

# LIMBERLOST

## PLOT TRACKER

Track the events of *Limberlost* using the table below. Some cells have been filled in to help you get started. Boxes shaded in blue indicate that that chapter occurs in the novel's present-day timeline, when Ned is 15 years old.

| Chapter | Timeline                                                                | Main events                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Ned as a child (aged five).                                             | Myth of the whale that has gone mad near the mouth of the river.                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2       | A decade later.<br>Ned is 15.                                           | Ned tries to trap and shoot rabbits so he can sell their pelts and fulfil his dream of buying a boat. He goes fishing with his friend Jackbird. We learn that Ned's older brothers, Bill and Toby, are away at war. |
| 3       | A decade later.<br>Ned is 25.                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4       | A week after the fishing trip with Jackbird in Chapter 2.<br>Ned is 15. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 5       | Five years later.<br>Ned is 20.                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6       |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 7       |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 8  |  |  |
| 9  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |
| 11 |  |  |
| 12 |  |  |
| 13 |  |  |
| 14 |  |  |
| 15 |  |  |

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 16 |  |  |
| 17 |  |  |
| 18 |  |  |
| 19 |  |  |
| 20 |  |  |
| 21 |  |  |
| 22 |  |  |
| 23 |  |  |

## Completed version (teacher reference)

| Chapter | Timeline                                                     | Main events                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Ned as a child (aged five).                                  | Myth of the whale that has gone mad near the mouth of the river.                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2       | A decade later.<br>Ned is 15.                                | Ned tries to trap and shoot rabbits so he can sell their pelts and fulfil his dream of buying a boat. He goes fishing with his friend Jackbird. We learn that Ned's older brothers, Bill and Toby, are away at war. |
| 3       | A decade later.<br>Ned is 25.                                | Ned works as part of a logging crew, harvesting 'White Knights' (manna gums).                                                                                                                                       |
| 4       | A week after Ned's fishing trip with Jackbird.<br>Ned is 15. | Ned is increasingly successful hunting rabbits. His sister Maggie returns to Limberlost. She is worried that an animal is targeting the chicken coop. Ned accidentally traps a quoll.                               |
| 5       | Five years later.<br>Ned is 20.                              | Ned goes out on a boat and goes diving with friends.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 6       | Days after Ned traps the quoll.<br>Ned is 15.                | Hunting becomes difficult again. Ned spends time with Jackbird and feels guilty about keeping the quoll. Jackbird's sister Callie discovers his secret.                                                             |
| 7       | The next morning.<br>Ned is 15.                              | Ned takes Maggie's horse to the local vet. He also takes the quoll. A letter arrives from Toby.                                                                                                                     |
| 8       | Years later.<br>Ned may be in his late-20s.                  | Ned remembers Toby's letter. He returns home after two years of working on the mainland. He runs into Callie at a birthday party. They marry six months later.                                                      |

|    |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9  | The day after the letter from Toby arrives.<br>Ned is 15.                     | Ned spends time hunting rabbits on the vet's property and nurses the quoll back to health.                                                                                                    |
| 10 | Ned is 15.                                                                    | Ned gets a ride into town with Jackbird. He visits the boatyard and realises he will never afford something new. Jackbird's father takes him to visit a man called Falmouth.                  |
| 11 | 15 years later.<br>Ned is 30, married to Callie, and has one daughter: Sally. | Ned goes to join the saltwater cattle muster in the northwest.                                                                                                                                |
| 12 | Ned is 15.                                                                    | Ned confesses to his father, William, about the quoll. He buys a boat from Falmouth and begins restoring it.                                                                                  |
| 13 | Flashback to a memory several years earlier.                                  | Bill helps a friend find a lost ram.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14 | Ned is 15.                                                                    | Ned takes the boat on its maiden voyage and invites Maggie to join him. They talk about the war.                                                                                              |
| 15 | Many years later.<br>Ned's has two more daughters: Grace and Harriet.         | Ned travels to England to learn about new orchard technologies. He visits the Lake District to honour his deceased mother.                                                                    |
| 16 | The peak of summer.<br>Ned is 15.                                             | Ned takes the quoll to visit Callie, who has dislocated her shoulder. He buys a sail for his boat and practises sailing with it. Later, he asks Callie to accompany him to release the quoll. |

|    |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 | Many years later.<br>Sally is 12, Grace 11, and Harriet seven. Ned would be 42.                                  | Callie visits a doctor in Launceston while Ned tells his daughters about the quoll. Callie returns to explain that the doctor has booked specialist appointments to investigate her health.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 18 | The day after Ned and Callie release the quoll.<br>Ned is 15.                                                    | A letter arrives from Toby. The vet, Estelle, returns Maggie's horse. She asks to see Ned's boat, as do many other visitors from all over the valley. Ned plans a sailing trip to the river mouth. Two men from the bank visit Limberlost. A gentleman offers to buy the boat. Ned sets out on his voyage but returns early due to a storm; it destroys the apples, which were almost ready for harvest. To William and Maggie's shock, Ned sells the boat. |
| 19 | Many years later.<br>Sally and Grace are university students in Hobart.                                          | Ned travels south to visit his daughters. He observes the pace of development along the highway. Sally asks Ned if he is aware of Limberlost's colonial history. Ned struggles to tell his daughters that Callie's cancer has returned.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 20 | The morning after Ned sells his boat.<br>Ned is 15.                                                              | Ned regrets selling the boat. He remembers a party his brothers attended before they left for war. Jackbird and Callie bring news about the boat: the gentleman who bought it lost control of his truck, and the boat has been destroyed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 21 | Many years later.<br>Ned and Callie have sold the orchard and moved to Launceston. They have four grandchildren. | Callie's illness is terminal. Her daughters arrive to help care for her. They all encourage Ned to visit a doctor to talk about his feelings. During his appointment, Ned remembers his grief over the boat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 22 | After Ned discovers the boat.<br>Ned is 15.                                                                      | Maggie and William are gentle with Ned after the boat is destroyed. He remembers William as he was a decade earlier, during their voyage to see the whale at the river's mouth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 23 | 10 days after the sale and destruction of the boat.<br>Ned is 15.                                                | Bill returns to Limberlost. This is described as incomparable to the many moments that filled the rest of Ned's life, and it is here that novel ends.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |