

**Nominando**

Matt Macomber

Echoes, Gift of the Past  
Light, Illuminator of Secrets  
Noise, Toller of Confusion  
Rot, Revealer of Corruption  
Pain, the Smelting Furnace  
Bitterness, the Taste of Defeat  
Age, the Curse of Time

**Country Midnight**

Christina Crusius

Silent was the whir of the tractor.  
Silent was Mother's voice,  
calling for dinner.  
Silent were the cattle,  
mooing as if suspended from a cliff.

The old barn lay still,  
blanketed by the blackberry darkness.  
Needles of light  
and a shadow of the moon  
shone through the clouds  
forming a halo in the haystack.

**Pretending**

Kira Bonk

digging in my purse for something  
(that doesn't exist)  
wearing headphones  
(that aren't plugged in)  
texting on my cell phone  
(that isn't turned on)  
avoiding conversations  
(that aren't interesting)