

The Dancing Bear English Autumn 2

Important information

Plot

'The Dancing Bear' is a short story about an elderly teacher, who watches a young girl adopt a bear cub into her family and build a beautiful friendship with it as they grow up together. Roxanne, the young girl, fights to keep her bear living in their country town as he grows larger.

As she ages into a woman, Roxanne visits her bear less and less, he becomes desolate and less responsive in her absence.

A film crew then arrives, wishing to use the town and the bear in their music video. The quiet, country town is suddenly turned into a set, the people into extras and Roxanne has to decide whether she will leave to pursue her talents or stay with her friends and family.

Themes

- Loyalty, friendship and change

Who are the main characters?

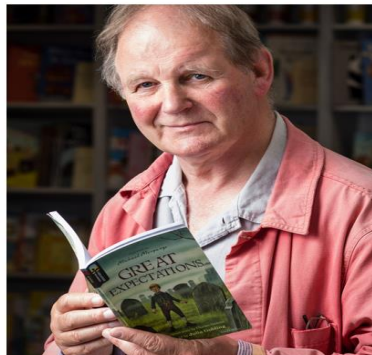
Roxanne
Grandfather
Bruno
Tiny Niki

Writing genres covered

Short fiction/novella

Date published: **1994**

Author: **Michael Morpurgo**



Key vocabulary

Shepherd - A person who tends and rears sheep.

Flock - A group of sheep, goats, and birds.

Nuisance - A person or thing causing inconvenience or annoyance.

Adoringly - To love or admire very much.

Accommodation - A room, group of rooms or building in which someone lay live or stay.

Setting

Set in a quiet mountain village, this story shows the effects brought about by the arrival of a film crew. The focus is on Roxanne, who has raised a bear cub throughout her own childhood, and the consequences of her departure for a life in the wider world.