

## ROMAN EULOGIES

A Eulogy was a speech given at a person's funeral that praised them. It could talk about their achievements, their character and what they meant to their family. It was also a chance to show off to onlookers about how important your family was.

### Writing a Eulogy

Pick a Roman from the factsheets who interests you. Imagine you are a member of their family and write a fitting eulogy. You will need to describe:

- What your relationship is to the deceased
- What their family is like
- What they achieved in life
- What aspects of their personality you will praise
- How you feel about their death

Romans loved dramatic language. Try to make your speech as moving as possible.

#### Roman praise:

Here are some common praise words from Roman tomb stones:

**Pius/a** – 'dutiful'. A sense of duty was important for the Romans. It applied to public duty, religious dedication, courage in military service and loyalty to family. A good all-rounder.

**Carissimus/a**– 'dearest'. Just like the English word 'dear', the Latin word carus describes something of great value, whether financial or emotional (the -issimus ending means 'most' or 'very').

**Dulcissimus/a**– 'sweetest'. The Romans used the word dulcis in the exactly the same way we use 'sweet', both to mean 'sugary' and to describe a person.

**Bene merens** – 'well-deserving' or 'who well deserved it'. Be careful what you say they deserved!



## DECEASED ROMANS: THE SOLDIER



**Name:** Publius Besius Betuinianus

**Profession:** Soldier and politician

**Known family and friends:** His inscription was set up by army colleagues. We don't know if he had any family.

**Achievements:** He was governor of Mauretania Tingitana (modern Morocco)

He received military decorations for valour from the emperor Trajan himself. These were the "mural crown", "palisade crown", "pure spears", and "silver banner." The mural crown was originally for an individual who was the first to enter an enemy town. The palisade crown was originally for an individual who was the first to assault the rampart of an enemy camp. A pure spear was originally for one-on-one combat with an enemy. The banner was granted only to higher ranking officers. They may also have been general awards for bravery, but they were very generous.

He served as Procurator of the imperial mint: managing the making of coins.

**Other facts:** He was originally from North Africa but travelled all over the empire. Much of his military service was in Dacia (Central Europe around modern Romania).

He was an Equestrian (part of the Roman middle class)

### Inscription text:

To Publius Besius Betuinianus Gaius Marius Memmius Sabinus, son of Publius, of the Quirina voting-tribe, prefect of the 1st Raetian cohort, tribune of the 10th Legion Gemina Pia Fidelis, prefect of the Dardanian squadron, procurator of the mint of Imperator Caesar Nerva Trajan Augustus Germanicus Dacicus, procurator of the province of Baetica, procurator of the 5% inheritance duties, procurator with the powers of a legate of the province of Mauretania Tingitana, presented with awards by Imperator Trajan Augustus in the Dacian war, namely with a crown – mural and palisaded – pure spears and a silver banner. Record-clerks of the army (set this up).

## DECEASED ROMANS: THE BUSINESSWOMAN



**Name:** Domitia Lucilla Minor

**Profession:** Member of the imperial family, owned a successful brick factory.

**Known family and friends:** Mother of emperor Marcus Aurelius, and wife of M. Annius Verus

**Achievements:** She was part of Rome's powerful elite. She inherited her land through her mother. Her husband was also wealthy and powerful. Her sister was wife of the Emperor Antoninus Pius.

She brought up her children (one of whom became Emperor).

Her brick factory provided bricks to some of Rome's most famous monuments including the Colosseum, Pantheon and the Market of Trajan, and exported bricks to France, Spain, North Africa and all over the Mediterranean.

**Other facts:** While important women weren't supposed to make money from business, it was ok for them to make money off of the land they owned. Bricks counted because they were made from clay dug out of her estates. Romans admired women who were good at managing their household and lands.

### Inscription text:

Brick-product from the estate of Lucilla wife of Verus, produced by Ulpus Anicetianus. In the consulship of Commodus and Lateranus.

## DECEASED ROMANS: THE TEENAGER



**Name:** Lucius Marcius Pacatus

**Profession:** Too young. He was about the age when Roman boys were thought to become men – there would have been a ritual shaving of his beard to welcome him as a citizen of Rome.

**Known family and friends:** Son of Rodope. There is another gravestone set up by Rodope for her husband Lucius Marcius Trophimus whose name fits as Pacatus' father.

**Achievements:** Died tragically young so didn't get to achieve much.

**Other facts:** His tombstone is decorated with pictures of Hercules slaying monsters. Maybe these were his favourite stories. In the pictures, Hercules grew up from a baby to a young man. Perhaps his parents wanted to stress how their son was about to become a man and remember his childhood.

The decoration shows that they were fairly well-off. The tomb stone is in the shape of an altar, so that offerings can be made at it.

### Inscription text:

To the departed spirits. Rodope, unhappiest mother did this for Lucius Marcius Pacatus, sweetest son, who lived 15 years, 9 months, 9 days.