

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.