Meaning of names in “The Lottery”

Delacroix- "Delacroix" means "of-the-cross" in French. Jackson's says that the villagers pronounce "Delacroix" (de-la-KWAH) as "Dellacroy." In other words, the villagers are distorting the image of the cross saying it is the symbol of death. In Christianity, the cross means ‘a willing sacrifice.’ The lottery makes an absolutely unwilling, hypocritical woman bear the burden of the community's ritual murder, instead of a man.

Mr. Adams- the first person to draw in the lottery, which makes sense alphabetically because he is the First Man. Remember that Adam and Mrs. Adam a.k.a. Eve) brings about the fall of mankind in the Biblical Genesis story by eating the apple.

Tessie Hutchinson calls upon Annie Hutchinson a woman who was a martyred for her beliefs. “Hutch” means a compartment for storage (a box).

Mrs. Delacroix is the only person who speaks to the otherwise silent Mrs. Graves, wife of the even more postmaster. Mrs. Delacroix's friendly relationship with the Graves family foreshadows her willingness to kill Tess Hutchinson with a smile on her face. The lottery appears completely natural to her, so much so that it doesn't strike her as a contradiction to chat happily with Tess one minute and attack her the next.

Mr. Summers – Symbolizes Progress by slowly changing small things around the town. Summer is a season of the year. It is the season of growing and the season of life. His name represents partly the old pagan fertility ritual because the harvest that is being sacrificed to is being grown in the summer.

Mr. Graves- Symbolizes Death. Mr. Graves is the postmaster of the village, a position that gives him enormous power, since he controls the town's communications with the outside world. Mr. Graves symbolizes the sacrificial killing being caused by the lottery, hence his name, Grave(s).

Old Man Warner- Symbolizes Tradition. Warner is always “Warning” the youth about changing tradition.

Bentham was an English philosopher who argued against slavery and the death penalty.

Martin could refer to Martin Luther the man who initiated The Reformation.

Little David- Biblical David (King David)