Archaeological Sources and Evidence:

POMPEII

- ✓ Villa of Pisanella, located at Boscoreale (2km North of Pompeii) → featured groups of skeletons, one with a butterfly, symbol of the human soul, and a heavy purse which is labelled 'wisdom'
- ✓ Tomb of the Istacidii family, comprised a large funerary chamber or podium surmounted by a circular temple with statues of the most prominent family members (owner of Villa of the Mysteries)
- ✓ Tomb of the famous garum manufacturer, Umbricius Scaurus → a decorative scheme → the games held in the amphitheatre for which he was probably a sponsor
- ✓ Trimalchio's banquet in Petronius's Satyricon, a slave brings in a silver jointed skeleton and after it is thrown about the table, Trimalchio makes a pompous speech about the shortness of life



✓ Because the tombs of Herculaneum haven't been excavated, therefore, there were no archaeological evidence for death and burial.





TOMB OF THE ISTACIDII FAMILY



"THE STREET OF TOMBS,"
OUTSIDE POMPEII

Written Sources and Evidence:

Pompeii	Herculaneum
 ✓ Graffiti was written on tombs. One example include, the graffiti on the tomb of Nuceria Necropolis: "Greetings to Primigenia of Nuceria. I would wish to become a signet ring for no more than an hour, so that I might give you kisses dispatched with your signature." ✓ "Serena hates Isidorus," also was written in graffiti on Nuceria Necropolis's tomb 	✓ Because the tombs of Herculaneum haven't been excavated, therefore, there were no written evidence for death and burial.

Interesting Quotations and Ideas from:

Archaeological Institute of America by UC doctoral student Allison Emmerson. She has worked on site as part of UC's Pompeii Archaeological Research Project:

"In general, when a Roman was confronted with death, he or she was more concerned with memory than with the afterlife. Individuals wanted to be remembered, and the way to do that was a big tomb in a high-traffic area. In other words, these tombs and cemeteries were never meant to be places for quiet contemplation. Tombs were display – very much a part of everyday life, definitely not set apart, clean or quiet. They were part of the 'down and dirty' in life."

"The early excavators at Pompeii just weren't that interested in the trash and what it might tell us about daily life and cultural attitudes."