

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