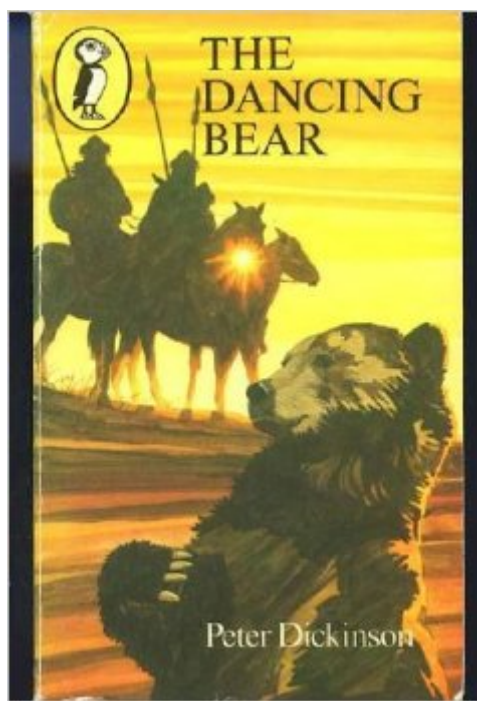


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# The Dancing Bear (Puffin Books)



## Book Information

Series: Puffin Books

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; New Ed edition (1974)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140306781

ISBN-13: 978-0140306781

Product Dimensions: 1 x 1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,268,286 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #400 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent work of fiction highlighting Byzantium (Constantinople) at the time of Emperor Justinian in 558 AD and includes travels in the near-east. The sections on the Holy Man, John, are an intriguing insight into another era. From the flyleaf "This thrilling adventure story is also a brilliant reconstruction of a past world in all its richness and variety." This tale of the Byzantine world is extremely well-crafted, and one of the few available that does not get bogged down in political terminology and revolve primarily around warfare. There are some archaic terms, to be sure, but on the whole there are fewer than other books for this age about this time in history. It is eminently readable. I recommend this book for grades 5-12, with 7-10 being ideal. It is a fine read aloud for grades 3-8.

Used as a family read aloud for the period following the fall of the Roman Empire/beginning Middle Ages. Tells the adventures of Silvester, a 14 year old slave caught in a barbarian raid. His life destroyed, he sets out to make things right. Our family loved the book. It gives enough detail to give you a good idea of the different cultures, but has a strong adventurous plot and admirable characters. Even has some strong Christian truth through the eccentric Saint John, and philosophical themes, such as what makes a slave. Very enjoyable read and satisfying ending.

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