Pūrerehua
This is a waiata (song) from New Zealand Aotearoa. It was written by Dr Hirini Melbourne for his daughter, who he hoped ‘would grow up to be a beautiful butterfly’. As you can see from the English translation (page two) it is about the flight of a butterfly. Maori version first; some notes on Maori pronunciation on page two.

**CHORUS**

D
Pūrerehua
G    D
rere runga hau

Papaki parihau
G    D
Rere runga hau

Ka piki, ka piki

Runga rawa e

Papaki parihau
G    D
Rere runga hau

**VERSE 1**

Em    D
Ka tau, ka tau
Em    D
Runga pūāwai
Em    D
Ka whānauhua
Em    D
A pūrerehua
Em    D
Katahi, ka rua
Em    D
Ka toru, ka wha
Em    Em
Ka ru, ka rē
Em    D
Ka puta e whā whē

**CHORUS**

**VERSE 2**

Ka kai, ka kai
Ka pau ngā rau
Ka huri ngā whē
Hei tungoungou
Ka tahi, ka rua
Ka toru, ka wha

**CHORUS**

**VERSE 3**

Ka huri takaweri
Ka tungoungou
Ka puta ki waho
He upoko nui
He waewae roa
He parihau pakipaki
Rū rū rū re re re rē re
Ru ru ru ru ru e

**CHORUS**

**END REFRAIN**

D
Pūrerehu-a
Rere runga hau
Pūrerehu-a
Rere runga hau
Butterfly carried on the wind. Fluttering its wings on the wind. Up and up, way up high fluttering its wings on the wind.

It lands on a flower to lay its eggs, this butterfly. One, two, three, four. They shake and quiver, out pops four caterpillars. They eat and eat, every leaf consumed. The caterpillars become pupae. One, two, three, four. They quiver and change from a pupa. Out pops a head, a long bendy leg. Fluttering wings. Flitter, flutter, flap. Butterfly, carried on the wind. Butterfly, carried on the wind.

**Whakahuatanga - Pronunciation**

There are five vowels and ten consonant sounds in the Māori alphabet.

5 vowels: a, e, i, o, u
8 consonants: h, k, m, n, p, r, t, w
2 digraphs (two letters that combine to form one sound): wh, ng.

**Vowels**

While there are five vowels, combinations of vowels (diphthongs) are common. You should regard the set of vowel sounds as a much larger group than simply the five vowels themselves.

A vowel can be long or short. A long sound is shown by a macron (a bar appearing over a vowel to indicate it is lengthened during pronunciation e.g. ‘ā’ as in motokā). Vowels are pronounced as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowel</th>
<th>Short</th>
<th>Long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>as in about</td>
<td>far</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>as in enter</td>
<td>bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>as in eat</td>
<td>sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>as in awful</td>
<td>pork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>as in put</td>
<td>boot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consonants**

Māori language doesn’t have consonant clusters (a group or sequence of consonants that appear together in a syllable without a vowel between them).

Consonants are mainly pronounced as they are in English, the exceptions being:

**T** varies depending on which vowel appears after it.
- When succeeded by an ‘a’, ‘e’ or ‘o’, it’s pronounced with little or no sibilant (s) sound.
- When followed by an ‘i’ or ‘u’, it includes a slight sibilant sound, however not nearly as much as an English ‘t’.

**R** is commonly called a ‘rolled’ or ‘liquid’ r. If you’re able to imitate the purring sound of a cat, you’ll know exactly what’s required to pronounce the consonant correctly. Failing this, the sound you should aim for is something similar to an English ‘d’ – but softer.

**Digraphs** - The ‘ng’ digraph (representing the combined sound of two consonants) is pronounced as it sounds in the English word ‘singer’. A common mistake is to pronounce it as it appears in the word ‘finger’.

The ‘wh’ digraph is usually pronounced as an English ‘f’ sound.