

# Aggie Flea is Not a Liar!

## (Aggie Flea #1)

AUTHOR

**TANIA INGRAM**

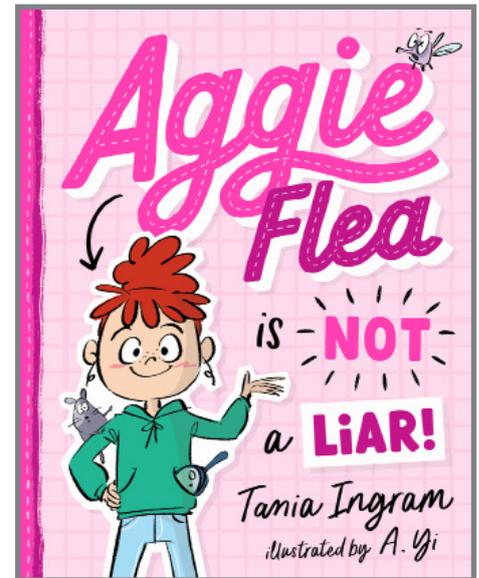
ILLUSTRATOR

**A. YI**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



### SYNOPSIS

Meet Aggie Flea—a girl with a BIG imagination . . . that lands her in even BIGGER trouble!

When a mysterious new neighbour arrives in the middle of the night, Aggie's convinced he's a VAMPIRE!

Can she prove it? Or will everyone think she's a LIAR?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tania Ingram is an internationally published author of children's picture books, novels and poetry. She has a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and prior to becoming an author, worked as a child psychologist. As well as creating books for young readers, Tania also writes stories and poetry for magazines and websites. She's a Premier's Reading Challenge Ambassador and enjoys giving fun, high energy presentations at schools and festivals to share her love of books and words.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

A. Yi is an illustrator and animation artist. She has illustrated various children's books including the bestselling Alice-Miranda series. Her picture book, *My Friend Fred*, was awarded CBCA Book of the Year for Early Childhood. She likes doodling and wishes all books were illustrated. She is an owner of a dog. Butler to a cat.

### STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
  - What do you think the girl on the cover is doing?
  - Who do you think is the main character of this story?
  - What else can you see in the cover art? What does it tell you about this book?
  - Why would someone feel that other people think they are lying?
  - Do you think that Aggie Flea is probably a liar? Why/why not?
- If you had a dead millipede in the corner of your room, what would you do about it? Do you think that Aggie's response is sensible? Why/why not?
- What are some good reasons that someone might own a hearse? In small groups or pairs think up as many interesting and hilarious reasons as you can, to explain someone owning and driving a hearse as their regular car. Try

to have some of the reasons be innocent, and some be nefarious. As a class, share your reasons with each other, and share with each other which ones you think are the most realistic, which ones are the funniest and which ones are the most sinister.

- If your teacher rolls their eyes up, slides off their chair onto the floor, and then just lies there, what should you do? As a class, discuss basic first aid responses, and when it is appropriate to get help or call an ambulance.
- What sort of adventures do you think that Princess Zombie might have if she lived near you? Individually, or in pairs, create a six panel comic strip sharing a Princess Zombie adventure.
- If Aggie Flea lived next door to you, what do you think her observations of you and your household would be? Write down four things that an observant neighbour might learn about you—and write at least one thing that they might get wrong because of insufficient or misleading evidence.
- Listen to some bagpipe music. Do you like it? What does it sound like? Why do you think that Aggie believes only Scottish people would enjoy listening to bagpipe music?
- What do you think the letters from the principal to Aggie’s mother say? What would you write if you were the principal and Aggie was in your school?
- What do you think Aggie’s classmates think about how she behaves in class? Write a letter to a friend or relative, from the point of view of one of Aggie’s classmates, retelling some stories of what has happened. Be sure to include your character’s emotional response as well as what they said and did.
- Aggie loves Princess Zombie books. Do you think you would enjoy reading this type of book? Why/why not?
  - What is your favourite genre of book to read and why?
- Aggie loves looking at the Princess Zombie poster her father gave her. Invent a book character you would love to read stories about, and create a poster advertising their books.
- Aggie has to interview an older person for a newspaper competition. In doing so she learns a lot. Interview an older person who is important to you—it can be a friend, parent, grandparent, neighbour or other relative—and write a brief article about them and their life based on what you learnt in the interview. Before you do your interview, in small groups workshop a list of interview questions to ask your chosen person. Try to include at least three interview questions that you don’t know the answer to.
  - Once you have done your interview, write your article, and before showing anyone else what you have written ask your interview subject to read your work. Ask them to please tell you if you have made any mistakes or misunderstood what they were saying. Once they approve of your work, create your final presentation copy. Think of a cool headline to go with your article, and format your article and headline as if they were going to appear in a newspaper. You can include a photo of your chosen subject if they agree.
- On p 61 Aggie’s mum has served her pineapple and broccoli risotto for dinner. Do you think that it sounds like something you would like to eat? Why/why not? In small groups brainstorm, and think of different dishes or meals you could cook using the same ingredients that Aggie’s mum used.
- Who is the red cross blood service, and why would they be writing to someone? Why is it important to all of us that people donate blood? What would happen if no-one donated blood?
- When Aggie tells Zara that her new neighbour is a vampire, is she lying? As a class, discuss the difference between the following:
  - intentionally telling an untruth
  - being mistaken about what the truth is
  - extrapolating from too little information and coming to an incorrect conclusion.

Consider in your discussion which of these three things is a lie, and which of them are simply being wrong about something. When Aggie knows that her neighbour is definitely not a vampire, but continues to tell people that he is, is she lying then?

- What are some of the reasons why people tell lies?
- Aggie thinks that Prince Phillip was a cartoon character. Who was the actual Prince Phillip and is it realistic that Zara’s grandmother might have met him once?
- In Chapter 11 Aggie comes to the conclusion that Mr Kutter’s lounge room doesn’t look like the sort of room a vampire would have. What do you think a vampire would like to have in their lounge room? Individually or in pairs

draw a labelled illustration of a Vampire Lounge Room.

- What do you think Aggie's article was like? Pretend you are Aggie, and write an article about her neighbour who is a vampire.

AUTHOR OF NOTES  
**RAE CARLYLE**