

Rebecca Petruck  
1711 Chestnut St.  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
(910) 815-4988  
rebecca\_petruck@yahoo.com

### **BLUE MOO Synopsis**

The life of eighth-grader Diggy Lawson may not be typical, but he's content. He hangs out with Pop and the county's farmers, raises steers to compete, and daydreams about July Johnston, high school junior and girl of his dreams. Few tease him anymore about how his mom abandoned him on Pop's doorstep and skipped town on a tractor.

Then classmate Wayne Schley gets dumped at Pop's, too. Suddenly, Diggy has a half brother messing things up. Wayne rattles Diggy's easy relationship with Pop, threatens his chances at the state fair, and horns in on his girl. Diggy believes family is everything, but he's pretty sure that Wayne doesn't count.

Unfortunately, Diggy learns it's hard to live with someone and not get to know him, maybe even like him the tiniest bit. Wayne understands what it's like to not have a mom, and he's really good with his steer. But growing respect vanishes when the boys argue about Pop and Wayne gets Diggy stranded halfway to town, on a tractor. Diggy is more determined than ever to win the junior steer competition. So is Wayne.

Neither wins. Their steers must go to slaughter nonetheless. That long, last walk to the packer's truck feels more manageable when they take it together. The boys' steers are gone, but they have each other—they're family.

BLUE MOO is a 43,000-word coming-of-age novel for middle grade readers.