

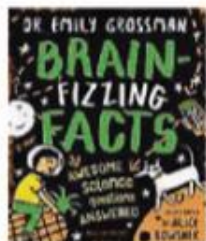
Books for children

Emmet Arrigan

Brain Fizzing Facts by Dr Emily Grossman

(Bloomsbury, €8.40)

In Grossman's stellar career she is possibly best known for her least important role as panelist in *Duck Quacks Don't Echo*. In the present volume she reaches out with humour in intriguing and sometimes amazing ways. Now we know the internet, which was roughly the same



weight as a strawberry, is probably as heavy as a pineapple. Our bones are four times stronger than concrete and if somebody is tickling you put your hand on theirs and you won't feel any tickling sensation. Next time you are at a big match and your team scores the winning goal in the last minute, the crowd jumping with joy together will actually create a mini earthquake — 1.0 on the Richter scale. Not noticeable to us just the scientists.

The information given is a mixture of witty narrative, some dreadful puns — all very attractively parcelled for the reader. The section on farting is especially interesting. An expert on farting is known as a flatologist and this most essential action is even used as a greeting by a South American tribe. Cows are the experts of course with the ability to inflate 15 party balloons with methane gas. If this book doesn't encourage a new race of young scientists then nothing will. Suitable for

age seven and up.

Happy Birthday Sausage by Michaela Morgan

(Bloomsbury, €6.30)

Though supercilious cats and a lovable dog are the main characters, this is really a story about being different and embracing your differences.

When Sausage, a lovely little long dog sends out his party invitations, cats Fitz and Spatz dump them in the bin. But Dusty the recycling man's dog spots the items, one of which is addressed to himself. He makes sure all the letters reach the intended guests so Sausage eventually finds he is overwhelmed with friends, and more importantly plenty of presents. Beautiful colour illustrations by Felicity Sheldon, especially the cats' expressions. Sentence repetition and creative suggestions based on the story make this a pleasure for six-year-olds.

