

Only Six

When I was six, I experienced a shooting at a mall.
I didn't see it; I only heard a loud bang.
Now I think about how often I say "only":
It lasted only a few minutes.
It was only three shots from a handgun.
It was only a gang dispute, not a mass shooting.
Only one man died.

But that only death was an innocent bystander.
His daughters only had a mother left to raise them.
I was only six—William Cho was only six.
He's the only survivor in his family.
If only our government had done something before this.