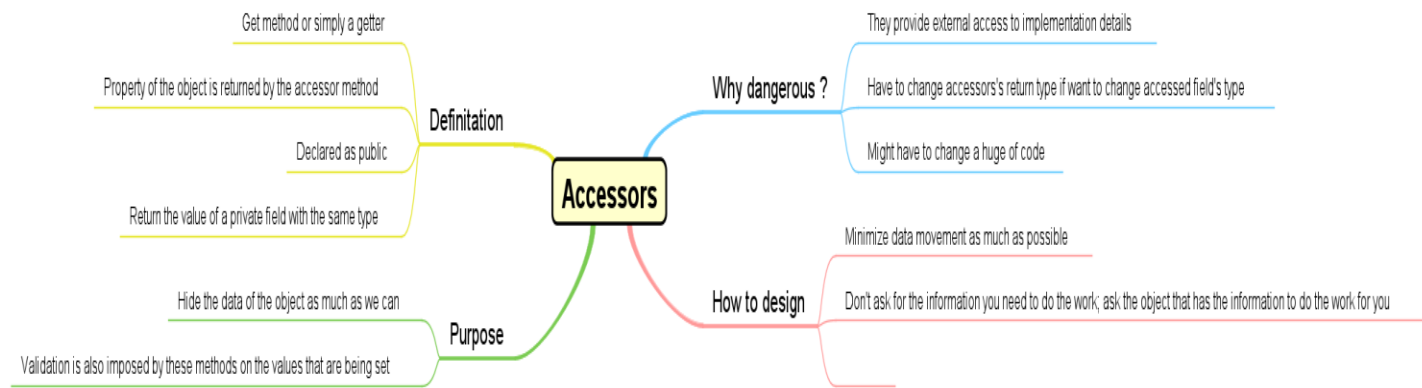


When should accessor methods be used?

Our main purpose is to hide the data of the object as much as we can, so these methods should be used to prevent illegal access to these objects either willful or not. Validation is also imposed by these methods on the values that are being set. It's okay for a method to return an object in terms of an interface that the object implements because that interface isolates you from changes to the implementing class. You still protect the external code that uses the object through its interface.



discover the relationships between the classes, and these relationships exactly correspond to the message flow (last row of "How to design").