

*The Father walks over to the book shelf and retrieves a copy of Res Gestae Divi Augustus (The Deeds of the Divine Augustus).*

Student 6: High Not Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

**Dad:** It is written in Res Gestae Divi Augusti “The Deeds of the Divine Augustus” that “*In my sixth and seventh consulships [28 and 27 BC], when I had extinguished the flames of civil war, after receiving by universal consent the absolute control of affairs, I transferred the republic from my own control to the will of the senate and the Roman people. For this service on my part I was given the title of Augustus by decree of the senate, and the doorposts of my house were covered with laurels by public act, and a civic crown was fixed above my door, and a golden shield was placed in the Curia Julia whose inscription testified that the senate and the Roman people gave me this in recognition of my valour, my clemency, my justice, and my piety. After that time I took precedence of all in rank, but of power I possessed no more than those who were my colleagues in any magistracy.*”

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**Son:** What Pa there is no way you can use Res Gestae Divi Augusti in this argument that book is extremely biased!

**Dad:** No it is pure proof of what Augustus had achieved in his 40yrs of ruling Rome

**Son:** For crying out loud Pa he wrote this about himself. It’s not like he is going to say his mysterious plans for the whole world to read.

**Dad:** okay boy let’s see what you have got to say then. Go on!

**Son:** Fine I will. Hmm where to start? Well let’s start from the beginning after the murder of Julius Caesar. It is written in the book Res Gestae Divi Augusti “*At the age of nineteen, on my own initiative and at my own expense, I raised an army which I used to liberate the Republic, which was oppressed by the tyranny of a small group of men. Because of this, the senate, with honorific decrees, made me a member of its order, giving me at the same time the title of consul, and the senate granted me the imperium. It ordered me to see to it that the state suffered no harm.*

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*In the same year, when both consuls had fallen in the war, the people elected me consul and a triumvir for the protection of the commonwealth”.* He raised an army without Imperium which is totally illegal.

**Dad:** Augustus did what he need to after the brutal murder of his adopted father Julius Caesar. Julius Caesar who was dictator for life he had lots of responsibilities to insure the protection of the Roman Republic. This was all explained in the will of Julius Caesar read by Marcus Antonius, that Augustus would gain all of his father’s assets. Augustus had responsibilities to Rome and its people...

**Son:** To Rome and its people? That is an outrageous statement you expect me to believe that this was an act of revenge! He declared Julius Caesar’s assassins enemies of the state and forced the senate to declare the deaths of Brutus and Cassius, this made them both flee the city.

**Dad:** Well it serves them right they murder a great man!

**Son:** dad he deserved it! DICTATOR FOR LIFE! That’s too much power for a single man, the people feared that Caesar was going to make himself a king and were afraid of Caesars power and armies. Julius Caesar was king of Rome in all but title.

**Dad:** That’s disgraceful. The power dictator for life was given by the senate and was also offered to Augustus several times, he rejected the offer and said “*no one man should have this much power*”.

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**Son:** Yet he was considered the First Emperor of Rome. This is a bit hypocritical don’t you think?

**Dad:** Maybe, but son he tried to retire but the people refused. There were protests about his withdrawing from politics. This led to a proposal by the senate that Augustus should accept a revised role in the government of Rome.

**Son:** But dad they gave him more power so he would stay. Does that not sound a bit odd? He’s trying to restore the republic by handing power over back to the senate and yet somehow gain even more political power.

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