Do you know the idiom ‘every cloud has a silver lining’?
Do you know what ‘every cloud has a silver lining’ means?

When we say ‘every cloud has a silver lining’ we mean there is a good side to every situation, no matter how negative it may seem.

Clouds can be a sign that rain or storms are coming. Sometimes, when the sun starts to shine through, the edge of the cloud looks slightly silver as it’s brighter than the rest of the cloud.

The silver lining in this idiom symbolises that there is always hope – that there will always be light in the dark and bad times will eventually pass.

Another phrase that means a similar thing is: ‘when one door closes another one opens’. This phrase means that when an opportunity or situation ends, there will always be another one available.
Origins: the story

The phrase ‘silver lining’ was first coined in John Milton’s text, written in 1634, entitled *Comus: A Mask Presented at Ludlow Castle*.

‘Was I deceived, or did a sable cloud
Turn forth her silver lining on the night?
I did not err; there does a sable cloud
Turn forth her silver lining on the night,
And casts a gleam over this tufted grove.’

In this context, sable means dark or gloomy.
Origins: the story

After Milton’s text, other writers began to use imagery of clouds and silver linings.

It was not until 1840 in Victorian England that *The Dublin Magazine Vol. 1* used the phrase in a similar way to how the idiom is used today: ‘As Katty Macane has it, “there’s a silver lining to every cloud that sails about the heavens if we could only see it.”’
Examples

1. Although they’d lost the game in the final half, every cloud has a silver lining: they’d learned so much that they felt confident they’d win next time.

2. Jack realised recently that every cloud has a silver lining because after being made redundant he found a job he enjoyed so much more and that offered a better salary.
Consider

• When have you been in a situation that has felt negative but there’s been a good thing that’s come from it?

• How did you feel during and after the situation?
• Did the situation teach you anything in particular?

• How can we remind ourselves in these times that every cloud has a silver lining?
• To what extent do you think we can control the silver lining of the clouds we face?