

Long ago, there was a girl named Tender Flower. She lived in a village next to a big forest. Every day she walked with her dog, Tic, into the forest.

"I know this forest so well," she said.
"I can walk through it with my eyes closed."



2

In the winter, snow fell over Tender Flower's village. Snow covered the forest trails, but Tender Flower still walked in the forest every day.

One morning, Tender Flower heard the sounds of coughs and sneezes coming from inside the village homes.



3

Facts About Medicines

For thousands of years, people have used plants as medicines. Long ago, people learned that some plants helped heal cuts and bruises. Other plants helped people recover from colds and fevers. Today, plants are still used to make many medicines.



Quinine is a medicine that comes from a rain forest plant. It protects people from a sickness called malaria. Before quinine, malaria killed many people around the world.

Many of the plants that people use for medicines today come from Earth's rain forests. Rain forests are home to more than half of all types of plants on Earth. Scientists say that rain forest plants probably hold the key to many more important medicines.

But rain forests around the world are in danger. People are cutting down many rain forests. When this happens, important plants are lost forever. Without these plants, important medicines can not be discovered. This is one important reason to protect Earth's rain forests.



Rain forests are disappearing because people are cutting them down. People cut down rain forests to get the wood from the trees, to clear the land for farms, and to build roads.