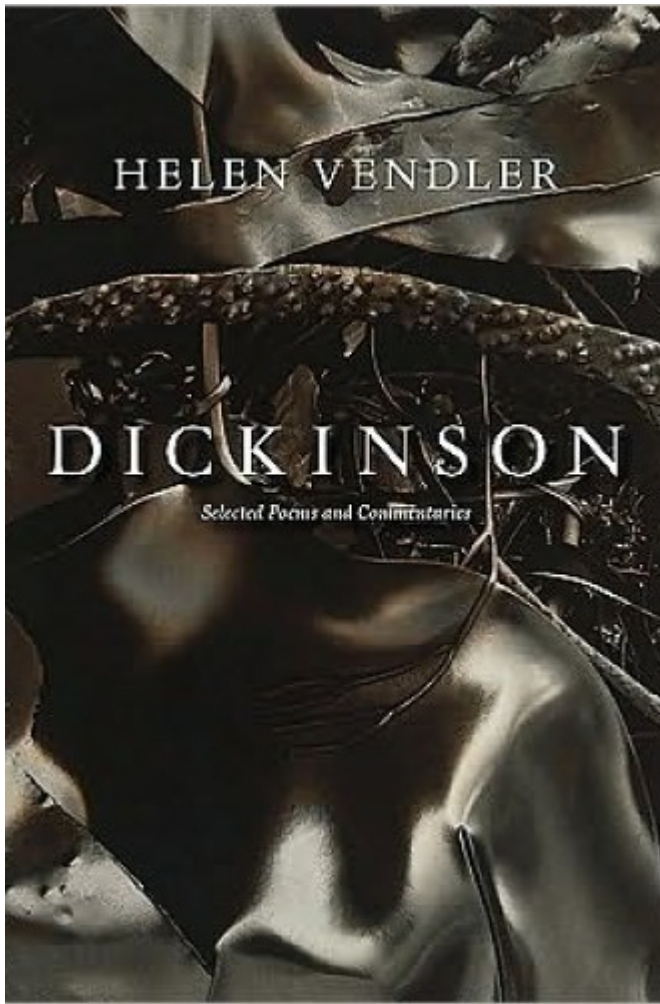
The Chatelet Apprentice

by Jean-François Parot
Gallic



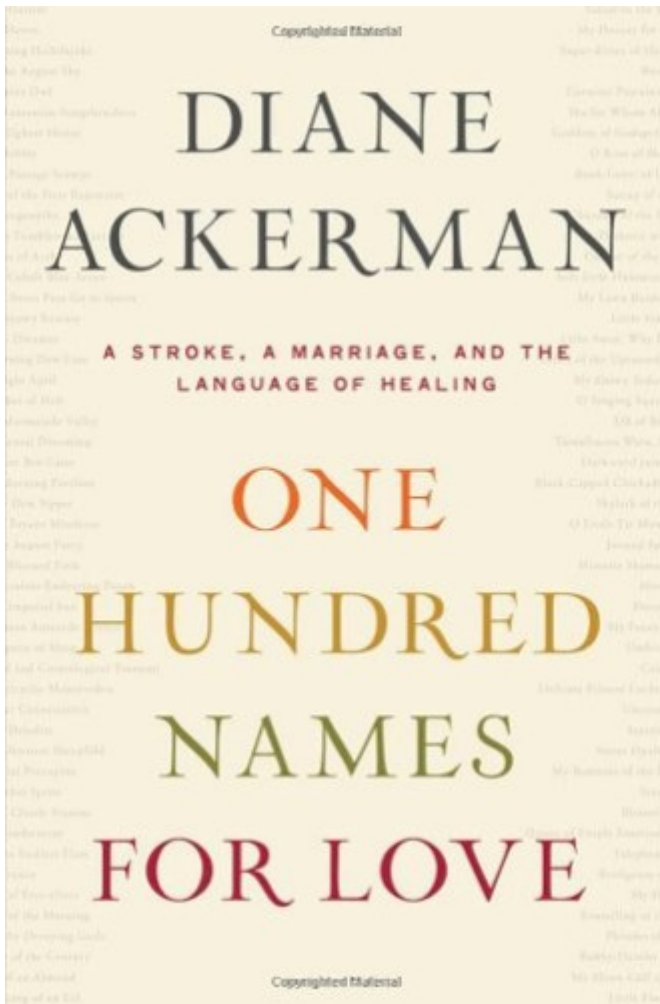
The Greater Journey

by David McCullough
Simon & Schuster



Dickinson

by Helen Vendler
Belknap



One Hundred Names for Love

by Diane Ackerman
Norton

What are you hoping to read this summer? We posed this question to the Century staff, a group of people with diverse tastes and interests. Along with commenting on our choices, feel free to post your own in the comments. --Ed.

The Chatelet Apprentice, by Jean-François Parot.

I've been re-invigorating my French with the mystery novels of French diplomat Jean-François Parot.

(Several titles are available in English.) As police commissioner Nicolas Le Floch works to solve crimes in 18th-century Paris, author Parot expands the plot

with descriptions of the era's culture, political intrigues and haute cuisine.

The Greater Journey, by David McCullough.

Before I turn away from Paris, I want to read McCullough's book about the city in the 1800s, and about the many Americans of that era--James Fennimore Cooper, Mary Cassatt, Oliver Wendell Holmes--who went to France in their youth and then on to acclaim in art, medicine or politics.

Dickinson: Selected Poems and Commentaries, by Helen Vendler. I read Brenda Wineapple's book *White Heat* last year, and am interested in dipping into Emily Dickinson's poems with Vendler as my guide.

One

Hundred Names for Love, by Diane Ackerman. Out of respect for Ackerman the naturalist/writer (*The Whale by Moonlight*), I hope to try this more personal story. Ackerman's husband, author Paul West, was accustomed to communicating with an unusually rich, playful and sophisticated vocabulary until he had a stroke. Ackerman describes the stroke's devastation and the challenge and adventure of communicating with each other post-stroke.