Latin Text, Dē Bellō Gallicō 4.27.11–17, p. 59

> *Caesar* questus *quod, cum* ultrō *in continentem lēgātī*s *missīs*
> pācem *ab sē petīssent, bellum sine causā* intulissent, ignōscere
> imprūdentiae *dīxit* obsidēs*que* imperāvit; *quōrum illī partem*
> statim *dedērunt, partem ex* longinquiōribus *locīs* arcessītam
> 15   paucīs *diēbus sēsē datūrōs dīxērunt.* Intereā *suōs* remigrāre
> *in agrōs iussērunt,* prīncipēs*que* undique *convenīre et sē*
> *cīvitātēsque suās Caesarī* commendāre *coepērunt.*

Literal Translation Molinarius

Having [first] complained that, although they [the Britons]—representatives to the mainland having been sent [by them]—had requested a peace agreement from him, [and although subsequently] they had waged war without justification, Caesar stated that [he] pardoned [their] unintelligent conduct and he demanded hostages: and of these [hostages; literally, "of whom"] they [the Britons] immediately surrendered a portion, [and] they stated that they would within a few days supply [another] portion [of the hostages] summoned from more distant places. Meanwhile, they ordered their men to move back to [their] lands, and the chiefs began to gather from all around and to entrust themselves and their states to Caesar.

Literal Translation McDevitte

Caesar, complaining, that after they had sued for peace, and had voluntarily sent ambassadors into the continent for that purpose, they had made war without a reason, said that he would pardon their indiscretion, and imposed hostages, a part of whom they gave immediately; the rest they said they would give in a few days, since they were sent for from remote places. In the meantime they ordered their people to return to the country parts, and the chiefs assembled from all quarters, and proceeded to surrender themselves and their states to Caesar.

Discussion Questions

1. Caesar invaded Britain, and was thus the aggressor. Nevertheless, he presents himself as the victim and the Britons as the aggressors on their own island. How does Caesar's argument manage to turn the tables? Why must the Britons accept his logic?