Assembling key quotations is not only a useful activity, but your list of quotations can also provide you with a valuable resource.

The following example gives you an indication of the possible length for a list of key quotations. However, this is not prescriptive: the number of quotations you include will depend on the text, and on you. What is important is that you engage with the text and think about why one quotation is of key importance rather than another one.

This skill, as well as being able to explain your choice of quotation and its effectiveness, is a valuable process which can be done in class or in your own time.

Here is a suggested list of key quotations for Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. These are listed by character, but you may choose to list your quotations by the order in which they appear in the book, or perhaps by theme.

**Walton**

‘This expedition has been the favourite dream of my early years’

‘I also became a poet, and for one year lived in a Paradise of my own creation’

‘Six years have passed since I resolved on my present undertaking’ [obsessive nature]

‘do I not deserve to accomplish some great purpose?’ [glory is owed to him]

‘I am required not only to raise the spirits of others, but sometimes to sustain my own, when theirs are failing’

‘I desire the company of a man who would sympathise with me; whose eyes would reply to mine’

‘Such a man has a double existence’

‘The time at length arrives when grief is rather an indulgence than a necessity’ [Victor's hardness]

‘Like a celestial spirit, that has a halo around him’ [God-like figure]

‘His voice became faint as he spoke … his eyes closed forever’

‘He sprung from the cabin window … He was soon borne away by the waves, and lost in darkness and distance’ [N.B. We don't see the Monster die – the results of man playing God still exist.]

‘Margret, what comment can I make on the untimely extinction of this glorious spirit?’

**Victor**

‘Elizabeth Lavenza became the inmate of my parent's house – my more than sister’

‘looked upon Elizabeth as mine – mine to protect, love, and cherish’

‘my more than sister, since till death she was to be mine only’

‘The world was to me a secret which I desire to divine’

‘learn the hidden laws of nature’

‘No human being could have passed a happier childhood than myself’

‘Natural philosophy is the genius that has regulated my fate; I desire, therefore, in this narration, to state those facts which led to my predilection for that science’

‘a most violent thunderstorm … I never beheld anything so utterly destroyed’ [inspiration, epiphany]

‘Destiny was too potent, and her immutable laws had decreed my utter and terrible destruction’ [avoids responsibility, he couldn't control it]
'Never was she so enchanting as at this time' [Freudian – about Elizabeth]

'They penetrate into the recesses of nature, and show how she works in her hiding-places'  
[desecration; should we pursue nature? hiding for a reason]

'unfold to the world the deepest mysteries of creation'

'Thus ended a day memorable to me: it decided my future destiny'

'dangerous is the acquisition of knowledge'

'he who aspires to become greater than his nature will allow’ [hubris, no limits]

'I pursued nature to her hiding-places’ [womb]

'It was a dreary night on November’

'I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs’  
[gothic]

'Justine died; she rested; and I was alive’

'the fiend that lurked in my heart’

'If our impulses were confined to hunger, thirst, and desire, we might be nearly free’

'He was a being formed in the “very poetry of nature” ’

'had created a fiend whose unparalleled barbarity had desolated my heart’

'when I saw the lifeless form of Henry Clerval stretched before me’

'But I was doomed to live’ [oxymoron]

'As the period fixed for our marriage drew nearer, whether from cowardice or a prophetic feeling, I felt my heart sink within me. But I concealed my feelings by an appearance of hilarity’

'She looked forward to our union with placid contentment’

'Those were the last moments of my life during which I enjoyed the feeling of happiness’  
[after the wedding]

'the clouds swept across it swifter than the flight of the vulture’  
[foreboding – vulture]

'why did I not then expire!’

'life is obstinate, and clings closest where it is most hated’

'I was cursed by some devil, and carried about with me my eternal hell’

'Polluted by crimes, and torn by the bitterest remorse, where can I find rest but in death?’

'The beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart’

'I remained motionless. The thunder ceased’ [pathetic fallacy]

**Justine**

‘until I almost began to think that I was the monster’

‘all looked upon me as a wretch’

**Elizabeth**

‘men appear to me as monsters thirsting for each other's blood’

‘I could not consent to the death of any human being’

‘I declare to you that our marriage would render me eternally miserable, unless it were the dictate of your own free choice’
The Monster
‘All men hate the wretched … Do your duty towards me’
‘Remember, that I am thy creature; I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel’
‘I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend. Make me happy, and I shall again be virtuous’

‘Thus I relieve thee, my creator … and placed his hated hands before my eyes’
‘all the light I enjoyed came through the sty, and that was sufficient for me’ [living like an animal]
‘Was man, indeed, at once so powerful, so virtuous, and magnificent, yet so vicious and base?’
‘What did this mean? Who was I? What was I? Whence did I come? What was my destination?’ [questions fundamental to mankind]
‘Satan had his companions, fellow-devils, to admire and encourage him; but I am solitary and abhorred’
‘Increase of knowledge only discovered to me more clearly what a wretched outcast I was’
‘He had abandoned me, and in the bitterness of my heart I cursed him’
‘I am an unfortunate and deserted creature; I look around, and I have no relation or friend upon earth’
‘I am an outcast in the world forever’
‘Cursed, cursed creator! Why did I live?’
‘I, like the archfiend’
‘from that moment I declared ever-lasting war against the species’
‘My protectors had departed, and had broken the only link that held me to the world’
‘I was not made for the enjoyment of pleasure’
‘it stirred the fiend within me’
‘if I cannot inspire love, I will cause fear’
‘You are my creator, but I am your master – obey!’
‘I will be with you on your wedding night’
‘You will find near this place … a dead hare; eat and be refreshed’ [creature is looking after Victor, role reversal]
‘He is dead who called me into being’ [death of God?]’
‘I learned from your papers that you were my father, my creator, and to whom could I apply with more fitness than to him who had given me life?’
‘Polluted by crimes, and torn by the bitterest remorse, where can I find rest but in death?’
‘The beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart’
‘I remained motionless. The thunder ceased’ [pathetic fallacy]