```
1   //////// Lecture 72: Unique Pointer
2
3   // // We will use the smart pointer: Unique Pointer.
4   // This pointer is used when this pointer is used
      when the underlying pointer does not have to be
      shared with other parts of the code,
5   //  nd it seems like we are not sharing out pointer
      with different parts of the code, so that's why
      we'll use the unique pointer here.
6
7   class Integer {
8   ...
9   };
10
11
12  // SOURCE.CPP
13  // first we have to include the memory header file.
14  #include <memory>
15
16  Integer* GetPointer(){
17      Integer* ptr = new Integer {};
18      return p;
19  }
20  void Display(Integer *p)
21  {
22      if (!p){return;}
23      std::cout << p->Getvalue() << std::endl;
24  }
25  void Operate(int value)
26  {
27      // Unique pointer is in the standard namespace
28      // and it is also a class template.
29      std::unique_ptr<Integer*> p(GetPointer(value)); /
          / unique pointer has an explicit constructor,
          that is why we cannot use this assignment to
          initialise. Instead, we will use direct
          initialisation - like that ^
30      // That's it.
31      // Because GetPointer() may return a null pointer
          sometimes, although we have not written that
          implementation here, let's assume it can also
          return nullptr. in that case the underlying
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        pointer inside the unique pointer will be null as well.
    // And before we use the underlying pointer, we have to compare it with null.
    // And, we had already written this code and this code will still work with the unique pointer, because the comparison operator == is overloaded for nullptr as the second parameter
    if (p == nullptr) {
        //p = new Integer{};
        p.reset(new Integer(value)); // reset will do 2 things - if the smart pointer object holds an existing pointer, that will be deleted first, and then it will take ownership of the new pointer.
    }
    p->SetValue(100); // Then you can see there is no change required here.


    // We are able to use this smart pointer just like a pointer, except it is NOT just a pointer, it is actually an object.
    // At the end of the scope, it will be automatically destroyed.
     // now we need to pass the smart pointer into the display function, but Display() accepts an integer pointer.
    // There are in some cases  where you will want to access the underlying pointer inside the unique_pointer, and in this case, you may use a function (method) called get().
    // get () will return the underlying pointer.
    Display(p.get());


    // delete p; // we are NOT ALLOWED TO CALL DELETE on this pointer, cuz remember its not a pointer, its an object that behaves like a pointer.
    // so remove this call to delete.
    p = nullptr; // this statement is VALID! Unique
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    pointer has provided an overload of assignment
    operator that accepts nullptr as a parameter,
    that implementation of the assignment operator
    simply deletes the underlying pointer and makes
    the pointer variable null.
52      //So this statement is just like calling delete
    on the raw pointer, and makes the pointer
    variable null.
53
54      // Okay so now we need to assign a new pointer to
    the smart pointer, but remember you can't
    initialise the smart pointer using the
    assignment operator, but you can use the
    reset() method.
55      p.reset(new Integer{});
56      // reset will automatically delete the underlying
    Pointer, and take ownership of the new pointer.
57
58      *p = __LINE__; // C-macro that expands into a
    line number.
59      // There is no need of this statement now.
60      // The dereferencing operator is overloaded by
    the unique pointer, and it returns the value at
    the address of the underlying pointer.
61      // So in this case, the current line number is
    assigned to the integer object.
62
63
64      // In the next line we will have to make a small
    change, where we use the .get() method.
65      Display(p.get());
66      // delete p; - we don't have to invoke delete.
67      // Notice - that we don't have to deal with
    memory management at all!
68  }
69  // note that when you run this, the number of
    constructors and the number of destructors STILL
    MATCHES, though we don't have to use delete anymore.
70
71
72  // Add a new user defined function:
73  void Store(std::unique_ptr<Integer> p)
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74  {
75      std::cout << "Storing data into file: " << p-
        >getValue() << std::endl;
76  }
77  void Operate(int value)
78  {
79      std::unique_ptr<Integer> p(GetPointer(value));
80      ...
81      ...
82      Display(p.get());
83      Store(p); // THIS DOESN'T WORK!
84      // Error: Attempting to reference a deleted
        function. The copy constructor
85      // of the unique_ptr is deleted.
86      // Therefore, you cannot create a copy of the
        unique_ptr object.
87  }
88
89  // So how do we pass the unique pointer into this
      function? notice that we don't use this smart
      pointer after the Store() function anyway,
90  // it's at the end of the scope, this p is going to
      be destroyed.
91
92  // So we don't need it after the Store() function, so
      we can use the library function Move().
93  void Store(std::unique_ptr<Integer> p){}
94
95  void Operate(int value)
96  {
97      ...
98      Store (std::move(p)); // this works, and the
        underlying pointer is shifted to the function
        argument.
99      // The function argument ptr will be destroyed
        when the function finishes executes,
100     // and our pointer p gives up ownership of the
        underlying pointer.
101     // After this statement, you should not try to
        access the pointer within the smart pointer.
102     // Remember all pointers can be reassigned, and
        we can store a new pointer inside it by simply
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        calling Reset().
    p.reset(new Integer{}); // remember?
}

// There is 1 more alternative - which is to pass the unique pointer by
// REFERENCE.
void Store(std::unique_ptr<Integer>& p){}
void Operate(int value)
{
    ...
    Store(p); // passed by reference and not value.
    // We no longer need to use std::move()
    // The advantage of that is that you can still use this pointer
    // after the store function
    Display(p); // this will work too! - if we move the smartptr this will not work.
}

```