

### **Assessing a Text with the Six Traits of Writing**

The quote, “Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows” can be interpreted in many different ways. It could mean to focus on your goals in life, or it could mean to ignore minor setbacks and to concentrate on the big picture. However, in my personal opinion, I believe it means to be optimistic.

Although this interpretation is rather obvious, I believe it has a strong message. Many people say to stay positive, but when the going gets tough it’s incredibly hard to do so. At times of depression and peril, we tend to wallow in our own self-pity, forgetting that a new day will come and that we have to continue living our lives. To be optimistic is to look past all the sadness and to be strong and carry on with our lives. However, this is just one of many different interpretations.

The quote could also depict how, in a bad situation, there is always something good that comes out of it. Whether you made a mistake, or you’re just having a lot of bad luck, if you have a positive attitude, you can almost always see the silver lining on the cloud. In almost any situation, there is something good that comes with it, it just takes an optimistic outlook on life to see it. As my father says, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

In fact, this interpretation reminds me of my own outlook on life. I believe that everything happens for a reason whether it be good or bad. We make millions of decisions everyday, and every single one has an effect on our lives. One bad decision may cause a lot of heartache, but it also enables us to learn and grow from our mistakes. For example, this year I hurt my knee just our last, and most important, soccer game. I couldn’t play the game, which hurt a lot more than my knee, but the experience wasn’t all bad. I learned that sports aren’t everything, and as a “jock” I had a hard time understanding that. In the end though, I learned a valuable lesson.

“Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows” is a strong and inspirational quote. It may mean many different things for many different people, however, for me it means to be optimistic. It means that some good always come from some bad luck, and that you need to find the strength within yourself to see it.