

## 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 `Scanner` can be used for this purpose. The following sample code shows how this can be done:

```
void readFile() {  
    final String ODD_DELIMITER = ""+(char)0;  
    try {  
        Scanner sc = new Scanner(new File(filename));  
        sc.useDelimiter(ODD_DELIMITER);  
    }
```

```

        //gets the next "token", which happens to be
        //all of the text in the file (because of the odd delimiter)
        text = sc.next();
        System.out.println(text);
        sc.close();
    }
    catch(FileNotFoundException ex) {
        System.err.println("File Not Found Exception
                           "+ex.getMessage());
    }
}

```

Create a `readFile()` method like the sample above. (Your constructor should call this method immediately after setting the input file name.) 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()`. (See the `readme` file for instructions about where to place the input file in your directory.) 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.