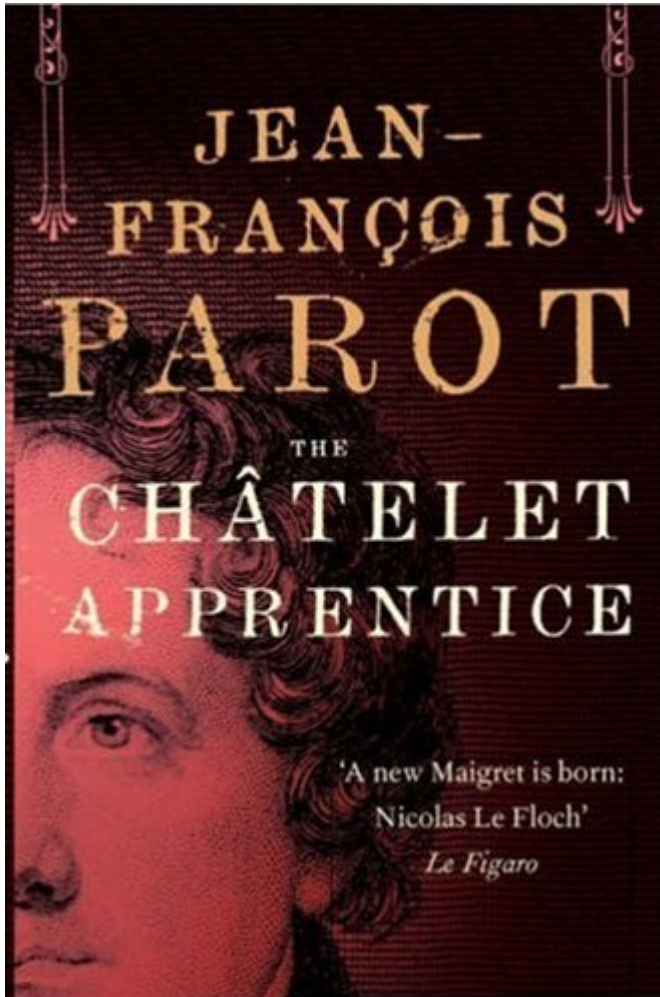


# Summer reading list

By [Debra Bendis](#)

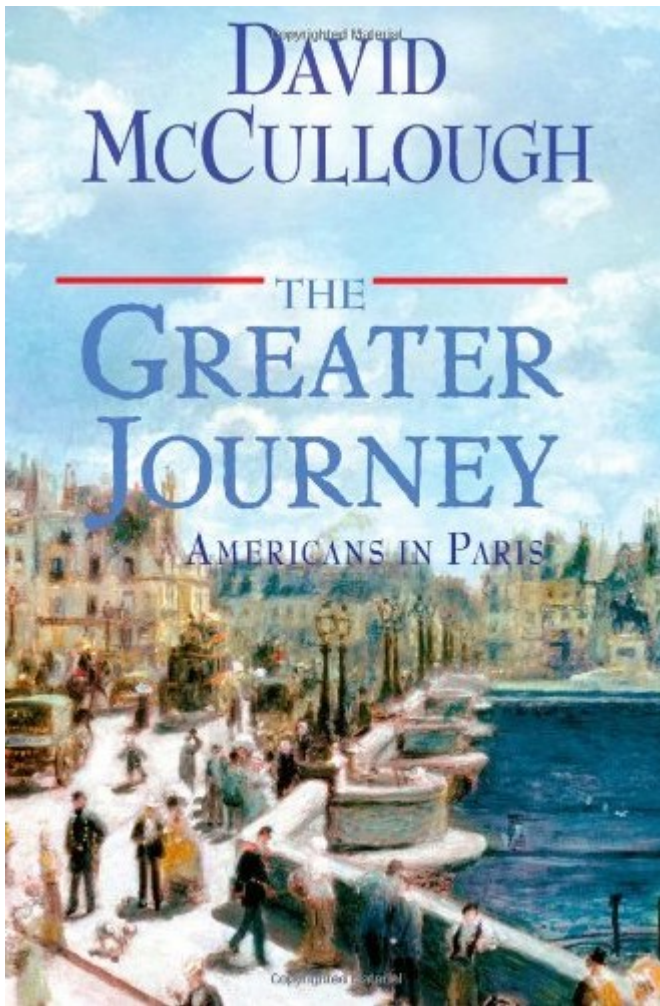
July 6, 2011

## In Review



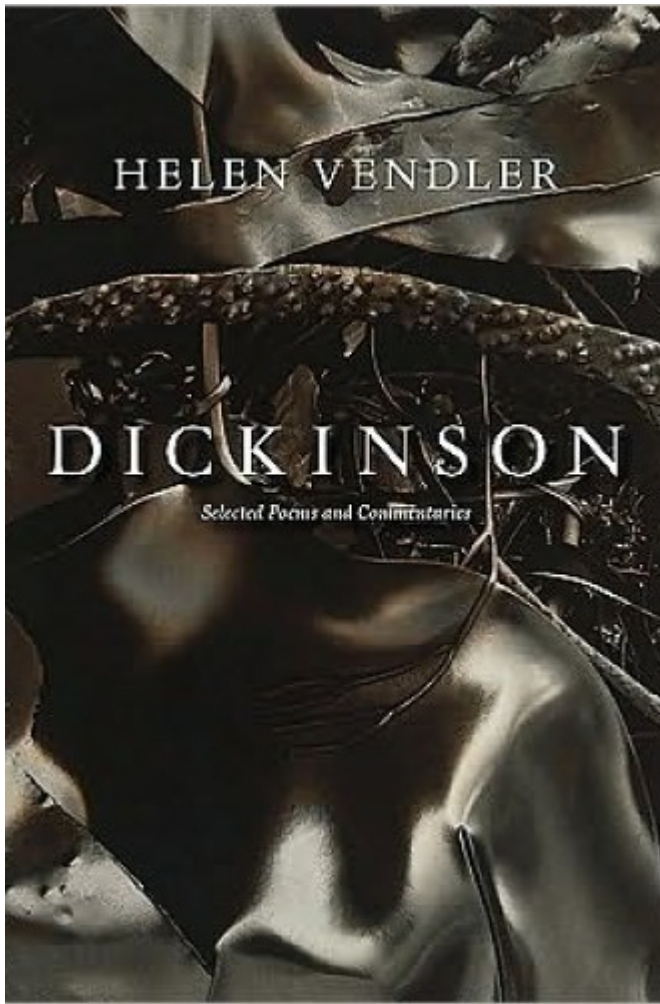
### **The Chatelet Apprentice**

by Jean-François Parot  
Gallic



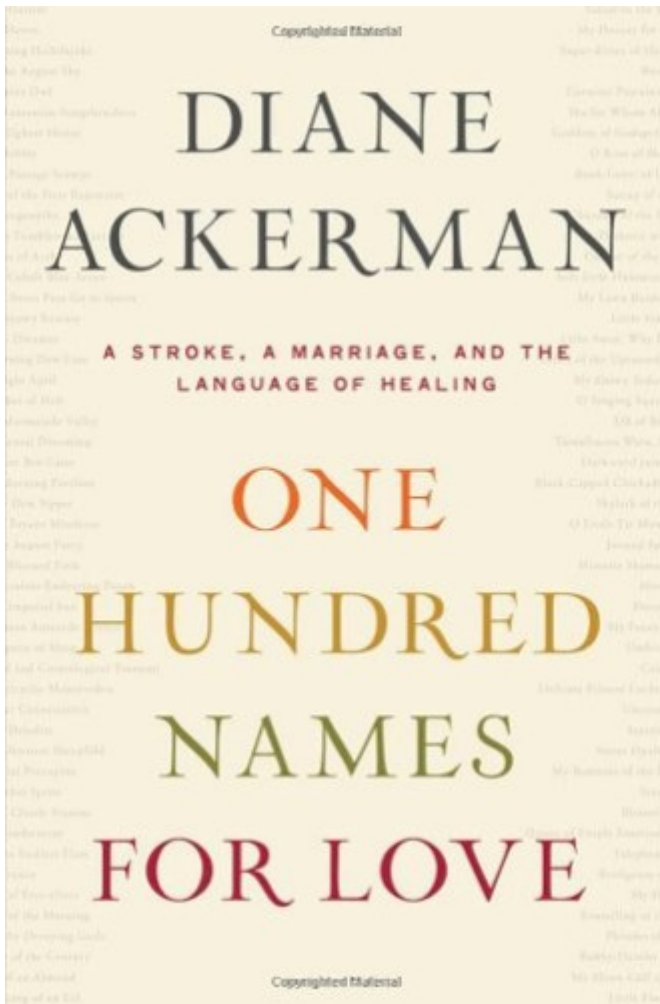
## **The Greater Journey**

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 18<sup>th</sup>-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.