Java: Reflection

"Concept && Coding" YT Video Notes

1. What is Reflection?

This is used to examine the Classes, Methods, Fields, Interfaces at runtime and also possible to change the behavior of the Class too.

For example:

- What all methods present in the class.
- What all fields present in the class.
- What is the return type of the method.
- What is the Modifier of the Class
- What all interfaces class has implemented
- Change the value of the public and private fields of the Class etc........

2. How to do Reflection of Classes?

To reflect the class, we first need to get an Object of **Class**

(So, lets first understand, Class then we will come back to how to reflect the class.)

What is this class Class?

- Instance of the class Class represents classes during runtime.
- JVM creates one Class object for each and every class which is loaded during run time.
- This Class object, has meta data information about the particular class like its method, fields, constructor etc.

How to get the particular class Class object?

There are 3 ways:

1. Using forName() method

```java
//assume that we have one class called Bird
class Bird { }

//get the object of Class for getting the metadata information of Bird class.
Class birdClass = Class.forName( className: "Bird");
```

2. Using .class

```java
//assume that we have one class called Bird
class Bird { }

//get the object of Class for getting the metadata information of Bird class.
Class birdClass = Bird.class;
```

3. Using getClass() method

```java
//assume that we have one class called Bird
class Bird { }

Bird birdObj = new Bird();

//get the object of Class for getting the metadata information of Bird class.
Class birdClass = birdObj.getClass();
```

Now lets get back to, how to do **Reflection of Classes:**

```java
public class Eagle {

    public String breed;
    private boolean canSwim;

    public void fly( ){
        System.out.println("fly");
    }

    public void eat( ){
        System.out.println("eat");
    }
}
```

```java
public class Main {

    public static void main(String args[]) {

        Class eagleClass = Eagle.class;

        System.out.println(eagleClass.getName());
        System.out.println(Modifier.toString(eagleClass.getModifiers()));
    }
}
```

OUTPUT:

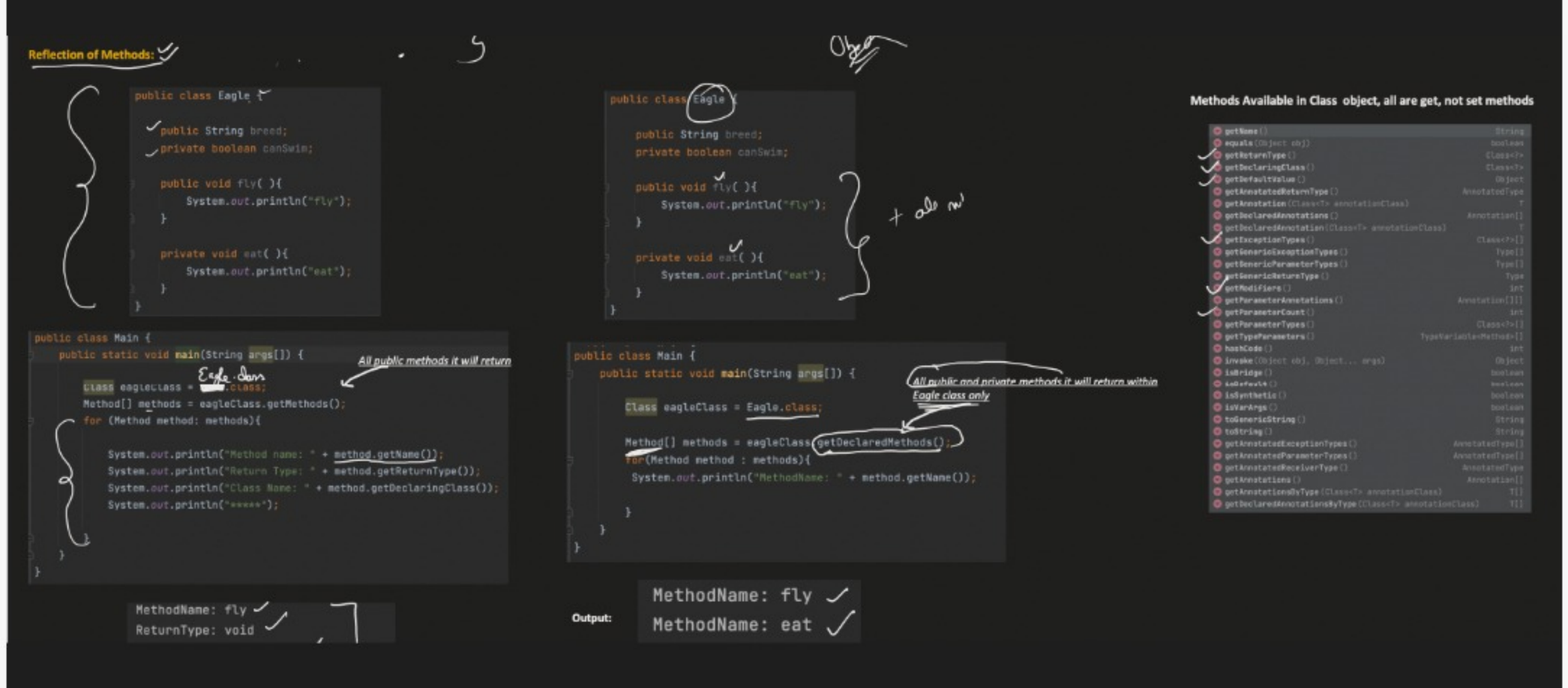
```
Eagle
public

Process finished with exit code 0
```

Methods Available in Class object, all are get, not set methods

getClassLoader()	ClassLoader
asSubclass(Class clazz)	Class
cast(Object obj)	Object
getClass()	Class<? extends Class>
getName()	String
desiredAssertionStatus()	boolean
getAnnotatedInterfaces()	AnnotatedType[]
getAnnotatedSuperclass()	AnnotatedType
getAnnotation(Class annotationClass)	Annotation
getAnnotations()	Annotation[]
getCanonicalName()	String
getClasses()	Class<?>[]
getComponentType()	Class<?>
getConstructor(Class<?>... parameterTypes)	Constructor
getConstructors()	Constructor<?>[]
getDeclaredAnnotations()	Annotation[]
getDeclaredAnnotation(Class<T> annotationClass)	T
getDeclaredClasses()	Class<?>[]
getDeclaredConstructor(Class<?>... parameterTypes)	Constructor
getDeclaredConstructors()	Constructor<?>[]
getDeclaredField(String name)	Field
getDeclaredFields()	Field[]
getDeclaredMethod(String name, Class<?>... parameterTypes)	Method
getDeclaredMethods()	Method[]
getDeclaringClass()	Class<?>
getEnclosingClass()	Class<?>
getEnclosingConstructor()	Constructor<?>
getEnclosingMethod()	Method
getEnumConstants()	Object[]
getField(String name)	Field
getFields()	Field[]
getGenericInterfaces()	Type[]
getGenericSuperclass()	Type
getInterfaces()	Class<?>[]
getMethod(String name, Class<?>... parameterTypes)	Method
getMethods()	Method[]
getModifiers()	int
getPackage()	Package
getProtectionDomain()	ProtectionDomain
getResource(String name)	URL
getResourceAsStream(String name)	InputStream
getSigners()	Object[]
getSimpleName()	String
getSuperclass()	Class

**The package "java.lang.reflect" provides classes that can be used to access and manipulate the value like fields, methods, constructor etc.
And these classes are generally returned by above listed get Methods only.**

Reflection of Methods:



Invoking Method using Reflection:

```java
public class Eagle {

    Eagle() {
    }

    public void fly(int intParam, boolean boolParam, String strParm) {
        System.out.println("fly intParam: " + intParam + " boolParam: " + boolParam  +" strParm: " + strParm);
    }
}
```

```java
public class Main {
    public static void main(String args[]) throws InstantiationException, IllegalAccessException, ClassNotFoundException

        Class eagleClass = Class.forName( className: "Eagle");
        Object eagleObject = eagleClass.newInstance();

        Method flyMethod = eagleClass.getMethod( name: "fly",  ...parameterTypes: int.class, boolean.class, String.class);
        flyMethod.invoke(eagleObject,  ...args: 1, true, "hello");
    }
}
```

Output:

```
fly intParam: 1 boolParam: true strParm: hello

Process finished with exit code 0
```

Reflection of Fields:

```java
public class Eagle {

    public String breed;
    private boolean canSwim;

    public void fly( ){
        System.out.println("fly");
    }

    private void eat( ){
        System.out.println("eat");
    }
}
```

```java
public static void main(String args[]) {
    Class eagleClass = Eagle.class;

    //Get [redacted] public [redacted] fields with this
    Field[] fields = eagleClass.getFields();
    for (Field field : fields) {
        System.out.println("FieldName: " + field.getName());
        System.out.println("Type: " + field.getType());
        System.out.println("Modifier: " + Modifier.toString(field.getModifiers()));
        System.out.println("********");
    }
}
```

Output:

```
FieldName: breed
Type: class java.lang.String
Modifier: public
********

Process finished with exit code 0
```

```java
public static void main(String args[]) {
    Class eagleClass = Eagle.class;

    //Get both public and private fields with this
    Field[] fields = eagleClass.getDeclaredFields();
    for (Field field : fields) {
        System.out.println("FieldName: " + field.getName());
        System.out.println("Type: " + field.getType());
        System.out.println("Modifier: " + Modifier.toString(field.getModifiers()));
        System.out.println("********");
    }
}
```

Output:

```
FieldName: breed
Type: class java.lang.String
Modifier: public
********
FieldName: canSwim
Type: boolean
Modifier: private
********

Process finished with exit code 0
```

Get method supported

get(Object obj)	Object
getName()	String
getModifiers()	int
getType()	Class<?>
getAnnotation(Class<T> annotationClass)	T
getAnnotatedType()	AnnotatedType
getAnnotationsByType(Class<T> annotationClass)	T[]
getAnnotations()	Annotation[]
getBoolean(Object obj)	boolean
getByte(Object obj)	byte
getChar(Object obj)	char
getDeclaredAnnotations()	Annotation[]
getDeclaredAnnotation(Class<T> annotationClass)	T
getDeclaringClass()	Class<?>
getDouble(Object obj)	double
getFloat(Object obj)	float
getGenericType()	Type
getInt(Object obj)	int
getLong(Object obj)	long
getShort(Object obj)	short
getDeclaredAnnotationsByType(Class<T> annotationClass)	T[]
getClass()	Class<? extends Field>

Setting the value of private field:

```java
public class Main {
    public static void main(String args[]) throws NoSuchFieldException, IllegalAccessException {

        Class eagleClass = Eagle.class;

        Eagle eagleObj = new Eagle();
        //Get both public and private fields with this
        Field field = eagleClass.getDeclaredField( name: "canSwim");
        field.setAccessible(true);
        field.set(eagleObj, true);
        if(field.getBoolean(eagleObj)){
            System.out.println("value is set to true");
        }
    }
}
```

Output:

```
value is set to true

Process finished with exit code 0
```

Reflection of Constructor:

```java
public class Eagle {

    private Eagle() {

        //private constructor
    }

    public void fly() {
        System.out.println("fly"); }
}
```

```java
public class Main {
    public static void main(String args[]) throws InvocationTargetException, InstantiationException, IllegalAccessException {

        Class eagleClass = Eagle.class;

        //to access private constructor too.
        Constructor[] eagleConstructorList = eagleClass.getDeclaredConstructors();
        for(Constructor eagleConstructor :  eagleConstructorList){
            System.out.println("Modifier: " + Modifier.toString(eagleConstructor.getModifiers()));

            eagleConstructor.setAccessible(true);
            Eagle eagleObject = (Eagle) eagleConstructor.newInstance();
            eagleObject.fly();
        }
    }
}
```

getAnnotation(Class<T> annotationClass)	T
getName()	String
getDeclaringClass()	Class
getModifiers()	int
getAnnotatedReceiverType()	AnnotatedType
getAnnotatedReturnType()	AnnotatedType
getDeclaredAnnotations()	Annotation[]
getDeclaredAnnotation(Class<T> annotationClass)	T
getExceptionTypes()	Class<?>[]
getGenericExceptionTypes()	Type[]
getGenericParameterTypes()	Type[]
getParameterAnnotations()	Annotation[][]
getParameterCount()	int
getParameterTypes()	Class<?>[]
getTypeParameters()	TypeVariable<Constructor>[]
getAnnotatedExceptionTypes()	AnnotatedType[]
getAnnotatedParameterTypes()	AnnotatedType[]
getAnnotations()	Annotation[]
getAnnotationsByType(Class<T> annotationClass)	T[]
getDeclaredAnnotationsByType(Class<T> annotationClass)	T[]
getParameters()	Parameter[]
getClass()	Class<? extends Constructor>
toGenericString()	String