Mark Irwin

Human Pageant

If I could make language simpler I would.
Language says that each word equals something else, but that’s not true. If I could make language simpler, I would make an invisible equals sign that extends through each of us toward the horizon so that once again our houses would join the trees. If I could make language simpler, I would abolish consonants so that we spoke only in vowels, then we could hoot and scree, whistle, whinny, and chirp, and I would make C a vowel because it’s a torn O, and I would make Z a vowel because its sound never ends and races off the page. If I could make language simpler I would build a vast plus sign amidst us all, and people would walk for miles to touch its tall axis. They would place their hands there and begin to hum until they could feel the wind of distance, then all things would be equal and the words no longer sting.