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Stepping Stone 3: Reflection

Here is the GitHub link for this Stepping Stone:

<https://github.com/JoshuaTPierce/IT511_RecipeManager/blob/master/src/SteppingStone/SteppingStone3_Branches.java>

I enjoyed this stepping stone. I am excited to move beyond print statements and data types to actually exploring control structures. The Zybooks module did a great job of preparing me for this Stepping Stone. However, one thing I did not anticipate – and one thing that Zybooks *doesn’t* do well – is understanding bracketing. For the Zybooks activities, most of the program is blocked off and we fill in a small part. When several nested conditionals are used, there are a lot of brackets, and it took me some time toying around with them in NetBeans to close all of the conditionals correctly, closing the main function, and closing the class (all while making the program look nice/follow Java conventions. In particular, at the end of the program I was confused by dual error messages:

- Found end of program while parsing

- Unnecessary return

And one major thing I learned is that If-Else statements can substitute for the return statements to end the function (when the conditions are met, e.g., the “short-circuiting” concept).

My strategy was to plan out all of the conditions/if-else statements I needed and then to worry about formatting. I’m not sure if this is the best way to handle it, especially since I wrote the program in a text editor (Atom) and copied it to Netbeans.

Lastly, I am mostly done with the “For the final project” portion, but I won’t be attaching it to this Stepping Stone (not that it’s required or anything…). I still need to go back and change some of the data types and fix some of the statements and make it look nice. Since there are so many conditionals, I am thinking about using the conditional short-hand notation, but we will see how it goes.