Can You
by Mary Gilliland

Can You

_____ ranks
_____ even

_____a twenty at the office a fiddle at the fire silence at the sea

It’s life: the story -----s
the glass globe as it snows
the surface as it sticks

_____ the news: It’s death
(in the desert) a leg, camp, cover
down, in, off, up (in the garden)

caps of patriots in the land of milk and honey
in the cradle of civilization the cradle
(Behind the door a voice -----ing with emotion)

We’ll take a commercial ----- (ninety seconds of paradise: slim hints of
orange distance
ghost sunset
lapping water:
a four-color flyer in junk mail)

The law of the sword The cycle of plague and revenge Fire----- at the border
(a circuit breaker!)

Risen bread A sunny yolk (tines drag oily yellow membrane)

Records breaking at the post office as the weather breaks
In the chapel, fish breaking water break under questioning daybreak

_____the chain of command
XXXXX into tears

XXXXX the news
XXXXX the news

Break your heart
Break for lunch

Hotel Amerika 8,2 (2010), ed. David Lazar