

A Memorable Morning at the Airport

Revised selection – original text entitled *Scary Moments at the San Jose Airport* by Chakkarayarthi 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

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

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

89 After a half hour or so, I went to the restroom. I took my bag with me. I had
106 all my documents inside my bag. I placed my bag in front of the restroom stall door
122 and went inside. When I opened the stall door, my bag was gone! I was frantic.
128 Tears were streaming down my cheeks.

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

179 I was taken to an officer who asked me many questions about my bag. He had
199 it! He gave me my bag, and I ran to the gate where my flight was about to leave. All
216 of the passengers had **boarded** the plane. I got on just before the door was closed! I
234 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.
