**Write an original short story on the following topic: ‘On board a hijacked plane.’**

**ON BOARD A HIJACKED PLANE**

**(SACHI DHUPED 9th JK)**

Being on a hijacked plane is one of the worst nightmares one could ever have. It is a scenario where the passengers are captured, blackmailed and harmed by a set of immoral and selfish ‘animals’ or rather aimless people who are fighting for some gratuitous right or demand. This nightmare became a reality for me when I boarded the Etihad Airlines to Dubai.

It was the summer of 2016 when I was travelling to Dubai as an unaccompanied minor, to meet my aunt. It was a busy day at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport from where I boarded the plane at around 11am in the morning. I was quite excited as I was travelling alone for the first time. But at the same time a sudden fear of agitation kept coming to me, the moment I took my seat. I gave an eye to the other passengers sitting around me. I could see a few peculiar faces. They were men with long beards and black pathani suits. I felt a strange blow of discomfort but I shook that thought off and relaxed.

A bad turbulence followed a smooth take-off and suddenly the lights flickered. I took no notice of it and dozed off. All of a sudden I heard a loud scream. I opened my eyes and two of those curious men pointing their guns at the air hostesses and another two at the passengers. Everyone was scared and a few of the m started sobbing. Then another man who seemed to be the leader walked out of the cockpit and threatened us to close the window shades and stay quiet. The whole scene reminded me of the movie ‘Neerja’, and I chose to be as brave as her. I could hear children sobbing and women chanting for our safety and men pleading to let us go free. An hour passed by but nothing was under control with a few turbulences in the middle.

I was very thirsty and I asked the neighbours if we could ask for some water. This polite request was answered with ferocious voices but the air hostess made it up to us and served me some water. Suddenly I felt a free fall like we getting ready to land somewhere. I could hear the wheels coming out and after that I felt a bump; we landed! Throughout this time we never knew what the hijackers wanted. There was only a tense silence that permeated the entire cabin, as the passengers stared stonily at the vicious looking hijackers.

To know what was going on I slightly opened the window shade without anyone’s notice. I could see some army trucks surrounding the plane and loads of armed men scurrying about on the runway. They were planning a rescue operation and I knew I was going to be saved soon. Just then I heard the hijackers from the other cabin threatening everyone that they would blow the plane up if anyone opens the window shades. I was flustered and I quickly closed the shades. Another hour passed by without any visible sign of progress, in the situation.

I saw the time on my watch. Nightfall descended, but the hijackers remained like some demoned sentinels, without any trace of emotions. All of a sudden the lights went off and I could hear bullets being fired. Thousands of thoughts were running through my mind – Was somebody killed? Did someone shoot the hijackers? What was happening? Are we going to be safe?

When the lights were switched on again, we realized, that the army men had successfully carried out the rescue operation, and the hijackers were under their control. On getting off the plane I realized that we were at the Kuwait airport, surrounded by journalists who were interviewing a few passengers. I was helped by the crew to make a call to my mother and my aunt to inform them that I would be continuing my journey anmd would be reaching Dubai soon.

It was a horrifying experience but I appreciate myself for staying brave. I reached Dubai and spent a happy little vacation with my aunt. After I came back, I narrated this story to my friends, who reverted with hooting and claps. This indeed would be one of the worst nightmares come true!