A Memorable Morning at the Airport
Revised selection – original text entitled Scary Moments at the San Jose Airport by Chakkarayarth Lakshmikanthan, Coon Rapids; Reprinted with permission from the Minnesota Literacy Council’s To Open Your Mind, 2006 Edition

Pre-reading

Questions:
- What might this story be about?
- What kinds of experiences you have you had at airports?

Definitions:
- Memorable – not easily forgotten
- Assign – to choose for a task; to give out work
- Frantic – very upset

Reading

I’m employed by a company that does work throughout the country. I was assigned to a new project in St. Paul, Minnesota. As a result, I needed to fly from my home in California to my new work assignment.

It was a very memorable morning. I arrived at the airport two hours before my flight. I got my boarding pass. Then I walked through the security check. Then I waited.

After a half hour or so, I went to the restroom. I took my bag with me. I had all my documents inside my bag. I placed my bag in front of the restroom stall door and went inside. When I opened the stall door, my bag was gone! I was frantic.

Tears were streaming down my cheeks.

I ran all over looking for my bag. An airport officer stopped me and asked if I was OK. He said, “What happened? How can I help you?” I told him about my missing bag.

I was taken to an officer who asked me many questions about my bag. He had it! He gave me my bag, and I ran to the gate where my flight was about to leave. All of the passengers had boarded the plane. I got on just before the door was closed! I will never forget that day, nor will I forget to keep my bag with me at all times!

Level 3.5
Understanding

1. What does the word **board** mean in this story? ____________________________________________

2. How early did the author arrive at the airport? __________________________________________

3. What lesson did the author learn? ______________________________________________________

4. The author was traveling from __________________ to ______________________.____

5. How did the author’s bag go missing? __________________________________________________

6. Do you think the author’s travel was for business or pleasure? Why? ____________________

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Have you or someone you know had an experience similar to the author’s? If yes, write about it.

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