Directions for Writing a Book Review

Introduction
Start with an engaging opening sentence. Include general information such as: title, name of author, name of illustrator, genre, age range. It is okay if this is a short paragraph (just a few sentences).

What is this book about? Paragraph
In a complete paragraph, briefly summarize the story. Make sure to explain who the main characters are and the main problem(s) they face. You can use the following formula to help you write a summary that is NOT a retelling of the book:

Somebody wanted... but... So... and then...

It is up to you if you give away the ending of your book. But remember, the main purpose of this essay is to share your opinion and support it (see next step). So your summary paragraph should NOT be the longest part of the essay.

What’s your opinion of the book? Paragraph
What was your reaction to the book? Make sure your opinion is clear. Share what you liked or disliked, and support your opinion with evidence from the book. For example, you might state that you liked the book because there was action and suspense. Support your statement with an actual detail or event from the book that contained action and suspense. The more evidence you include, the stronger your writing will be.

You might also want to add some other details here. What connections did you make while reading? What did this book make you think about, or what questions do you still have? The purpose of this paragraph is to show that you are an active and thoughtful reader. It should be the longest part of your essay.

Conclusion Statement
Wrap it up in a sentence or two...would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not? Remember, this is the final part of your essay so it needs to restate your main idea(s) in a different way.

Bibliography
For a fiction book use the following format:

Author last, Author first. Title underlined. Place of publication: Publisher, Year.

Example:

* If you use a Ms. Moore-approved online citation website, that’s okay too.