**Tales of a Shaman’s Apprentice by Mark Plotkin, Ph.D.**

**Chapter 1: Through the Emerald Door**

1. What experiences led Plotkin into his life's work? (p. 1-5)
2. What's important about the rainforest? (p. 5-6)
3. Why do plants provide such a wealth of chemical compounds for use by humans? (p. 6)
4. What class of chemical compounds is particularly important in medicinal and hallucinogenic drugs? (p. 6)
5. What are some examples of drugs that have the compound? (p. 6-7)
6. What percent of Brazil's plant species have been studied to determine their therapeutic potential? Of the world's?
7. How have we discovered the medicinal value of most plants? (p. 8)
8. How has the National Cancer Institute gone about finding cures for cancer and AIDS? What's Plotkin think of this approach? (p. 8-10)
9. What are *voucher specimens*? What are they useful for? What are they not useful for? (p. 10-11)
10. What is an *isolate*? Give an example. (p. 12)
11. How many tribes have gone extinct in Brazil in the last century? (p. 13)
12. What is the rate of rainforest destruction? (p. 13)
13. Who is the most crucial link between the rainforest and the pharmacy? (p. 14)
14. Why did the drug industry lose interest in plants as a source of medicinal drugs? (p. 14)
15. Given his concern about intellectual property rights, what did Plotkin decide to do? (p. 15-16)
16. What 2 policy recommendations does Plotkin make to assure the survival of the rainforests? (p. 16-17)
17. What would American agriculture be like if we only used native plants? (p. 17)
18. What is the Shaman's Apprentice Program?