AP Language and Composition, 2009, Free Response Argumentative Essay Prompt

“Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant.” –Horace

Consider this quotation about adversity from the Roman poet Horace. Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies Horace’s assertion about the role that adversity (financial or political hardship, danger, misfortune, etc.) plays in developing a person’s character. Support your argument with appropriate evidence from our reading, observation, or experience.