

**ALVIN HO: ALLERGIC TO GIRLS, SCHOOL,  
AND OTHER SCAREY THINGS by Lenore**

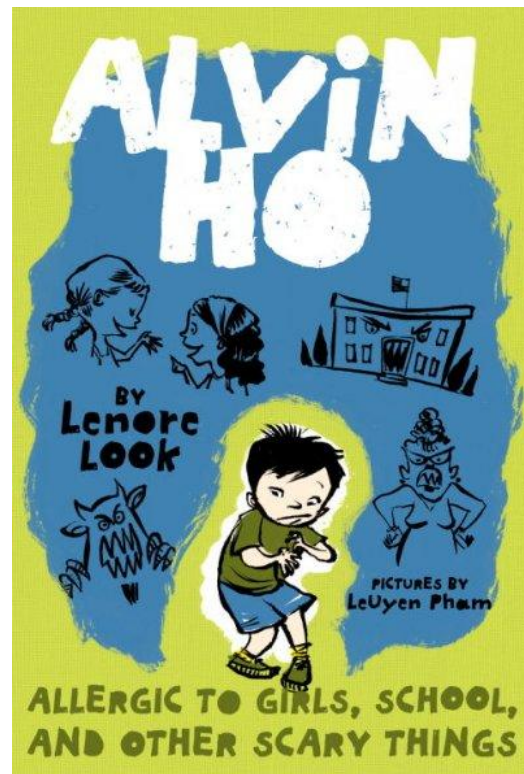
**Look**

(Random, 2008)

*Alvin, who loves super heros, and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.*

**Discussion Questions**

1. Alvin is scared about just about everything, but he is really scared about school. Have you ever heard the expression “scared speechless.” Why can Alvin talk at home and on the bus, but not in school? (Alvin has elected mutism)
2. Why does Alvin love pretending to be a superhero, Firecracker Man?
3. One of the ways Alvin prepares for a new school year is to pack his PDK – Personnel Disaster Kit – what does Alvin put in the kit, do any of these things help him?
4. Flea, his seatmate in school, has a notebook called *The Book of Alvin*. Why did she make it?
5. When Alvin’s father finds his boyhood toy, Johnny Astro, broken beyond repair - why did he play the piano like a “savage beast?” p.95
6. How does Alvin make friends with Pinky? How do you feel about “buying” friendship? What does Alvin learn when he joins Pinky’s gang? Why does Alvin decide he doesn’t want to be friends with Pinky? P.154 “I don’t like doing the things you do...I am not talented in that way.” What does Alvin mean by this?
7. Why does Alvin decide to become friends with Flea? Do you think he is still afraid of girls?
8. Why is Alvin so uncomfortable, or perhaps unhappy in the psychologists office? Why does he start talking in Shakespearian insults? Are they really insults?
9. While they are having ice cream, Alvin’s father tells him that he knows it is frustrating, but that Alvin is making good progress in his therapy. Do you think Alvin is making progress?



10. Alvin's father is a gentleman and he is trying to help Alvin and his brother become gentleman. Rule #1.No hitting, especially girls. After the incident in the therapist's office he adds another rule – No cursing and insulting. Does this help Alvin?

11. Alvin has a real disorder, one he can't help, this could be a very serious book – what mood was set the in book? What did you think about the art in the book?

Caroline Ward, Coordinator, Youth Services,  
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