Why do I get the error message "java.lang.NullPointerException" ?

This error is returned when the JVM tries to use an object that is not available. In COBOL programs it usually refers to a data item. A typical case in which this error appears is when a called program tries to use a linkage item that was not passed by the caller.

Online URL: https://support.veryant.com/phpkb/article.php?id=209