10.3: The Class Class

The heart of the Reflection API is the class java.lang.Class. For every class and every interface defined in a Java Virtual Machine (JVM), there is a single instance of class Class that represents that class or interface. You can ask any object to return to you the Class object that represents its type. Once you have the Class object, you can find out everything there is to know about the original object. For example, here we print the object's class name:

```
Object o = "A String";

... (pass o to a function which doesn't know it's a String)

Class c = o.getClass();
System.out.println(c.getName());
```

(prints)

```
java.lang.String
```

The Class methods getSuperclass( ) and getInterfaces( ) return a Class object and an array of Class objects, respectively, representing the superclass of a class and the interfaces it implements.