I feel my biggest takeaway from this lab is getting more comfortable with recursion. Although I still find it confusing and needed some help with my longestWord method (shoutout to Josh for some great TA-ing), I feel I have a better handle on writing methods recursively. Previously, I understood how recursion worked, but I didn’t feel very comfortable writing my own recursive methods/functions. Additionally, this lab was a great visual representation of how Linked Lists work behind the scenes.

The advantage of using Linked Lists is that it makes recursion easy, and you can write these nice, short methods that do so much work for you and let you quickly summarize the data. Another advantage is that you can easily implement the Linked Lists as a generic or an interface, so you can more easily replicate your work elsewhere, in slightly different ways.

I think you could have implemented it without a Linked List, but it would have been more time consuming and confusing. I’m not as familiar with Java, but you could probably just create one long string, iterate through the list using a for loop with indices, and find a function to parse each word into different objects.