

# A Bit of Reflection

CSC207H Summer 2009

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# What Am I?

If in RAM or on disk I am but ones and ohs,  
If read by humans, some strange kind of prose,  
Steps with which machines blindly comply,  
What then, I ask, what then am I?

# Reflection

- Reflection allows a program to inspect itself.
- It is useful for
  - debuggers,
  - test frameworks,
  - plug-in frameworks, and more.

# Drawbacks

- Performance
- Security
- Modularity and information hiding circumvented
- Loss of compile-time checks

# The Class Class

- Instances of the class named `Class` store information about classes:
  - Class name,
  - Superclass,
  - Interfaces implemented,
  - Methods, members, etc.
- Classes can be looked up
  - By name or
  - From an object