This is a draft of “The Arctic Ox,” the poem we discussed in the last lesson. Marianne Moore would create many, many versions of her poems before she was happy and sent the final version off for publication. Sometimes she’d change the poems after they were already published!
Did she get everything right in the poem the first time she wrote it down or did she make changes?

Do you see that she used both a typewriter and handwriting when writing her poems? Why do you think she does that? Why might handwriting be easier or better than using a computer?
Do any of you write poetry or any other kind of writing? What is your method? Do you use a paper and pen, a computer or both?

When you’re writing something for school, do you go through a lot of drafts or do you hand in the first or second version of what you’ve written?

This is a picture of the other side of the draft of her poem. When she wrote the draft, she didn’t use a new piece of paper, she used a calendar from the People’s National Bank of Brooklyn.

Why do you think she decided to use the back of a calendar and not a clean, new sheet?

Is there anything else we can learn about Marianne Moore by looking at this draft poem?