

JULIE DILLEMUTH

Aging with Scoliosis

twelve ribs,

floating

bone

poking

nervous

vertebrae,

a hip-joint

inquiring

how to manage

ignorance or

a mystery or

a mistake,

understand

what

quantities of

care we should

take

ABOUT THE POEM

“Aging with Scoliosis” was created from Louisa May Alcott’s *Eight Cousins* (1874-5). About the poem and the process of composing it, Julie Dillemath writes:

This erasure poem, which I titled “Aging with Scoliosis,” is from a section of *Eight Cousins* in which Rose is encouraged by her uncle to study anatomy, in order to be able to manage her own health. The words that emerged for the poem spoke to me about how I understand my own skeleton and its unique challenges.



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