

Programming Assignment 9-2

Create a class `SymbolBalancer` that has a constructor

```
SymbolBalancer(String filename)
```

which accepts the name of a file to examine, and that also has a method

```
boolean symbolsBalanced(String delimiters)
```

The `delimiters` argument is a list of all pairs of delimiters that will be used by your `symbol balanced` method. For example, here is a possible value of the `delimiters` parameter:

```
"[] () {}"
```

The `String` that is passed into this argument must be parsed. You can do this in a loop with repeated calls to `charAt`.

Also, you should provide an instance variable `text` that will store the text to be parsed (which you will extract from the input file).

Your method `symbolsBalanced` should return `true` if the open/closed pairs of delimiters specified in the `delimiters` argument, as they occur in the text that is being examined, are balanced; `false`, otherwise. To accomplish this, use the following procedure, as described in the slides:

Procedure for Checking Delimiter Balance

- Begin with an empty Stack
- Scan the text (will ignore all non-bracketing symbols)
- When an open symbol (like '(' or '[') is read, push it
- When a closed symbol (like ')' or ']') is read, pop the Stack –
 - i. if the stack is empty (so it can't be popped) return false.
 - ii. if the popped symbol doesn't match the symbol just read, return false.
- After scanning is complete, if the Stack is not empty, return false.

We will explain more formally how to read a file in a later lesson. For now, we mention that a utility method in the `Files` class that can be used for this purpose. The following sample code shows how this can be done (and the implementation is given in the startup code):

```

void readFile() {
    String prefix = System.getProperty("user.dir") + "\\src\\";
    try {
        List<String> lines =
            Files.readAllLines(Paths.get(prefix, filename));
        StringBuilder textsb = new StringBuilder();
        for(String line : lines) {
            textsb.append(line + "\n");
        }
        text = textsb.toString();
    } catch(IOException e) {
        System.out.println("File not found: " + e.getMessage());
    }
    System.out.println(text);
}

```

Place the Employee.java class in the same package as SymbolBalancer.java. (See the readme.pdf file to see how to locate Employee.java as a file from within your code.)

Test your symbol-balanced-checking code in a main method by reading in the Employee.java class (provided in a folder in this directory) using readFile(). In your call to symbolsBalanced(), pass in the following String of delimiter pairs: "[] { } < > () | | ". Your main method should simply output either "true" or "false" to the console, indicating the result of the symbol-balanced test.

NOTE: Most of the set-up code described above has already been written for you in the start-up code for this exercise.