

Zana Fraillon: On Resilience

Primary & Secondary School, Years 6–8

In *The Lost Soul Atlas*, Zana Fraillon's main character, Twig, is all alone after his dad goes missing. He meets a pickpocket called Flea and the pair become friends. Together, Twig and Flea raise themselves on crime-ridden streets, taking what they need and giving the rest to the even-poorer. They must be resilient.

'I try not to think about how far the walk is because Da hates it when I complain, even if it is just a sigh which I can't help, and which technically isn't complaining. I try not to think how each step snags at the cut on my heel from where I sliced it climbing through a broken window... And I try not to think about the kids from the Riverside crew who follow when we pass too close to their camp, calling out things and throwing rocks.' (*The Lost Soul Atlas*, pages 23 & 24)

- **Discussion Point:** What do you think the word 'resilient' means?
- **Research:** Look up two different dictionary meanings of the word 'resilient'.
- **Writing Prompt:** Can you think of a time in your life when you have been resilient? Describe what happened and how you felt.

Key Curriculum Areas

Learning Areas: English, Geography

Capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social, Ethical Understanding

About the Session

Zana Fraillon, multiple award-winning author of *The Bone Sparrow*, shares the inspiration behind her novels. In her latest book *The Lost Soul Atlas*, her protagonist Twig must choose between a blissful future without painful memories and an arduous journey to find his father and piece together his former life.

Fraillon speaks about writing resilient characters as well as treacherous villains, and the pleasures of building vibrant worlds filled with difficult challenges.

About the Author

Zana Fraillon is the author of 11 books for children and young adults, including the multi-award winning novel *The Bone Sparrow* and *The Ones That Disappeared*. She lives in Melbourne and writes full-time. Her latest book is *The Lost Soul Atlas*.

