Rhetorical Simulation: Personal Portrait

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Uncle Charlie was born in Cape Cod in 1943. He was the eldest of five children born to a family of Irish immigrants. After high school he worked for 37 years for Sears as an auto mechanic. He married twice and had two children by his second wife. When not working as a mechanic, he likes to garden and fish. He and his second wife, my Aunt Ellen moved down to South Carolina when he retired.

You would never have known Uncle Charlie “Beatty” McMullen was a mechanic. He lacked the careless approach to personal appearance that many people who work in dirty, physically demanding jobs. He was impeccably groomed with his hair neatly combed, his beard immaculately trimmed, and his suits carefully selected from the men’s department at Sears where he worked for 37 years in the automotive section. He was called “Beatty” because he resembled Warren Beatty, the roguishly handsome film star of the 60s and 70’s.

I have had many members of my family who have influenced me: my father, my mother, my Uncle Charlie, my Aunt Ellen, and my older sister Maggie. I am very close to my family. Each of them in their own way, I suppose, has had an impact on me. However, since this assignment, requires that I choose only one person, I am going to choose my Uncle Charlie. He is a special person.
Uncle Charlie was always available to provide advice to members of the family about anything dealing with cars. He often accompanied members of the family when they went to buy cars. He was extremely knowledgeable about German cars which was his specialty when he worked for Sears. His wife Ellen worked in a nursery in Bedford for many years. They lived together with their children in Woburn when he was working. Everyone thinks of him as a nice man.

Charlie was soft-spoken which tended to conceal the steely will power he could exert when he wanted to. Charlie accompanied me, as he did all members of the family, when I went to buy my first car. When the car dealer tried to fob off a brightly colored, though aged Ford Mustang, Charlie rattled off a series of short, devastatingly precise questions about the car ("How many miles?") ("Who owned it?") ("Why did they sell it? "Are you willing to let us get this inspected independently?") that the poor dealer wound up directing us to a much better Volkswagen with less mileage.

Charlie is retired and lives in South Carolina. He is soft-spoken and very considerate. He helps with anything related to automobiles because he was an auto mechanic for many years. He helped me buy my first car. He also helped my sister Maggie buy her car. Maggie has a Honda Civic which she is very happy with. Uncle Charlie used to drive a Volkswagen because he knows a lot about German cars. Aside from cars, Charlie likes to fish which is something my father likes to do as well.
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