

## Assignment 1

### Option 1:

1. The two people named in the inscription are Flamma Secutor and Dedicatus. Dedicatus was Flamma Secutor's comrade in arms, "Dedicatus, his comrade in arms, made this for him" (ILS 5113). Flamma Secutor was a gladiator, due to his title, secutor, meaning a gladiator who wielded a sword and shield.
2. The numbers listed in the inscription reference Flamma Secutor's performance as a gladiator, "he fought 34 times, he won 21 times, drew 9 times and was released after defeat 4 times" (ILS 5113). This performance is portrayed as impressive, as it was written on a funeral inscription by his comrade.
3. The two people named on this monument are Apollonius, who was a type of gladiator, or fighter who fought in an arena, based on the text, "After winning eight times at the stadiums..." (Mann n. 163), and Alexandria, who was Apollonius' wife and the one who created the monument in his memory, "Alexandria, his wife, set this monument up at her own expense..." (Mann n. 163).
4. The start and end of the first paragraph of the inscription reference life and death. At the start of the inscription, it is written that Apollonius' birthplace is Apameia, "My real name was Apollonius, whose hometown was Apameia." (Mann n. 163). At the end of the inscription, the following is written, "I paid my debt here in the ninth fight. Play and laugh, Wanderer, knowing that you too must die." (Mann n. 163). The mentioning of a debt seems to reference karma, or the idea that it is one's fate to pay for their wrongdoings through punishment, which may be death. The second part of that quote tells the reader that they should enjoy their life, or "Play and laugh", because one day they will also die as he did.
5. The expression "but now the thread and spinning of the Fates hold me in the ground in the land of Nicomedia" (Mann n. 163) means that Apollonius was killed in Nicomedia, and that his death was not expected. The phrase "hold me in the ground" references the fact that Apollonius is now buried, and the mention of the thread of fate references to the idea that it was his destiny to die in Nicomedia.

6. These two texts show that the life of a gladiator was straddled between victory and death. In the case of victory, both texts retold the win rates of the gladiators that they represented. Death is also prominent in both texts, this is especially highlighted in the second text where the phrase, “Play and laugh, Wanderer, knowing that you too must die.” (Mann n. 163), seems almost haunting.
7. The second text seems much more personal than the first. This is because it utilizes the first person, and makes it appear as if Apollonius wrote the text after his death. On top of that it adds phrases and warnings, to make it seem as if Apollonius is speaking directly to the reader. In contrast, the first text is much more lifeless, and reads like a short list of facts about Flamma Secutor, instead of anything about his personality or how he lived his life. I believe this gap in emotion is due to the fact that Apollonius’ inscription was made by his wife, someone who would know him well, while Flamma Secutor’s writer was merely one of his comrades in arms.