Lesson 16

CONTEXT CASE STUDY:
Gordon Parks and
The Making of an Argument
Red Jackson, Harlem, New York, 1948

Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948

Courtesy of and copyright The Gordon Parks Foundation
Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948
Red Jackson with His Mother and Brother, Harlem, New York, 1948
Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948
Red and Herbie Levi at the Funeral of Maurice Gaines, Harlem, New York, 1948
Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948
Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948

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Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948

Gang Member with Brick, Harlem, New York, 1948
Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948

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Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948

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Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948
Red Jackson with Child, Harlem, New York, 1948

Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948

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Harlem Gang Leader

Red Jackson's life is one of fear, frustration and violence.

The report of the gang leader's murder made the front page of the New York Times. Red Jackson's image was splashed across the nation. The story of the gangster's life, his family, his friends, and his enemies was now a matter of national interest.

Bankrupted and mentally ill, Red Jackson was a figure of national concern. His life was a tale of corruption, violence, and decay. His exploits were a symbol of the larger issues facing American society at the time.

The story of Red Jackson's life was told through a series of photographs and interviews, providing a glimpse into the life of a gang leader and the world in which he lived. The story was a powerful reminder of the dangers that lurked on the streets of America, and the need for change.