

Humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a

Words and music by Suzanne Niles



Verse 1

Over in Hawaii there's a fish in the sea
A crazy quilt of colors with a big lazy "V"
White and black and gold put together so fine
When you see it you'll agree it's simply divine!



Verse 2

But 'though you might be dazzled by the way that he's dressed
There's something more amazing that you wouldn't have guessed
A fancy-dancy name that doesn't know when to stop
Your tongue will do the hula and your brain will go POP!



When you say

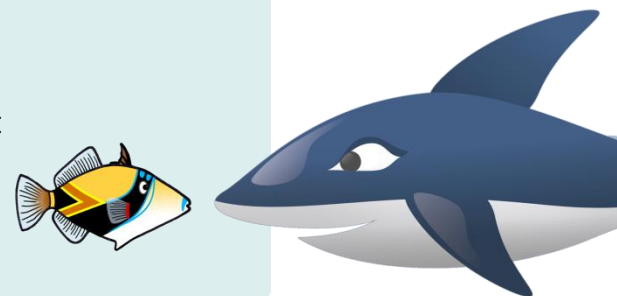
Chorus 1

Humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a
Sing-a-ling the longest name you ever saw.
Humuhumu-nukunuku give it a try
If you start in April you'll be done in July.



Verse 3

He keeps his little trigger fin layin' down flat
When trouble comes along he pops it open like that
It holds him in a hole so you can't pull him out
And all that you can see is the tip of his snout.



He's a ...

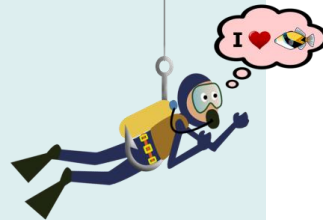
Chorus 2

Humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a
Painted like a picture from his tail to his jaw
Humuhumu-nukunuku, how do you do?
Tricky little triggerfish lookin' at you!



Bridge

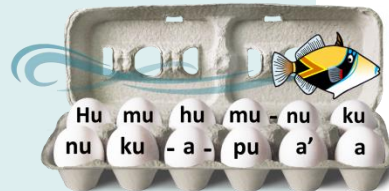
A classy little masterpiece under the waves
Hangin' in the halls of the coral and caves
A dashing flash of color, then he's gone in a wink
But just one look and then you're hooked, and YOU'LL be tickled pink!



And you'll say ...

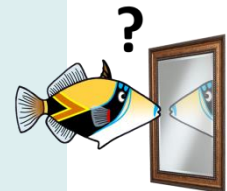
Chorus 3

Humuhumu-nukunuku — look at him go!
A dozen little syllables all in a row
Humuhumu-nukunuku clickety-clack
A name like a train rollin' by on the track!



Verse 4

Now try to guess the meaning — what could it be?
Something like “The Painted Fish” or “King of the Sea”?
A name to fit the fashion, the glamorous grace?
That fine designer suit or the fabulous face?



BUT NO! You see ...

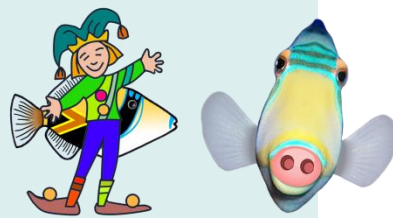
Verse 5

Humu has a front kinda rounded and blunt
And when he's out of water makes a sound like a grunt
So someone thought this gorgeous little fish-a-ma-jig
Oughtta have a name that means ... "A nose like a pig" !



Chorus 4

Humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a
Sing-a-ling the longest name you ever saw
Humuhumu-nukunuku jiggety-jig
Clothes like a jester and a nose like a pig!



Chorus 5

Humuhumu-nukunuku down by the beach
A body like art and a name like a speech
Humuhumu-nukunuku — give it a try
If you start in April you'll be done in July!



Outro

Humuhumu
Nukunuku
A-pua'a — here we go

Humuhumu
Nukunuku
A-pua'a — now you know!

