

Subject: Re: [ap-compsci] String literals and == - a similar situation

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Conversation: [ap-compsci] String literals and == - a similar situation

My students were doing an assignment from the Litvin book and storing integers in an ArrayList. They were then searching the ArrayList, removing duplicates, etc. When they used the autoboxing feature by adding ints (e.g. `AL.add(5)` or `AL.add((int)(Math.Random()*10))`) the `==` operator worked to find all of the 5s in the list. Somehow all the 5s were created from one reference. When they added `AL.add(new Integer(5))` the `==` did NOT find that 5, presumably because it was a different object reference than 5. Of course `.equals()` worked in both cases.

When I asked my resident Java programmer from industry he was surprised by this fact... but he programmed before Java 5 and boxing/autoboxing was around.

I assume that this is the same, or at least similar, thing as the `"ABC" == "A" + "BC"`.

Any thoughts?

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