* Death in Your Classroom: What the Romans Did and Believed, and How You Can Bring it to Class
* Lori Kissell lkissell@fcps1.org
* E-mail me for the Dropbox link
* Or check the CAMWS uploads
* Today’s questions
* What did the Romans believe about death and the afterlife?
* What were their funerary practices and beliefs?
* What evidence do we have for those practices and beliefs?
* How can you add this to your classroom?
* Beliefs:
* Belief in an afterlife seems common
Survival of an undifferentiated personality
Survival of an individual personality
Location of surviving soul
* Funerary practices:
* Inhumation
Embalming

Cremation
Tombs/monuments
Rituals

* Funerary practices:
* Funus:
* Before death, family/friends gather
* Kiss, close eyes
* *Conclamare*
* Body moved from bed to ground
* Washed, dressed, by family or professionals
* Funus:
* Professionals: Libitinarii
* Pollinctores
* Vespilliones with sandapila
* Ustores
* Fossores
* Dissignatores
* Praeco
* Funus: pompa
* Procession at night, torchlight
* On bier
* Stop at *rostra* for *laudatio*
* *Dissignator, tibicines, tubicines, cornicines*
* *Praeficae*
* Relatives
* Actors/family with *imagines*
* Funus: at site
* Cremation at interment site/dedicated burning ground (*ustrinum*)
* Head covered (toga) nearest male relative fires up body
* Cremation & inhumation can include personal items/grave goods
* Wine to douse embers
* Ashes, bone fragments into urn/vessel
* Funus: post-burial
* *Silicernium*
* *Suffitio*
* *Feriae denicales*
* *Cena novendialis*
* *Parentalia & Lemuria*
* Literary
* Evidence:
* Literary

Funerary art
* Evidence
* Literary

Funerary art

Epigraphy
* Evidence
* Literary

Funerary art

Epigraphy

Archaeology
* Evidence
* Lay the groundwork – talk about death and funerals/use this research to prep your class

Enact a funeral!

Props – find ‘em/make ‘em/have students make ‘em: bier; corpse; torch; urn; *imagines*; head coverings; write a *laudatio* or improvise; pyre.
* Add to your classroom
* Add to your classroom
* Jobs: Family; friends; manumitted slaves; professional mourners; professional undertakers; powderers; bier-bearers; professional burners or gravediggers; mc; herald; 4 flute players; tuba player(s); horn player(s); mask/imago bearers; torch bearers.
* Add to your classroom
* Gather family around the dying, catch the soul, close the eyes
* Conclamatio
* Take body from bed, place on floor, wash and anoint
* Dress body (togate? wreath?) place coin in mouth, powder
* Lie in state
* Add to your classroom
* Pompa: 4 flute players, tuba player(s), horn player(s), professional mourners, widow(er), children precede bier
* Camillus, slaves, manumitted slaves, other relatives follow bier
* Carry to Forum, herald summons citizens along the way, *laudatio*
* Carry to burning/inhumation site
* Add to your classroom
* At site: gravediggers dig or burners set up pyre
* Ritually throw earth on body
* “Ave atque vale” and, with head covered, nearest male relative lights pyre (if cremating)
* Douse ashes with wine and remove portion for burial (if cremating), place remainder in urn
* If inhumation, inter corpse
* Add to your classroom
* If you want to be thorough:
* purify house, funeral feast, then return nine days later for the novendialis!
* Most of all – have fun!
* Sources:
* Toynbee, J.M.C.; Death and Burial in the Roman World; Johns Hopkins University Press; 1996
* Shelton, JoAnn; As The Romans Did; Oxford University Press; 1998
* Adkins, Lesley and Roy A.; Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome; Oxford University Press, 1998
* Hope, Valerie M. and Huskins, Janet, eds.; Memory and Mourning: Studies in Roman Death; Oxbow Books; 2011
* Hope, Valerie M. and Marshall, Eireann, eds.; Death and Disease in the Ancient City, esp. Chapter 11 Death- Pollution and Funerals in the City of Rome; Hugh Lindsay; Routledge; 2011
* Pearce, John; Death as a Process: The Archaeology of the Roman Funeral; Oxbow Books; 2017