Key Quotes from Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare

Below are some key quotes from *Romeo and Juliet* that you may like to use in your essays on the following topic:

“Who or what is to blame for the tragic outcome of *Romeo and Juliet*?”
Discuss.

Romeo

- For crashing the Capulet party
- For marrying Juliet in secret & not telling his parents about his love for Juliet
- For rushing into the marriage
- For killing Tybalt

“Although I joy in thee, I have no joy of this contract to-night. It is too rash, too unadvis’d, too sudden.” (Act 2, Scene 2)

“This day’s black fate on more days doth depend. This but begins the woe others must end.” (Act 3, Scene 1)

Juliet

- For marrying Romeo in secret & not telling her parents about her love for Romeo
- For disobeying her parents
- For going along with the Friar’s plan

"O happy dagger! This is thy sheath; there rust, and let me die.” (Act 5, Scene 3)

“My only love sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known too late! Prodigious birth of love it is to me That I must love a loathèd enemy.” (Act 1, Scene 5)
Benvolio
• For pressuring Romeo to crash the Capulet party

“Go thither, and with unattainted eye
Compare her face with some that I shall show,
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.” (Act 1, Scene 2)

Tybalt
• For killing Mercutio

“Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries
That thou hast done me. Therefore turn and draw.” (Act 3, Scene 1)

Mercutio
• Forcing Romeo to go to the Capulet party
• For fighting Tybalt

“And but one word with one of us? Couple it with something. Make it a word and a blow.” (Act 3, Scene 1)

Lady Capulet & Lord Capulet
• For pressuring Juliet into marrying Paris
• For maintaining the feud with the Montagues

Lady Capulet: “I would the fool were married to her grave!” (Act 3, Scene 5)

Lord Capulet: “Hang thee, young baggage! Disobedient wretch! I tell thee what: get thee to church o’ Thursday, Or never after look me in the face,” (Act 3, Scene 5)

Lord Capulet: “An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets, For, by my soul, I’ll ne’er acknowledge thee, Nor what is mine shall never do thee good.” (Act 3, Scene 5)

Friar Lawrence
• For marrying the two young lovers in secret
• For coming up with the ill advised plan to fake Juliet’s death
• For leaving Juliet alone in the tomb when he hears someone coming

Friar Laurence: “...for the watch is coming, Come, go, good Juliet, I dare no longer stay.”

Juliet: “Go, get thee hence, for I will not away.”
[Exit Friar Laurence] (Act 5, Scene 3)
Romeo: “O, let us hence! I stand on sudden haste,”
Friar Lawrence: "Wisely, and slow. They stumble that run fast.” (Act 2, Scene 3)

Friar Lawrence: “But come, young waverer, come, go with me.
In one respect I’ll thy assistant be,
For this alliance may so happy prove
To turn your households' rancor to pure love.”
(Act 2, Scene 3)

Friar Lawrence: “Go home, be merry. Give consent
To marry Paris...Take thou this vial, being then in bed,
And this distillèd liquor drink thou off” (Act 1, Scene 4)

Nurse
• Helping the two young people to marry in secret
• Changing her mind and encouraging Juliet to marry Paris instead

“I think it best you married with the County.
O, he's a lovely gentleman.
Romeo’s a dishclout to him.” (Act 3, Scene 5)

Montagues
• Continuing the feud with the Capulets
• For failing to communicate with/support Romeo when he is upset over Rosaline

Lord Montague: “Thou villain Capulet! Hold me not. Let me go.” (Act 1, Scene 1)

MONTAGUE
“I neither know it nor can learn of him.” (Act 1, Scene 1)

Prince Escalus
• For banishing Romeo
• For failing to end the conflict/feud earlier

“And for that offence
Immediately we do exile him hence.” (Act 3, Scene 1)

Paris
• For pressuring Juliet to marry him at short notice and ignoring her wishes
• For rushing into his marriage with Juliet

CAPULET
“Will you be ready? Do you like this haste?”
[...]

[...]
PARIS
“My lord, I would that Thursday were tomorrow.” (Act 3, Scene 4)

FRIAR LAWRENCE
“On Thursday, sir? The time is very short.”
PARIS
“My father Capulet will have it so, 
And I am nothing slow to slack his haste.” (Act 4, Scene 1)

Fate
- The letter going astray
- Friar Lawrence arriving at the Capulet tomb too late
- Juliet waking up a moment after Romeo has killed himself

Romeo: “I fear too early, for my mind misgives...by some vile forfeit of untimely death” (Act 1, Scene 4).

Juliet: “My grave is like to be my wedding bed” (Act 1, Scene 5)

“A greater power than we can contradict/ Hath thwarted our intents” (Act 5, Scene 3)

Romeo: “Fortune’s fool” (Act 3, Scene 1)

Juliet: “Methinks I see thee, now thou art below, / As one dead in the bottom of a tomb” (Act 3, Scene 5)

Lady Capulet: “Married to her grave,” (Act 3, Scene 5)

Chorus: “From forth the fatal loins of these two foes 
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life, 
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows 
Doth with their death bury their parents’ strife” (Prologue)

FRIAR LAURENCE
“Who bare my letter, then, to Romeo?”
FRIAR JOHN
“I could not send it—here it is again-”
Returning the letter.
“Nor get a messenger to bring it thee, 
So fearful were they of infection.” (Act 5, Scene 2)

FRIAR LAURENCE
“Unhappy fortune!”
(Act 5, Scene 2)

Friar John
- For failing to deliver the letter to Romeo
FRIAR JOHN
“I could not send it—here it is again” (Act 5, Scene 2)

Rosaline
• For rejecting Romeo

BENVOLIO
[...] “What sadness lengthens Romeo’s hours?”

ROMEO
“Not having that, which, having, makes them short.”

BENVOLIO
“In love?”

ROMEO
“Out—“

BENVOLIO
“Of love?”

ROMEO
“Out of her favor, where I am in love.” (Act 1, Scene 1)

The feud
• If the two families were not feuding, the two young people could have been together from the beginning

“My only love sprung from my only hate” (Act 1, Scene 5)

“Deny thy father and refuse thy name,
Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I’ll no longer be a Capulet” (Act 2, Scene 2)

PRINCE
“Where be these enemies?—Capulet, Montague,
See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate,
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.
And I for winking at your discords too,
Have lost a brace of kinsmen. All are punished.” (Act 5, Scene 3)