

What's your story? 1



Reading and speaking What's their story?

Look at the photographs of the Angulo brothers and read the title and subheading.

- Why are they weird?
- Describe what they look like. What age and nationality do you think they are?
- What kind of films do you think influenced the way they look?
- Why do you think they are called 'The Wolfpack'?

THE ANGULO BROTHERS

The weirdest brothers in the world: Imprisoned for years by their father in a tiny Manhattan apartment in New York, their only contact with the world was watching films. Now they're in one!

Dressed in dark glasses, white shirts, black suits, and black ties – just like the robbers in Quentin Tarantino's thrilling movie *Reservoir Dogs* – they seem like any group of teenagers trying to look cool. But there is an astonishing reason why the six Angulo brothers try so hard to imitate their favourite film stars. For the Angulos, for 14 years, watching films wasn't just an escape from the outside world, it was their world. The six boys and their elder sister were imprisoned in an overcrowded, messy flat by an eccentric and tyrannical father who wanted to keep them from the horrors of modern life in New York. Home-schooled by their mother Susanne, the family was so reclusive that many neighbours didn't even know they were there. 'Once, we didn't leave the apartment for a whole year,' says Govinda.

However, the children were not completely cut off from the outside world. Their father had a collection of 5,000 DVDs and videos and the children watched these films time and time again. Now their story, which is stranger than any film, is told in a documentary film called *The Wolfpack*.

'Once, we didn't leave the apartment for a whole year.'



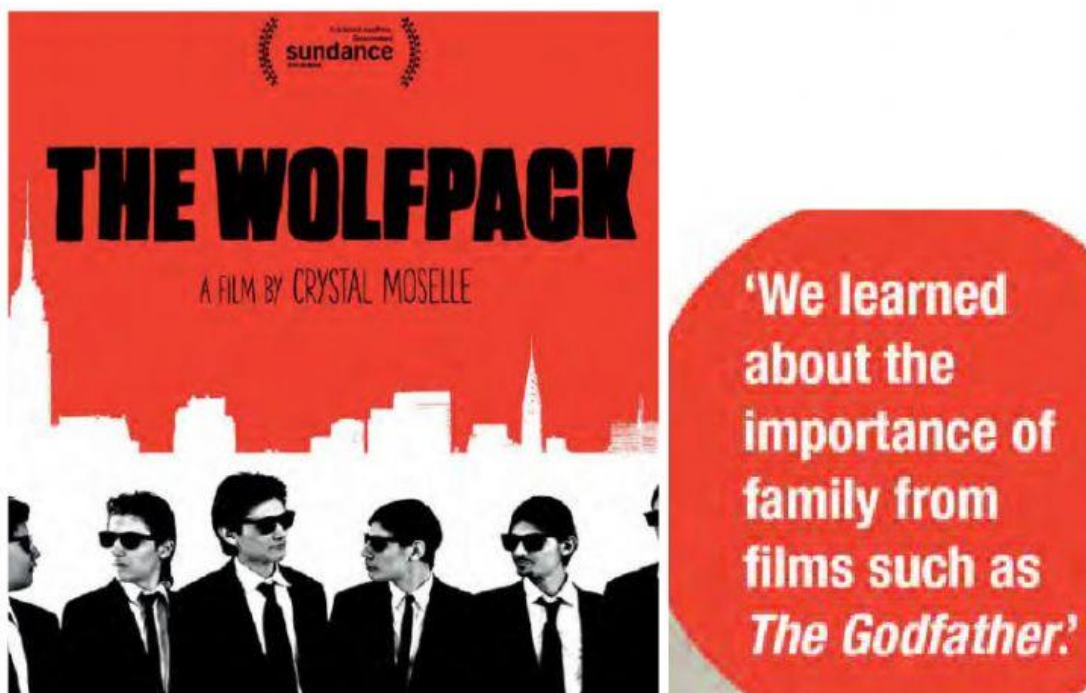
The Wolfpack in London:
Eddie, Mukunda,
Govinda, Narayana.

1.8 Read and listen to the first part of the article.
Answer the questions.

- 1 Who are the other members of the family? What do you learn about them?
- 2 Explain this sentence.
'Watching films wasn't just an escape from the outside world, it was their world.'
- 3 Which film tells the story of their lives?
- 4 What or who do these adjectives refer to?

astonishing cool dark eccentric messy
overcrowded reclusive thrilling tyrannical

Read the rest of the article and answer the questions



Did you watch this film? Did you hear about it ? How do you think, what is it about?

THEIR STORY

The family's extraordinary story began in the late eighties, when Susanne Reisenbichler, a young American hippy, met Oscar Angulo, a Peruvian tour guide and musician, on a trail to the majestic Machu Picchu ruins. They fell in love and moved to the US, finally to New York, where they started a family.

Oscar, terrified that his children would fall into a life of drugs and crime, locked the front door and kept the key. The family lived on welfare money and only Oscar went out, usually for food or to collect new films for his children. The boys say they learned a lot about life from these films.

'We learned about the importance of family from films such as *The Godfather*,' says Govinda.

'The films taught us that people are complex and ... flawed,' says Narayana. 'But there is so much beauty in the world.'

'It was only when we got to our teens that we started to realize we were living a very different life to other people,' Mukunda says. 'We began to get more curious. One morning, I simply woke up and decided to go out while my dad was getting groceries.'

Wearing a scary home-made mask, modelled on the one worn by the killer in the horror film *Halloween*, the 15-year-old escaped onto the city streets. Shocked by his appearance, a shopkeeper called the police, but Mukunda refused to answer their questions. The police took him to a hospital, where he stayed for a week before being returned home.

'I told Dad things were going to be different,' says Mukunda. 'He was angry, but he accepted it.'

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Dressed in their Reservoir-Dogs look, all six began to go out on their own. It was on such a trip that they met documentary film maker Crystal Moselle.

'We're not supposed to talk to strangers,' they told her, shyly, when she tried to talk to them. However, they grew to trust her because of their shared love of films.

Eventually Crystal uncovered their incredible story and the boys, seeing it as a way to get jobs in the film industry, agreed to work with her to make a documentary.

'I felt I had discovered a lost tribe,' she says. A producer friend named them 'the Wolfpack'.

Nowadays, the boys are living much more in the real world: they have friends and one has a girlfriend; most have jobs, three of them in the film industry. The two youngest have changed their names to Eddie and Glenn and want to be rock musicians.

Tick *True* or *False* the sentences below

- 1 The parents, Oscar and Susanne, are American.
 - 2 They met in New York, where Oscar worked as a musician.
 - 3 Oscar didn't have a job. He just looked after his family.
 - 4 The boys learned only negative things about life from the films.
 - 5 From a very young age, they worried about being different from other people.
 - 6 Mukunda escaped from the apartment in a frightening disguise.
 - 7 Crystal Moselle heard about the boys so she wanted to make a film about them.
 - 8 Their lives are much more normal now.
- Why do you think Oscar raised his sons the way he did?
 - Do you think the boys suffered as a result of their upbringing? Can you think of any advantages?
 - Why do you think the youngest boys have changed their names? How does this connect with the quote on p9?
 - How do you think their upbringing will influence the way they bring up their children if they have them?

 **Watch** a video about
Nick Bruckman's story.

