

OUR STRANGE LANGUAGE

Why is “break” not rhymed with “freak”?

Will you tell me why it’s true

We say “sew” but likewise “few”;

And the maker of verse

Cannot cap his “horse” with “worse”;

“Beard” sounds not the same as “heard”;

“Cord” different from “word”;

Cow is “cow” and low is “low”

“Shoe” is never rhymed with “foe”;

Think of “hose” and “dose” and “lose”;

And think of “goose” and not of “choose”;

Think of “comb” “bomb” and “tomb”;

“Doll” and “roll”, “home” and “some”;

And since “pay” rhymes with “say”;

Why not “paid” with “said”?

We have “blood” and “food” and “good”;

“Mould” is not pronounced like “could”;

Wherefore “done” but “gone” and “lone”?

- Is there any reason known?
- For in short it seems to me
- Sounds and letters disagree