Part One

Question 1: Match the Old English words to the meanings or clues given. Note that there are more meanings/clues listed than Old English words, so you will not use up all the meanings/clues given. There are some tricks...

1. bōn ________ a. broad
2. mā:k ________ b. what a dentist works on
3. nu: ________ c. where you might go over winter break
4. fe:td ________ d. you don't want this in your garden
5. hō:līg ________ e. toward
6. ut ________ f. give food
7. wi:xd ________ g. opposite of "yes"
8. to: ________ h. says "moo"
9. hwī: ________ i. create
10. hō:m ________ j. part of a skeleton
11. di:xk ________ k. benefit
12. bla:se ________
13. mo:d ________
14. he: ________
15. cu: ________
16. to:θ ________

Question 2: What sound change is illustrated in all these examples?


Part Two: An Imaginary Story

Time: Sometime in the late Middle English period or early Modern English period (1550, perhaps?)
Place: Somewhere in England

A traveller, dusty from the road, stops at a roadside inn. The following conversation takes place between the traveller and the innkeeper. We give the conversation in modern English orthography.

Traveller: Give me some ale, my good man!
Innkeeper: We don't sell seafood, sir.
Traveller: Huh?

Miscommunication occurred because one of them came from an area where a particular sound change had occurred and the other did not. the traveller and bartender spoke different dialects of English. Think about what was going on in the history of English at the time. Explain what the traveller said (use IPA), and why the innkeeper misunderstood him. Your answer must include a specific indication of whose English did and whose English did not have the sound change.

[Source: James McCawley "Dates in the month of May". (adapted)]